

# Mount Lawley Matters



## Secretary/ Newsletter

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*The MLS would like to hear from members who would be interested in contributing to the newsletter.*

**Views expressed by members are not necessarily those of others or of the committee.**

# Mount Lawley Society

Volume 32, 4. December 2009

WEBPAGE : [www.mountlawleysociety.org.au](http://www.mountlawleysociety.org.au)

## MLS PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members,

I hope that this newsletter finds you well and that you survived the festive season. I barely survived – our household was blessed with a rather feisty dose of gastroenteritis on Christmas Eve that forced us to avoid all relatives and food, (an enviable situation for some!). A quick way to shed those unsightly kilos!

The Society had a busy end to 2009. The Farnley Street Centenary on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November was a huge success! The Farnley Street organising committee, led by Jan Wilkie, did a superb job and were duly recognised for their efforts on the day. Society Committee members Charlotte Christo and Beth McKechnie (helped by Neil Hogkinson and Jenny Hewitt) served hundreds of afternoon teas and raised a tidy sum for the MLS. Thanks ladies! MLS Patron Barrie Baker spruiked on the historical tram guided tours until he was hoarse. Thanks again Barrie – your historical tours have elevated you to "Legend" status in our community! It was wonderful to see so many members of our community enjoying themselves and socialising. Such events as these are the mortar that bind and strengthen our community and as such the Mount Lawley Society will continue to promote similar events. If you have any ideas for future community events, please email us at the website – we would love to hear from you.

The MLS Committee had a 2 week breather before the AGM Sundowner was successfully held at the Coode Street Café on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December. A great social evening was held by all members and guests who attended. Thanks must go to MLS Secretary Beth McKechnie who did a wonderful job organising the guest list and the Coode Street café for serving lovely food and drinks all night. Thank you also to Member for Mount Lawley, Michael Sutherland, and the City of Stirling for donating the beautiful raffle prizes. It was wonderful to be able to thank our guests on the evening who have contributed so much to the Society and the community in general. On the evening I was very pleased to report that Society membership had again grown in 2009 and we are now in a strong financial position that will allow the MLS to offer more events and services to our members and the wider community.

There have been few changes to the MLS Committee for 2010. Committee members Daina Bruers and Jenny LaPuma have both retired from the Committee. Thank you Daina and Jenny for your contribution over the past few years – we have benefited from your efforts and have enjoyed your company!

I am pleased to announce a new position on the Committee has been established for 2010. Committee member Charlotte Christo will be our inaugural Social Coordinator who will be responsible for managing the Society's annual meeting and social calendar to ensure we spread the workload throughout the year and amongst the team. To define our increased social focus, we have arranged every third monthly meeting to be a social gathering for members. Further details on the meeting schedule for 2010 are outlined in this newsletter.

Finally, 2010 promises to be another busy year for the Society with many events and projects planned. As is often the case with many volunteer organisations, too much work is done by too few and we are keen to receive some additional help from members to assist with organising particular events.

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If you are interested in becoming involved in such rewarding community events, please come down to one of our Committee meetings (or social functions) on the first Monday (8pm) of each month at the Mount Lawley Bowling Club. It would be great to see you there. Happy new year to you and your families!

Paul Hurst  
President

### **Dates for MLS Committee Meetings and Members Social Drinks 2010**

8pm, First Monday of each Month at the Mount Lawley Bowling Club, Rookwood Street, Mount Lawley

*January No meeting*

*February Ordinary Committee Meeting*

*March Ordinary Committee Meeting*

*April Members Social Drinks*

*May Ordinary Committee Meeting*

*June Ordinary Committee Meeting*

*July Members Social Drinks*

*August Ordinary Committee Meeting*

*September Ordinary Committee Meeting*

*October Members Social Drinks*

*November Ordinary Committee Meeting*

*December AGM (Time and Venue TBA)*

### **FREE TOURS OF PERTH by MLS member Lindsay Smith**

As a long time resident of Mt Lawley I have developed a close relationship with the city of Perth. One expression of this relationship is my involvement with I-City. I-City provides information to tourists and citizens of Perth on many aspects of the city through a large group of volunteers. One way we do this is by way of the information kiosk in Murray St mall. I, and a number of other volunteers, also provide tours of the city on a range of topics. These tours are free and require no booking (unless you are a group of more than ten). Tours are one to one and a half hours duration. All tours begin at the kiosk except for the Thursday Town Hall tour which meets at the Town Hall

One of the disappointing features of my involvement with tours is that - apparently- not many Perth residents realize that they are very welcome to be part of a tour group. (No, you do not have to be a tourist to take advantage of this valuable resource.) I look forward to seeing some Mt Lawley Society members joining future tours.



