

Mount Lawley Matters

Mount Lawley Society

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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 nec-
essarily those of oth-
ers or of the commit-
tee.**

MLS PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members,

I hope that this newsletter finds you well.

We received a good response from our members at the social event held at the Mount Lawley Bowling Club on Monday 5th April (Easter Monday). This event is one of three such social occasions to be held at the Bowling Club this year which replace the April, July and October regular committee meetings. The occasions are quite casual – just drinks and a few nibbles from 8pm onwards – a good opportunity to catch up with friends and neighbours from your community.

Planning for the historical photo exhibition this year is progressing. Bruno Zimmerman (owner of the Astor Theatre) has kindly offered to allow the Society to hold the photo exhibition in the Astor Arcade, which should be fantastic. The committee recently met to short-list the photos for exhibition, (another excuse to open a few bottles of nice red!), and printing will start shortly. At this stage, we are expecting to hold the exhibition in late May to coincide with City of Stirling's "Café Culture" civic event on Beaufort Street. The committee will be quite busy leading up to this event and all help will be gratefully received. If you are interested in helping to coordinate the event, please contact the committee through the website.

During our March meeting we farewelled out-going Treasurer, Rebecca Griffiths who resigned from the committee at the end of 2009 due to mounting family commitments. Rebecca served the Society for two years as Treasurer and did a wonderful job. During this time Rebecca and Mark had their first daughter Amelia and, despite the sleepless nights, Rebecca was able to maintain the books in excellent order. Thanks Rebecca – we hope to see you at one of our social functions in the future. Rebecca's excellent book-keeping has now been handed over to our new treasurer Brendon Atkinson. Brendon's wife, Rebecca, has also joined the committee to assist with the photo exhibition. Rebecca has a background in public relations which will be of great benefit as the exhibition approaches.

Finally, I would like to thank all members who took the time to write to the City of Stirling earlier this year to oppose the proposal by State Government to abolish the restrictive covenants. As previously advised by email, on Tuesday 9th March, the City of Stirling Planning and Development Committee unanimously voted to reject the State Government proposal. The meeting was very well attended by concerned residents eager to hear the outcome of this issue. Thank you again to those who attended. Your presence was noted by the Committee and gave credibility to the numerous written submissions.

Opposition to the proposal by residents was overwhelming. Over 470 written submissions were received by the CoS in opposition to the proposal. Only 4 submissions were received in favour of the proposal. Special thanks must again go to Max Kay from Menora who led the charge with the formation of the Save the Covenants Action Group. The Society is also grateful for the efforts of Cr Paul Collins, Cr Rod Willox and local member Mr Michael Sutherland MLA who spoke passionately about this issue at the meeting.

This recommendation will now proceed to vote at the full CoS council. We will keep you informed of progress on this matter.

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

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)*

Members are welcome to attend all meetings and social functions!

The Maylands Historic and Peninsula Association Inc. was formed by amalgamation of The Maylands Historic Society and The Peninsula Association. **Terry Gaunt** is President of the Association.

The Swan Brewery gave the Peninsula Hotel to The Peninsula Association to be used for community purposes, however as the building was Heritage listed and needed much renovation the association was unable to generate enough income to do the work that was needed. In the year 2000 the building was given to the City of Bayswater with a number of conditions, one being that our association would always retain a room at the front of the building as an office and a place to hold our committee meetings.



As part of the conditions in the "Deed of Gift" the Council spent over \$500,000 dollars on painting and other work that was necessary and have since leased the building to Dome Coffees who have spent another three million dollars. The lease agreement ensures community groups may hire parts of the building and our room is secure.

We meet at 7.30 pm. on the third Monday of the month in the former dining room in the old hotel and hold our committee meeting ten days prior on a Saturday morning. Our membership is around fifty and regularly have thirty odd attend our meetings. Our committee consists of eight and we co-opt others from time to time. The membership fee is \$10.00 and \$8.00 for concession card holders. We welcome visitors at our meetings and ask for a gold coin donation. We send out a newsletter before each meeting and make note of the guest speaker and usually the one for the following month. We are at the moment setting up a web site.

Our meeting consists of a report from the committee followed by a guest speaker with an historic topic followed by supper. We have in the past taped our speakers and have then had the tapes transcribed onto discs, however with a Federal Government grant to purchase a video camera all future speakers will be recorded and we will produce our own DVD

We are amalgamated with The Royal Historic Society and enjoy the annual two day conference that is held at different venues around the state with many of our members attending. As a group we also visit other historic sites around the state from time to time.