Heather, an i-City volunteer, introduces Peter Barr, RTRFM's breakfast presenter, to the convenience of audio tours which can be downloaded to any MP3 player

Here are the details of the available tours: [www.cityofperth.wa.gov.au/web/Visiting/Activities/Self-Guided-Walks/](http://www.cityofperth.wa.gov.au/web/Visiting/Activities/Self-Guided-Walks/)

**City Orientation 11.00 am Monday to Saturday, Noon Sunday :** Introduces you to the highlights of the city and helps you decide where to go and how to get there.

**Art City 2.00 pm Tuesday:** Explore Perth's cultural heritage by finding out more about some of the sculptures and installations in the city

**Icons of Influence 2.00 Monday:** Investigate the city through its iconic places of influence

**Convicts and Colonials 2.00 pm Wednesday:** Learn how the convicts changed the face of Perth forever after their arrival in 1850

**Boom or Bust 2.00 pm Friday:** After gold was discovered in 1892 the boom resulted in prosperity and intense building activity

**Inglewood/Mt Lawley walking tour brochure** is posted on the website [www.mountlawleysociety.org.au](http://www.mountlawleysociety.org.au). The brochure has been produced by the City of Stirling. **The Town of Vincent** plan to have a heritage walk in North Perth mid year. **The History Council newsletter** Vol 6 No 1 summer is on line . It has a lot of interesting information about coming events and interesting articles. Website [www.historycouncilwa.org.au](http://www.historycouncilwa.org.au)

## Crossing the line: early policing around Mt Lawley #3

By Peter Conole, Police Historian

In his Annual Report for the year ending June 30, 1940, Police Commissioner David Hunter foreshadowed the reshaping of policing work carried out in and around Mount Lawley. There had been a growth of population in what he called the 'Inglewood district', which meant suburbs north of and including Mount Lawley. Highgate Hill Station were now geographically unsuitable. A decision was made to give up Highgate Hill and establish a new police station and quarters at Inglewood.



Commissioner David Hunter (plain clothes, seated at the centre in the front) and a group of city police officers

A builder named W.J. Clarke (who operated out of Wembley) received the contract on July 23 of the same year. Work began soon afterwards on the station, including various work spaces and living quarters for the sergeant in charge. The West Australian reported favourably on progress a few months later. Inglewood station already appeared to be '*a more imposing structure*'. The complex occupied a '*central site at the intersection of Beaufort Street and Eight Avenue*'. Building costs would eventually reach nearly 2000 pounds.

Newsmen noted double columns flanking a wide entrance to the station, a polished jarrah police counter and plenty of office room for the four constables who were to be attached to the place. There were tables, chairs and cupboards for their use and a door led out of the public section to separate offices for the Officer in Charge and members of the Criminal Investigation Branch. The permanent presence of detectives meant that Inglewood was going to be a major station of the Perth District, also called the Metropolitan Police District.

Inglewood Station was formally opened by Minister for Police W.H. Kitson on December 2, 1940, in the presence of Commissioner Hunter and other dignitaries. Before the event, the boundaries of the sub-districts of Highgate Hill, Maylands, Perth and North Perth had been redrawn to take into account the creation of the new Inglewood sub-district and the disappearance of Highgate as a separate entity.

Sergeant William James White of Highgate Hill and his family moved into the quarters at Inglewood, which comprised four rooms and a kitchen for the station 'boss'. Officer White had been in charge of Highgate since August 1936. He remained in his new residence and place of work until his retirement on November 11, 1943. Like many other police officers in the area, he seems to have formed fairly strong links within the local communities north of the line. William White made his home in North Perth after leaving the Police Force and died there in 1956.

What of Highgate Hill? It still stands, and after its closure as a police station in November 1940 it remained a police reserve. The site seems to have rested in a 'fallow' state until Japan entered World War II in December 1941. The potential threat of invasion during 1942 caused Commissioner Hunter to do a rethink. In February the police wireless radio centre was transferred from the Roe Street Police Station to the former station at Highgate. The reason? Roe Street Station and the adjacent police headquarters and barracks in Northbridge would have been prominent and easy targets if our enemies were ever in a position to bomb Perth.



Inglewood Police Station (opened 1940) as it is now

Police officers carried out the move from Roe Street in secret and the relocated wireless centre operated under tight security for many years. A recently built 120-foot sewer vent near the station was developed to hold a radio antenna mast used both for police communications and for military intelligence gathering and communications right throughout the war years. The dedicated work of police and military personnel who worked around the clock to man the facility remains largely unknown and unsung.

Even after the war, the location of the wireless section was kept secret. As late as 1956 Acting Police Commissioner James O'Brien felt it necessary to say Highgate Hill had been under '*privately ownership*' since the station closed in 1940 and had only just been '*recovered*' for use by the police.

## **WINDSOR HALL** by Maureen Mackay

The residents of Mt Lawley are extremely lucky that when the neighbourhood was being established in the early 1900s one of the first residences to be built was Windsor Hall. It was built in 1903

The building was commissioned by Richard Septimus Haynes, K.C. who chose Henry James Prockter as the Architect. Prockter designed the College of Pharmacy in Melbourne, which has since been demolished, as well as the North Perth Town Hall and was a well respected architect

When Richard Haynes was choosing a site for his new home, he decided on a piece of land in the Mount Lawley No 1 Estate on high ground where Windsor Hall was subsequently built. The house has had various renovations over the years but the integrity of the building has been retained and it remains a beautiful example of Federation Free Style.

Situate at 36 Queens Crescent, the 2- storey house sits astride Queens Crescent facing the T-junction of Alvan Street. If houses could have personalities, this one would have the type of characteristics which mirror that of its original owner – imposing, confident, in-your-face, not “run of the mill”, while at the same time retaining its integrity.

The south west corner of the house has a circular bay window on the ground floor, with a cone shaped roof above the balcony on the upper floor. This is set off with a very ornate and beautiful frieze surrounding the lower side of the cone which gives the house its very striking appearance.

The south east side of the house is quite austere, yet still very impressive. The lower floor has square windows, the top 3 squares being lovely examples of leadlight of the period. Large arched windows are directly above on the upper floor, again with leadlight at the top, and the façade on that side features a baroque gable.

Wide verandahs run across the front of the house, with slender turned Oregon columns and timber balusters supporting the handrails. The upper level verandah on the south west side of the house extends almost to the back.

The high foundations are limestone with a large flight of steps leading to the entrance of the house and a limestone balustrade.

Although the house is brick with an iron roof, much use has been made of cast iron, pressed tin and wooden friezes to decorate the frontage.

The house is very large and in its early years the ground floor contained a vestibule, parlour, dining room, kitchen, large bedroom and servants’ area at the rear. The first floor landing and first floor contained bathrooms, bedrooms and dressing rooms (the Haynes family comprised 5 boys and 6 girls, as well as parents). Many of the rooms have now been changed to accommodate different residents, but the main parts of the house have been retained as they were. There is a cellar under the house and at the rear of the property the original three stables and wash house are now used as garages.

A house with a history such as this deserves to have people with rich histories residing therein and Windsor Hall has certainly had its share.

The original owner, Richard Septimus Haynes was born in 1857 in New South Wales where he practised as a Solicitor and was known as a radical. He moved to Perth in 1885 and immediately became involved in the politics of WA. He was elected to the Perth City Council and was chairman of the Local Board of Health. He formed and chaired the Municipal Association in 1895, became Mayor of North Perth in 1901 and was an organizer and chairman of the Central Reform League. He won Central Province in the Legislative Council in 1896, was Consul for Norway, vice-president of several football and cricket clubs and appeared frequently in amateur theatricals.

All this was accomplished whilst running a busy legal firm and coping with his large family. He defended many notorious figures including the bushranger, Edward Hughes. Another of his clients was Frederick Bayley Deeming (alias Albert Williams, alias Baron Swanston). Deeming had murdered his wife in England, and another in Victoria. He was on his way to WA to marry a third time when he was captured at Southern Cross. Mr Haynes fought an extradition order for Deeming, which was unsuccessful. Deeming died in Melbourne Gaol in May 1892.



In 1900 Richard Haynes employed his niece, Edith Haynes to study law under his tutelage. Edith applied as a student at law under Articles to her uncle. She was accepted by the Barristers Board, but they cautioned her that although she had been accepted to study law, her admission as a legal practitioner may not be approved.