We are currently working on a project to have the history of the old Maylands Aerodrome displayed at a small park in Clarkson Rd. The City of Bayswater is providing funding with our group providing the research for the interpretive plaques. After several years the project is nearing completion and should come to fruition in the not to distant future.

The Maylands Aerodrome Commemorative Park is a very exciting project and a great coup for our association.

One of our main roles is to monitor all developments of a heritage nature in Maylands and work with the Heritage Council to ensure that the Local Authority behaves in a responsible manner in regard to heritage buildings and developments.

Crossing the line: early policing around Mt Lawley #4

By Peter Conole, Police Historian

The third article in this series ended with the closure of Highgate Hill Police Station and the opening of Inglewood, which then became the centre of a new sub-district. Some boundaries had to be altered and North Perth and Maylands stations were incorporated in the new jurisdiction. All of this had implications for the people of Mount Lawley, a suburb which never 'hosted' its own police station. They relied on officers from those around and just beyond the boundaries to do the best they could on their behalf.

To be frank, considerable pushing and shoving developed among various town and shire councils from an early date. The constable at Maylands Police Station (opened July 1, 1906) was required to maintain the public peace in both Mount Lawley and Bayswater. In 1916 the Secretary of the Perth Road Board lobbied successfully to have a second constable assigned to Maylands. Officers from Highgate also patrolled those areas to help their Maylands colleagues, not that public criticism could always be avoided: the *Daily News* of May 30, 1929 noted problems with larrikinism and alcohol misuse around Maylands.

Political pressure to increase the police presence in the expanding northern suburbs came from a local MLA in 1938, but resources during the Great Depression decade were still very tight and Police Commissioner David Hunter had no choice but to 'stonewall' for some time. The opening of the Inglewood Station and police complex resolved a few issues and complaints.

As indicated above, North Perth Police Station was included in the ambit of the post-1940 arrangements. When population across the line expanded in the 1890s, North Perth felt the impact strongly and obtained recognition as a municipality in 1901. As historian C.T. Stannage noted, North Perth was regarded in the 1910s as a solid, respectable working class suburb, whereas Mount Lawley tended to be more fashionable and genteel. Very soon the usual and reasonable requests for police protection arrived and a foot constable from West Perth made his presence felt in 1902. Constable James Strappe became the first officer assigned permanently to North Perth on May 15, 1903, although he had to live and operate out of rented buildings for several years.

In September, 1907 the firm of Franklin and Finlay won the contract to build a police station in North Perth. The keys to the new premises at 81 Angove Street were handed over to the police on January 30, 1908 and Constable Strappe moved in on the same date. The complex is a fine piece of Federation Free Classical style functional architecture; single story, built of brick, with an iron roof and wooden floors. It consisted of residential quarters for the Officer in Charge, office space, a charge room and cells. Readers need to bear in mind that it was common practice at the time to include living space for the senior officer and the actual police station under one roof.



The North Perth police maintained the public peace on their own 'turf', but like their Highgate and Maylands colleagues, were required to play a part in meeting the needs of the people of Mount Lawley.

In addition, the North Perth constables had to expand their work into Mount Hawthorn, which must have stretched resources beyond reasonable limits. The residents of that suburb petitioned for more stable police protection in 1925 and got their way. Constable Archibald Moore moved into a new station and quarters in Ellesmere Street, Mount Hawthorn in November 1928.

Constable Strappe, who had opened North Perth station, received a standard transfer to Bridgetown in December 1908.



The man who replaced him on December 12 of that year, 40-year old Constable William Sherman Crawford, may have achieved something of a record in the course of his career. There is no evidence at all of any further transfers for Crawford and it seems he stayed on at North Perth until his retirement on October 25, 1933. Quite an achievement on his part, indicating Constable Crawford was happy to remain there and possibly uninterested in further promotion.

The police hierarchy must also have identified him as a good suburban constable and let things be. It is a pity the station records have been lost, as they would have provided a fine view of local life. Sometimes there is hard evidence that an extra officer was stationed at North Perth, such as Constable Robert Larsen from 1916 until 1921, a man junior to Crawford in terms of both age and seniority.

Continued pg 4

Robert Larsen tended to specialise in work involving horses. He later served in the Metropolitan mounted section and won both fame and glory for himself while based at Williams in 1927. An armed murder suspect shot and seriously wounded Larsen as he was taking the man into custody. Though badly hurt, Larsen managed to complete his journey and hand the suspect over before collapsing. After recovering from his wound, Larsen was awarded the King's Police Medal for bravery.

After Constable Crawford retired, his successors sporadically agitated for better living conditions, equipment and working space, sometimes with little success. By 1937 two constables and two detectives were based at North Perth, but a request for extra office accommodation failed. Financial restrictions remained in force, although sporadic minor repair work tended to get done and the existing premises were well renovated in 1943.

The work of police officers at stations such as Highgate, North Perth and Maylands was supplemented by mounted patrols up until the mid-1930s, then increasingly by single man patrols on motor cycles organised and managed from Central Police Station in Roe Street, Perth. During the post-war years this system expanded rapidly, until reviving prosperity and population increase made the building of extra police stations viable.

Heritage by Barrie Baker

FATE HANGING IN THE BALANCE?

CASE 1

Observe this beautiful original Mount Lawley home, recently sold.



Has it been bought by a family with young children looking for an original heritage house to lovingly return to maximum grace and charm?

There would be no problem if this house were in Vale Road, Thongsbridge Street, etc. The tradesmen would be swarming all over it for re-paint, re-tuck-point, re-fence and so on.

No, this very special house is in Beaufort Street at No **792**, one of only about 30 left in the whole length of that long street in Mount Lawley/Inglewood.

The block has high zoning, on one of Perth's busiest streets, meaning that its likely fate is to be a gracious residence no more.

The best case would be for it to be used for professional offices, with modifications at the back, leaving the front structure intact.

The worst case – demolition and replacement by a glass and aluminium business premises – possibly painted in currently fashionable battleship grey.

Will the grace and charm of No 792, so pleasing to the eye for tens of thousands of travellers per day using Beaufort street, soon become a thing of the past?

CASE 2

Here is a rare group of late Victorian houses



This is **574** William Street, built 1901, a large home for that time. It is missing its original verandah, but presents as a home that could be progressively restored, with room at the back for sympathetic extension



This is **572** William Street, also built in 1901. The brickwork has been painted and the verandah requires restoring. An extension at the rear is needed for this smaller home



This is **570** William Street, built in 1899. The brickwork is unpainted, and again a sympathetic extension is required. The verandah posts are not original.

Note, to the right, is **568** William Street, a house of similar vintage, beautifully restored and extended. This is an example of what the other houses demand.

570 to 574 have had no money spent on maintaining their character for decades.

The intentions of the owners is unknown, but what a tragedy if the fate is to be demolition by neglect.

Take a walk down William Street and savour the colonial charm of this precious little streetscape.

DO YOU REMEMBER ? if so please contact us and tell us more stories for our oral history section

Lawley Ladies College is listed in the Wise's directories of 1929 with Misses Rosalie Sharp and P Turvey Principals, at 7 Longroyd Street, Mount Lawley. 7 Longroyd St was also the address of Mrs. AM Sharp. Mabel Ross Sharp, Rosalie Sharp's sister, also assisted at the school. They were the daughters of a missionary to China, nicknamed 'China Sharp'

On 21 March 1940, the school moved to 35 Glenroyd St which was unoccupied (now Bona Vista). From early 1940 through into 1942, Lawley Ladies' College operated from this place. It was a school for girls at post primary level. (*Heritage Council document on Bona Vista June 2007*)

Pat Lieblich seeking information on the internet had a response from Merrilyn whose sister and cousin attended the school. Merrilyn replies "*The building was still there last time she looked. It was used as a Baptist school or church after the closure of the school(she thinks) It was a very private school run by a Miss Sharpe She recalls some of the teachers Miss Payne (daughter of the then Mayor of Bunbury) ,and a Miss Baird. Miss Sharpe's mother lived in a two storey house just a few doors down they called her Grandma Sharpe and she was looked after by another Miss Sharpe who had been a missionary in China and they called her Miss China Sharpe. They had a Tennis court there. The uniform was Navy pleated skirt, white shirt and Navy blazer and a Panama hat.*"(DPS Chat L archives)



LLC girls ; photo from MLS photographic collection

After Japan entered the war and the fall of Singapore, the war effort moved closer to Western Australia. Increased numbers of servicemen were stationed in the State, and numerous large buildings in Perth, Fremantle and the suburbs were taken over by the military authorities for various purposes. Among these was Bona Vista, which was vacated by the school to be utilized for military officers' accommodation.