Edith commenced her studies, but when it came time to seek to sit for the intermediate law exams the Board refused her. She then sought permission from the Supreme Court, but was again refused. The Legal Practitioners' Act permitted qualified "persons" to be admitted. However, the Court considered it too extreme to consider that a woman was a person without express legislative sanction and Justice Burnside stated that he was not prepared to start making law. Edith never completed her legal studies.

One of the Haynes children, Arthur Goodwin Haynes, followed in his father's footsteps and became a famous WA lawyer. After his father's death in 1922 he took over the legal practice, Richard S Haynes & Co. Remembered as the outstanding criminal lawyer in Perth in the 1920s and 1930s Mr Haynes defended one, Audrey Jacobs, who was charged with the murder by shooting of her boyfriend. The murder was carried out in the Government House Ballroom while a ball was in progress. Due to Arthur Haynes' expert handling of the case Audrey Jacobs was acquitted.

After the Haynes family sold Windsor Hall it had several owners and now belongs to Perth College. The House is kept in immaculate condition and is certainly an asset to Mt Lawley as pictured today.



## Mt Lawley Heritage Walk

**Sunday 7 February  
10.00am to 12.00pm  
NAB Forecourt,  
678 Beaufort Street, Mt Lawley**

Join us for an interesting and informative heritage walk through the streets of Mt Lawley. The walk, conducted by a Heritage Architect, will cover the unique subdivision layout of the Mt Lawley Estates 1 & 2 and the magnificent

streetscapes and homes that contribute to the historical significance of this area. We will take in many landmark buildings that contribute to the unique identity of the Mt Lawley Commercial Centre and surrounding areas.

For more information or to register call 9345 8555, email [culture@stirling.wa.gov.au](mailto:culture@stirling.wa.gov.au) or visit [www.stirling.wa.gov.au](http://www.stirling.wa.gov.au)



## "Ode to Farnley Street by Charlotte Christo

It's not always that a street has a birthday  
And not everyone believes that it should  
But a few folk in a street name of Farnley  
Thought a 100<sup>th</sup> celebration would be good

Now Jan Wilkie's a lass who likes a challenge  
"How simple could it be" she exclaimed  
We'll just pop over to the council and tell them  
That the end of November had been arranged

Many letterbox drops and some emails  
Flowed up and down the street o'er the fence  
And the response in the main was quite positive  
Then Jan, pencil poised, did commence

She roped in a merry band of supporters  
Who were very happy to meet and discuss  
All the various tasks and endeavours  
That would bring this together with small fuss

Publicity was deemed most important  
And several papers were approached to assist  
Then some councillors and polities also joined in  
So past residents and tenants wouldn't miss

The Mount Lawley Society was delighted  
They were happy that she had commenced  
But the subject of insurance was emerging  
That made some of the meetings quite tense

The festivities agenda became so exciting  
Though halfway through it became crystal clear  
That the cost of street closure was prohibitive  
So Copley Park was chosen as it's near

Now our Jan is a well connected woman  
And on the weather front had prayed for grace  
Who turned on a perfect day unencumbered  
So the celebrations proceeded at a pace

The band was ensconced in the rotunda  
The tram was despatched round the 'hood  
And dear Barrie was there in his element  
Discussing heritage as only he could

The arvo tea with china cups was delicious  
Though it began with a very shaky start  
And the pressure to find electricity  
Forced our young President to 'borrow' some quick smart

How great to see all the assembled, past and present  
Reacquaint with their neighbours over tea  
But the key for the toilet block was not evident  
And the pressure after many teas was to 'hang on til you got home'

So on behalf of us all we say Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
The event went off mostly without pain  
And I'm sure that the Farnley St committee  
Would say categorically 'Never again'



*Congratulations to Jan Wilkie and the Farnley Street Centenary Committee for organising the November 22nd. 2009 at Copley Park, Regent Street East, Mount Lawley* "I attended the celebrations briefly today and was very impressed. What a great event. Loved the attendance book and messages from Farnley Street residents" *"perfect day, and a very successful community event. Many thanks to everyone who contributed in many different areas. A special thanks to the Town of Victoria Park Brass Band. Their music was wonderful".*



#### **AGM 4.12.2009 held at Coode St cafe**



*Committee member Jan Wilkie with members Bill and Joyce*



*John Wreford, Neil Hodgkinson ( Committee) with members Deborah ,Alison and Ryan*