In 1945, when the place was no longer required for war purposes, Lawley Ladies' College resumed occupation, and continued in operation under Miss Sharp for some time. When she decided to retire, the school was closed, and the place became a hostel for students at Perth College. Miss Sharp was interested in the work of Perth Bible Institute, and receptive to an approach from its committee in 1950, regarding the possibility of selling the place to them.

Miss Sharp accepted the offer conditional upon the Institute continuing to provide the hostel for the Perth College students so long as it was required. (*Heritage Council document on Bona Vista June 2007*)

Diana Scott reports that she too had been seeking information on the school after "*I recently came across my silver hat badge for Lawley Ladies College which prompted me to look on the internet for any information about the school. I see that the school is recorded as being at 35 Glenroyd Street but I attended their kindergarten which was in part of the private house (still there) on the north-west corner of Rookwood and Longroyd Streets. I attended for part of 1940. My family were renting a house at 48 Woodsome Street (I now live at number 26 Woodsome Street) so I used to walk along the length of Woodsome Street and up the rise of Rookwood Street to the kindergarten on*



LLC hat pin courtesy of Diana Scott

the corner.

It was, as I say, situated in a private house and we all used to sit on wooden stools in what must have been the living room - there were lounge chairs and a piano in the room. We were "taught" by Miss Sharp whom I remember as being very cold and unsmiling. I was terrified of her! I was only there for half days, and I don't know which of the Miss Sharp's it would have been who was in charge. I seem to remember that there were only about 10 of us.

The hat badge is marked on the back with J.C.Taylor. I looked him up on the web and found that Trinity Antiques in Perth advertised that they dealt in articles from Colonial and local silversmiths, J.C. Taylor amongst them. There was also an article about Taylor written by Dorothy Erickson in a journal called Australiana which is held at our State Library. I followed this up since I thought there may be mention of his making the hat badges which could indicate how long the College was operating "

MLS Committee drinks night 5th

This was the first of (we hope) many successful get togethers.

Although it was Easter Monday we had many responses from members and we hope to see members again at the July "meet and chat "evening.

Members were able to see some of the photos held by the MLS that will be shown at the Exhibition during May(for more details see page 10)



SUMMERSET FESTIVAL MT LAWLEY HERITAGE WALK 7th February 2010

This was attended by MLS members, City of Stirling staff (Nicole Mitchell, Ross Povey and historian) and interested community members. It was organized by the CoS with Prue Griffin, Historian and Heritage consultant of Hocking Planning and Architecture

The tour met at Beaufort St and looked at the buildings on Beaufort; the Ascot theatre and Beaucott Buildings, then walked to the Bowling Club, Bona Vista and Annesley and back to Perth College to view Windsor Hall and St Rita's and St Crispin's.

Prue discussed the Mount Lawley subdivisions; the Gold Estates—1896 and the Mt Lawley Estates (Copley and Robinson) Estates 1-4 (1902– 1945) and the characteristics of these estates with subdivision following contours, setbacks and garden settings .Also the group looked at building characteristics of federation, and inter war Californian bungalows.



ASTOR THEATRE, MT LAWLEY Continued Part Four – *by Vyonne Geneve*

RESTORATION OF THE ASTOR THEATRE – Part Four

Philip McAllister's transformation in 1989 of Mt Lawley's Astor Theatre was in keeping with the world-wide affirmation of the Art Deco style. As an early member of the Art Deco Society of WA (inaugurated in 1987) Philip received encouragement and support from its members for the refurbishment of this significant old picture theatre. In employing the latest technology in cinema building, the young architect created a viable commercial enterprise, whilst emphasising the symbolic detailing of the "era of the movies".

Much of the architect's brief was the refurbishment of a genre – both in form and style – and along with his client, Sydney-sider, Ronald Regan (also an early subscriber to ADSWA) believed that the cinema as an art form suffered from decades of commercialism. As a result, both worked to create a sympathetic space not usually found in modern buildings – in particular in modern cinemas. Both, then, strove to bring the old picture theatre up to the then current level of by-law requirements and, wherever possible, make use of the best Western Australian products.