*Members Lynette and Jill*



*Committee Paul H and Jenny H*



*Guests Cr Rod Willox, Vyonne Geneve, Ron Facius from Art Deco Society, Committee member Daina*



*Guests Peter Conole( Police historian) and Cr Paul Collins*

## ASTOR THEATRE, MT LAWLEY Continued Part Three – by Vyonne Geneve

William T. Leighton's plan for the remodelling of the old *State Theatre* was completed in 1939. (refer image published in the previous edition of *Mt. Lawley Matters*). The plan clearly shows a dotted outline of the original theatre, then called *Lyceum Theatre*, designed by D. McClure in 1911, indicating the relationship between the old and new structures.

During the Great Depression the motion picture industry had suffered huge losses. However during the 1930s the thrust from the United States was once again making an impression on local exhibitors. By the end of the decade the movie industry took on an even greater significance and it was felt that a modern cinema was long overdue for the middle class suburb of Mt. Lawley. It was decided it was time the old *State Theatre* was modernised in order to compete with the city cinemas and the increasing numbers in the surrounding suburbs. An up to date cinema which reflected the ambitions of local business interests was needed. Who better to create this than the leading cinema architect of the day?

Leighton's plans demonstrate that the building continued to be known as *The State Theatre* during the first years of reconstruction. Early advertisements in the amusement pages of the *West Australian* show the name remained until circa June 1941 when a government ruling decreed that no privately owned building would be entitled to use the title "State". The picture theatre was consequently renamed the *Astor Theatre* after one of the same name in Townsville Queensland which had pleasant associations for the wife of the owner/builder Mrs. Mavis Alexander.

Leighton's 1939 plans dispensed with the arches and pediments that were a feature of the older structure, replacing them with a relatively simple restrained façade in the manner of 1930s modernism. Provision was made for a grocery store on the busy corner, a millinery shop and an area set aside for refreshments on the left-hand side of the vestibule that also serviced the picture garden. A beauty salon was incorporated into the remainder of the building that also included an upstairs apartment.

Despite the urgency for advertising the newly refurbished venue, Leighton's 1939 drawings offer no provision for a vertical neon sign, although the theatre's name was lettered on the right hand side of the entrance fronting Walcott Street. This was later altered to read the *Astor Theatre* as shown in a more recent image below.

A simplified version of the horizontal string coursing that characterised the earlier structure was retained in Leighton's new design and remains so today, notwithstanding the Philip McAllister restoration in 1989 (to be included in Part Four of this series). The building's predominant horizontality is reinforced by steel framed windows typical of modern buildings of the period, given a ribbon effect with recessed banding emphasising the balcony opening and the tied cantilevered awning. The arrangement is balanced by the verticality of the two end bays that designate the entrances to the cinema and the corner store. The perpendicular thrust is further echoed by the glass block windows, echoing the original fenestration.



The comparatively austere facade is relieved over the entrance to the theatre by a row of squared panels at the parapet and a group of three false medallions over the window-line below.

### The interior of the Astor Theatre.

The geometric shapes that are a feature of the exterior of the building are repeated in the vestibule where other false medallions are featured between the jarrah and chrome ticket box and the stairs leading to the upstairs foyer. This spacious vestibule, enhanced by a yellow and brown terrazzo floor is entered through a handsome set of jarrah doors fitted with chrome handles similar to those on the double doors leading to the stalls.

A wide stairway conveys patrons from the right-hand side of the vestibule to the foyer above. Here the linear decoration is at once relieved by the large floor-to-ceiling mirror on the landing wall, serving at the same time to emphasise the ribbed lines that it reflects. The staircase leads to a spacious upper foyer, where the horizontal banded wall pattern continues, leading picture goers to the auditorium. The ample space in the upstairs foyer is enhanced by the three glass block windows that also articulate the building at night.. Further lighting is provided by two large **circular** glass



fixtures that are layered at ceiling level.( *picture 2*)

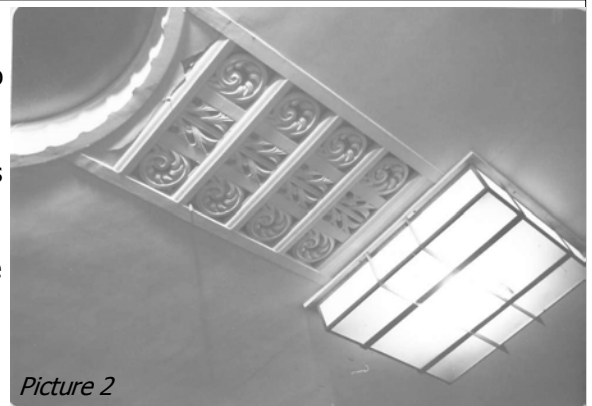
On this first floor level an elaborate decorative ceiling panel divided into cross sections throughout its length

(*picture 3*) forms a ventilation grill. This combination of floral and banded motif is repeated inside the auditorium, where intricate ventilating panels again alternate with ribbed banding to decorate the stalls. The illumination is provided by square chrome and glass fittings that were introduced in the foyer and by a further variation of flush lighting.

Squared flush lighting panels also illuminate the proscenium which is framed by horizontally banded curved moulds to form rounded stylised columns. Vertical ribbed flush moulding is used to emphasise this important part of the auditorium, where the curved streamlining draws the eye to the proscenium.



Picture 3

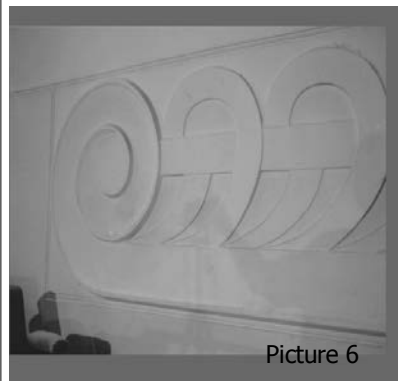


Picture 2

The auditorium at the *Astor* was Leighton's most ornate interior.

Enhanced by decorative plaster moulding and other eye-catching fixtures including the grooved ceiling punctuated by flamboyant light fixtures and a group of highly ornate panels based on the Mayan flower design on the side walls, both upstairs and down. These fretted ventilator grills (similar to those Leighton had earlier placed at the Windsor Theatre – (now hidden by curtaining) are lit from behind and alternate with vertical grills and light fittings.

The seating in the theatre was reduced by Leighton to around 900, which permitted a spacious interior by Perth standards. At back stall level a fibrous plaster frieze on either side of the auditorium features a repetitive wave and chevron design.



Picture 6

(*picture 6*). Upstairs in the lounge the walls are embellished with another version of the continuous wave motif, whilst the rear of the auditorium at dress circle level features squared floral fretted grills.



(*picture 7*)

Smaller decorative grills at the back of the auditorium complete the ornamentation.



Picture 7

#### References:

V. Geneve, *Versions of Modernism in Western Australian Cinema Design 1930-1940*, MA Thesis, UWA 1991.

V. Geneve, *Significant Buildings of the 1930s in Western Australia*, National Estate Grant 1994.

**Copyright – V. Geneve**

## MT LAWLEY, INGLEWOOD and MENORA: A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE

**Support for our local businesses will help sustain and promote our area .***Each newsletter we will feature one or two of the businesses which make Mt. Lawley , Inglewood and Menora a great place to live.*

### Mt Lawley



#### Customer Profile - The Beaufort Street Merchant

##### Essential Info:

Proprietors: Scott Taylor and Angie Taylor (siblings)

488 - 492 Beaufort Street Highgate 6003

Ph: (08) 9328 6299

Fax: (08) 9227 6341

Payment details: cash and all cards including diners and amex

Opening Hours:

7 days; 7:30 am – late (usually about 10:30/11pm)



The Beaufort Street Merchant is a venue offering a brassiere and retail journey for the food, coffee and wine savvy. The venue is attended by highly trained, expert team players who are customer and product focused.

The Beaufort Street Merchant has grown up during the last 4 years. What began as a gourmet retail and liquor store in October 2005 has changed over the years and now includes a brasserie to complement the original gourmet retail and liquor offering.



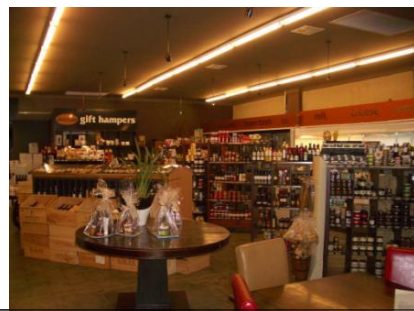
Our brasserie provides breakfast, lunch and dinner 7 days a week, or you can just pop in for a beer, glass of wine or coffee at any time. In the liquor retail we provide fine wines, with a focus on smaller boutique vineyards and an ever increasing international range. We have a full bottle shop range including local and international beer and RTDs. And our own labelled cleanskin range naked bottle.