The architect and his client appreciated the relevance of the restoration of such an important landmark on the streetscape of one of Perth's popular inner suburbs and paid homage to the State's leading cinema architect, William T. Leighton who, in 1939, redesigned the old State Theatre which was later renamed Astor Theatre.

The Astor Theatre was the last of the old picture theatres Leighton worked on during the late 1930s. In the space of a few short years the architect had been responsible for the new Windsor Theatre, Nedlands; Como (later Cygnet) Theatre, South Perth; the Piccadilly Theatre, Hay Street, Perth and the opulent Metro Theatre, William Street, Perth (now demolished). During the same period Leighton remodelled the Lyric Theatre, Bunbury; the Grand Theatre, Murray Street, Perth, the Royal Theatre, Hay Street, Perth and the Princess Theatre, Fremantle. (After the onset of the Second World War William Leighton remodelled the interior of the Plaza Theatre, Hay Street, Perth and carried out structural alterations to others). Nevertheless, as war clouds gathered towards the end of the decade and the building industry began to suffer shortages, Leighton managed to endow each of his picture theatres with individual designs. To this day The Astor Theatre arguably remains his most decorative.

With the foregoing in mind, McAllister's simple brief was to recreate a "Deco Picture Palace" and went about exploring and developing a number of key parameters about the project, including:

- *retention of the existing building and auditorium, removing non-original additions and repairing/restoring the original 1930s fittings and finishes as much as possible.
- *drawing out and highlighting the unique Deco details and motifs which are unique to the style and type of building.
- *developing in the design and selection of colour and finishes a sense of streamlined style and plushness associated with the "Deco Picture Palaces" image.
- *developing the Dress Circle and Upper Foyer Lounge as a luxury area with seating and coffee/bar to allow patrons to use the building before and after the show for light refreshment.
- *revitalising areas of decay and reworking areas no longer suitable or appropriate for today's patrons.
- *incorporating latest cinema projection and sound equipment in such a way as not to be obvious or out of character with the original auditorium.
- *incorporating latest cinema projection and sound equipment in such a way as not to be obvious or out of character with the original auditorium.
- *developing a colour scheme that projected the uniqueness of the building and the client's image for the project as well as a scheme "to be noticed" and to attract the attention and interest of the public, both within the building and externally.
- *incorporating a "Picture Palace" coloured lighting system in the auditorium as was common in the cinemas of this period
- *integrating new work with the original in such a way that harmony and support of the theme is achieved – such as new curtains, seats, light fittings, candy bars, mirrors, tiling, neon lighting, signage etc.

(cont pg 9)

One of the most apparent and obvious elements of the work was the painting of the building and development of the colour scheme. This was also the source of much discussion between the architect and client and the subject of three alternative studies – with the final decision on which alternative being agreed by both parties. There were a number of critical issues that needed to be addressed in developing these studies. Firstly, the client wanted a Deco approach and also something bold and unique – yet in a refined sense that evoked a sense of style and plushness.

The question of restoration and reinstating original colour schemes or developing a modern interpretation had to be addressed. Most of the cinema had been painted cream in the 1960s and hence all architectural detail lost. The architect believed that, whilst in some instances, return to historical colours is appropriate, consideration of present day tastes must be considered. In developing the schemes McAllister took the approach that the original pink and green colour schemes of the auditorium should be reinterpreted in a different chroma and tonal arrangement. The architect also believed that in the redevelopment of the project in 1939, William Leighton reinterpreted the original building and cinema use in a style and colour scheme that he felt appropriate and relevant to the time, with the intent of developing the imagery and language that delighted and provided visual messages to the audience. In the same way McAllister developed a scheme which is derived from and highlights the forms and style of the past as well as relating to a somewhat more brash and fast moving sensibility of the late 1980s. He also aimed to reinforce the style and grace of the 1930s in a manner that audiences of the time would be able to read more readily.

Auditorium

Philip McAllister developed the auditorium colour scheme based around his idea of creating “an outdoor room within”.

To this end he developed a strong ground plane and horizon with burgundy carpet, seating and wall panels. Above these panels tones of jade green graduate in tone from deep at the base to light oriental blue at the ceiling, reinforcing the sky plane. This overall structure provided a visual envelope which was both relaxing and satisfying to the senses.

The use of silver to articulate the scheme and various other colours to highlight the frieze and Mayan flower details gave the space life and dynamism. This was further highlighted by the coloured lighting scheme developed for the space.