Our food focuses on gourmet, quality produce both in the dishes we prepare in the brasserie and the packaged produce we provide for retail sale on the store shelves.

Food and wine related giftware and gourmet hampers are booming. Our wine store and great gourmet food store enable us to come up with some really fantastic personalised hampers for individuals or branded hampers for corporate bodies.

We have a lot of regular customers, although we have tried to encourage that with our relaxed and friendly atmosphere. We have recently set up a Merchant Locals register which provides locals with a loyalty card and provides the card holders with both special offers and ongoing discounts and benefits.

People are working longer and harder - we are developing a range of own branded grazing, antipasto product that can satisfy the need for quick, easy, healthy, interesting food. Match it up with a bottle of something interesting from the wine section



### Some of the Issues raised by members and concerned community residents and which MLS has followed up with Councillors or investigated

**The History Council of Western Australia held a public forum 19th October 2009.** The Council, which represents a broad range of groups and individuals, is concerned that the key place of culture and the arts, history and heritage in WA is not receiving due recognition. A vibrant, well funded and supported arts and heritage sector is vital for residents and visitors alike. Recent cuts to opening hours at the WA Museum and Art Gallery, the closure of the Fremantle History Museum, the suspension of the WA Premier's Book Awards, the absence of a new storage facility for the State's archives and budget cuts for Arts related agencies, are just a few of the recent decisions about which it has grave concerns. Those employed or interested in history, heritage, literature, the arts, libraries, museums, education and tourism were invited to meet at the Perth Town Hall to hear a

panel discussion led by a range of eminent speakers. The 3 talks (by Ted Snell, Carol Innes and Prof. Geoffrey Bolton) are on the History Council website if you wish to read them. The History Council is looking for support from all organisations and concerned members of the community. It was decided that a delegation will meet with the Minister and the Premier to present a motion made at the meeting that a cultural plan for the next 40 years be commenced, as well as immediate action being taken to stop closures of art centres and reductions in funding. A groundswell of public opinion apart from the approach to the Minister is needed and it was suggested that this could be done by e-mail and letters.

**North Perth Police Station.** The Town of Vincent has purchased the heritage listed police station in Angove St North Perth. MLS wrote to the Town of Vincent expressing the Society's congratulations on the purchase and in keeping a heritage building for community use. Peter Conole( Police historian) is in contact with Town of Vincent regarding the history of the building and the Town's heritage services are running a series of heritage walks in 2009 - 2010, of which one is for North Perth and the police station will be one of the 'places of interest' for a guided tour .

**49 Walcott Street** .This is the oldest surviving house in Mount Lawley, being the second house built in the Forrest Park/Highgate Hill Estate. It was built for stonemason James Hallyburton in 1894. His wife was Janet Hallyburton, the local nurse and midwife. The house was unusual in that it had an upstairs gallery with wide views across Highgate and Perth. James Hallyburton moved to 25 Stanley Street in 1910, whilst his wife remained in the house until 1914. Mrs H Winzer then lived there until Thomas Alsopp bought the property in 1916.

**51 Walcott Street,** This house was built for John G Clamp in 1902. The Forrest Park recreational area was known locally as Clamp's Common, indeed, long after he had left. The house was sold to George Davies in 1907, who, in turn, sold it to Harry Speight in 1910.

**These are both for sale** .Numbers 51, 53, 55 and 61 Walcott are already listed as a coherent group of houses on the Town of Vincent's Municipal Heritage Inventory and the MLS is planning to nominate number 49 Walcott St for inclusion on the Town's Municipal Heritage Inventory as well.

**Mt Lawley after school care building.** The Mt Lawley after school care demountable is being moved to make way for new buildings programmed at the school .The demountable has been an important part of the history and life of the school and community since 1918, and should be retained if at all possible . There were articles in the newspapers quoting concerned residents and Mt Lawley members, and in November a letter from Heritage Council chief executive Graeme Gammie to Labor heritage spokesman John Hyde "confirms the 100-year-old Out of School Care building, while not heritage-listed, will be considered through the Government's heritage disposal process". This is still being addressed with no final outcome. Lobbying continues.