Exterior

Consistent in both the interior and exterior of the building, this workable colour scheme, startling though it may have appeared to the unsuspecting Beaufort Street passer-by, is typical of the aggressive approach adopted by Ronald Regan in his bid to compete with the alternative mediums of television and video which were increasingly available at the time. In the words of the renowned Californian cinema architect, S. Charles Lee – “the show begins on the sidewalk” and it certainly did just that at Perth’s most concentrated Art Deco corner where no expense was spared to entice the cinema-going public into a theatrical environment to view quality movies as an alternative to the venues then in operation. As noted above, the show also extended into the auditorium, where the deep burgundy carpet replaced the hectic floor-covering design chosen by a theatre group who occupied the building in the 1960s.

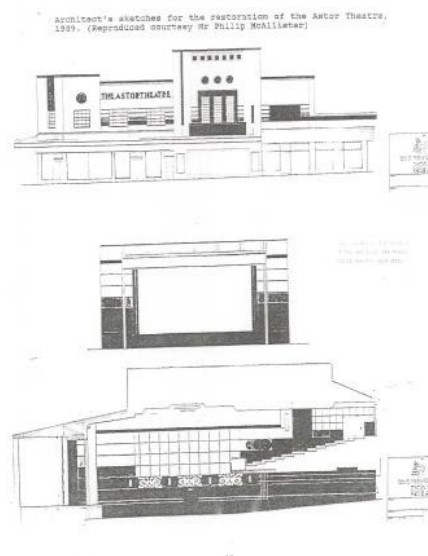
True to his undertaking to utilise local skills wherever possible, the Western Australian firm Atelier, whose director and Art Deco Society member, Colin Andrews, oversaw the designing, manufacture and installation of the unusual mulberry-coloured fire-retardant and marvellously comfortable seating.

Much of the considerable sum spent on the 1989 facelift of the Astor Theatre was not apparent to the average movie-goer.

The last major refurbishment was carried out fifty years earlier and the cost and difficulty of replacing, repairing and upgrading the electrical and plumbing installation was considerable. The new Dolby sound system, together with the work carried out on the 1960s air-conditioning unit in order to bring the theatre up to the standards of the day were largely unseen.

The fact that the cinema had received no significant financial attention during the fifty year period prior to 1989 proved to be advantageous in some ways for the architect, enabling retention of the original authentic detailing. Although some building requirements have changed very little in the interim period and the number of toilets required was still adequate, an additional exit had to be made, unfortunately through one of the major symbols in the auditorium.

Initially the owners of the building exercised scepticism at the brand new “show” at the Astor and Mrs. Mavis Armstrong, widow of the builder John Alexander, was somewhat startled at the sudden change at the familiar corner, all were pleased at the publicity the new scheme generated. (cont pg 10)



Fifty years later, friends of the Astor Cinema, together with the Premier of Western Australia, the Hon. Peter Dowding and members of the Art Deco Society of WA celebrated its re-opening with the showing of a popular new release "Dead Poets Society".

On this occasion congratulations were forwarded to Philip McAllister and his client, Ron Regan, on the success of the ambitious undertaking. Philip's work on the Astor was later awarded by the architectural profession for the conservation and recycling of an early building.

THREE ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS courtesy of Philip McAllister.

REOPENING OF THE ASTOR THEATRE 1989 – Pen and Ink drawing by Ron Facius

Copyright, Yvonne Geneve (in collaboration with architect, Philip McAllister)

Final instalment on the twinning of the Astor Theatre for next issue.



Cafe Culture including comedy shows and art on Beaufort Street in Mt Lawley from **19 May- 30 May**.

The Mount Lawley Society will be holding an exhibition of our historical photos of Mount Lawley (dating back to 1890) on the last weekend of **May (29th and 30th) between 10 and 4** in the **Astor** Arcade. Please mark it in your diaries. We will send further details once all is finalized. We will be asking for volunteers to keep an eye on the photographs during the exhibition and help the public with information.

Discounted tickets for Café Culture are available for City of Stirling residents ; contact CoS to find out more.