**St Paul's Primary School Rookwood St.** St Paul's School and the proposal to build a multi use school hall in front of the school in Rookwood St (over the current staff car park and some of the grassed area) has concerned local residents and the MLS was approached and asked for help in drawing Mt Lawley residents' attention to the planned extension. When, in c1983, St Paul's asked to close off the part of the street curving into Rookwood Street and use the park as a playing area, the Mount Lawley Society and the Ratepayers' Association agreed only on condition that the land be still public open space, with public access.

City of Stirling has reviewed the plans and the objections made by residents and has decided that (meeting 15.12.09) *That Pursuant to Clause 1.3.5.1(g) of District Planning Scheme No. 2, the application for a multi purpose hall addition to St Paul's Catholic Primary School at Lot 1, House Number 74, Rookwood Street, Mount Lawley be APPROVED subject to the following conditions: a. The applicant to provide a Parking Management Strategy to the satisfaction of the Manager Approvals which is to include the following details: i. how access and parking to the school site is to be managed, ii. how the Strategy and any associated plan is to be implemented, ii. How the school will resource the management of the pick-up and set-down facility. b. The use of the multi purpose hall is restricted to educational and community purposes only. The use of the multi purpose hall at weekends and after hours is not permitted unless approval is granted in writing by the City. c. The applicant to submit a venue management plan prior to the issue of a building license. d, Vehicular parking manoeuvring and circulation areas indicated on the approved plan being sealed and drained to the satisfaction of the City and the parking spaces being marked out and maintained in good repair. e Compliance with the access and facilities for disabled requirements of the Building Code of Australia and all other relevant Australian Standards in respect of access and facilities for the disabled. f. Stormwater from all roofed and paved areas to be collected and contained on site. g, That the boundary between the school grounds and the public open space be clearly delineated to the satisfaction of City officers. The motion was put and declared CARRIED (10/4).*



**Issues continued;**

**Covenants :** Amendment proposals to Draft Local Planning Scheme No 3 have been initiated and requested by the Hon Minister for Planning, not the City of Stirling. This includes proposals to modify Clause 5.4 - Restrictive Covenants to remove the current exemption areas in Menora, Coolbinia and Mount Lawley.

*Estates 3, 4 with some parts of Estate 2) were applied to titles at the instigation of the original developer to go hand in glove with the residential design of these estates.*

*The estates were designed on the Radburn concept with road design, block size and shape and open spaces to achieve the following:*

*To provide the healthiest possible urban design for residents;*

*To provide essential and safe spaces for the recreation of children;*

*To encourage families to live in these estates;*

*To entice families away from medium and high density estates with their concentrations of social and service problems.*

*One of the cornerstone measures put in place by the developers to achieve these goals was the blanket application of restrictive covenants on all properties.*

*The covenants have served their purpose well. Such areas as Menora and Coolbinia have largely retained their original family homes and families are still living in them. These homes are highly valued because of their planning characteristics, essential components of which are restrictive covenants. (Barrie Baker 2009)*

The Residents Action Group, Mt Lawley Coolbinia and Menora Ratepayers Association (MLCMRPA) and the Mount Lawley Society( MLS) as well as a newly formed group( Max Kay and Wayne French: Save the Covenant Action Group) are all requesting their members to make submissions on this issue. Residents and members are asked to send a copy of their submission to Michael Sutherland as well as the City of Stirling and local council members.

Many members have done so already. Closing date is 15th January 2010.

**MLS watching concerns;**

57 Railway Pde;An application to City of Stirling seeks to change the use of the site to day spa offering massage, facials and other body treatments .

20 First Ave; demolition of tennis court and pool and resident concerns re renovations. The plan is to build on this old tennis court area.

**MLS Committee 2010**

**Paul Hurst : President**

**Rebecca Griffiths : Treasurer**

**Beth McKechnie : Secretary**

**John Wreford**

**Jan Wilkie**

**Ian Merker**

**Charlotte Christo**

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

**John Baas :Represents Ratepayers Assoc**

**Sheila Robinson**

**Neil Hogkinson and Jenny Hewitt: Inglewood representatives**

Committee meetings are held 1st Monday of the month at the Mount Lawley Bowling Club at 8.00pm. All members are welcome to attend.

**WELCOME TO MLS NEW MEMBERS**

Megan Youngs

Lou Scampoli

Cate Pattison

Darryl Ryan and Alison Kalajich