Wetlands Heritage Trail is an initiative of the Town of Vincent to encourage reflection on the natural and social history of the area. The trail is a pedestrian and cycle path linking many of the Town's parks and points of interest while following the existing and former wetlands. Much of the trail echoes the Claise brook drain that still flows underneath the Town, taking water down to the Swan River. You can download the maps from T o V website to see the route and discover the birds and trees of Vincent

www.vincentwetlands.com.au

History Council

For those who attended the Arts Forum last year, you will be interested in reading a similar paper that Professor Geoffrey Bolton presented to Perth City Vision earlier this year.

The link is below:

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/arts/mining-boom-fails-to-turn-into-gold-for-cultural-groups/story-e6frg8n6-1225847146571>

Royal Western Australian Historical Society is situated in Stirling House, 49 Broadway, Nedlands, and open 9.30am to 5pm weekdays, the Royal Western Australian Historical Society (Inc) was formed in 1926 to give present and future generations access to the history of Western Australia.

In just over 80 years the Society has grown from a small group of people interested in preserving the history of Western Australia to one with a royal charter, the home of a fascinating [museum](#) with a unique art collection, an extensive [reference library](#), a boutique [bookshop](#) and a [photographic collection](#)

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

49 Walcott Street is currently under offer. The MLS has put in a submission to the Town of Vincent to have this house listed as a heritage building. 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

Mt Lawley after school care building: Unfortunately, even with the passionate and strong fight that was put up to save this facility, the building is to be removed/demolished. The MLOSC organisation has moved to a site in North Perth (which entails busing students from the school) and hope to be able to return to a facility on the MLPS grounds once the building work has been completed in 1-2 years time.

The fate of the weatherboard building that undoubtedly has historical significance for the school and Mt Lawley's community is now in the hands of the Education Department. It would be wonderful to be able to preserve the building and relocate it but it is feared that it will probably now be yet another lost part of Mt Lawley's history.

125 Joel Tce :The State Administrative Tribunal dismissed the appeal against the Town of Vincent's third refusal to allow the owners to demolish this house. This house was built 99 years ago and was an example of Federation style residences built in the area between 1911 and 1913 on the back of the Gold rush. Daina Bruers from the MLS argued against demolition on behalf of MLS. The house had been neglected for years and demolition by neglect is a tactic that has often been successful with Councils in the past and it is good to see that this is changing and that **demolition by neglect** no longer gives owners the right to demolish.

MLS HAS COMMENTED ON THE COOLBINIA – INGLEWOOD – MENORA – MOUNT LAWLEY DRAFT LOCAL AREA PLAN :

In general, the plan appears to be well considered and structured and generally reflects the comments made by many residents and members of the Mount Lawley Society during the consultation period. In particular, the Society is very pleased that there is a strong emphasis on heritage protection within the plan. There is little doubt that the great majority of residents within the Heritage Protection Area view the ongoing protection and enhancement of our existing stocks of character dwellings and heritage streetscapes fundamentally critical to the preservation of the amenity, lifestyle and property values in these areas. The recently polarised view of residents reacting to the State Government Proposal to abolish the restrictive covenants in Coolbinia, Menora and Mount Lawley supports this observation.

With this in mind, the Society believes that some areas within the HPA currently have R-zonings, (some areas in the Avenues with highly intact character streetscapes have R30 and R40), that are not conducive to the protection of character streetscapes. Therefore the Society suggests that the City could further strengthen their recommendations relating to this matter by committing to a review of current R-zonings to reflect the intent of this critical planning outcome.

The Mount Lawley Society was pleased to observe that suggestions for a town square in Mount Lawley were recognised in the plan. At this point, the Society would like to emphasise the importance of this initiative. Such a civic area would greatly enhance the amenity of downtown Mount Lawley and therefore represents a great opportunity to create a truly unique (albeit small) public open space in an area of the City that does not benefit from close proximity to natural public open space created by the ocean, river or bushland. To this end, the Mount Lawley Society supports the recommendation to further investigate this initiative in the Beaufort Street Activity Corridor Study and further suggests strengthening this recommendation by zoning the preferred site for civic use.

The Mount Lawley Society remains committed to working closely with local municipalities to protect the character buildings and enhance the amenity of Mount Lawley, Menora and Inglewood.

The "Friends of Inglewood Triangle" have commented on the draft Local Area Plan (LAP) for the Coolbinia, Inglewood, Menora and Mount Lawley area.

Only two small holdings of remnant bushland have been identified by CoS within this local area plan, namely 1.7 ha at Hamer, Eighth and Walter locally known as "Inglewood Triangle" and the 0.4 ha at Bradford and Glick Street, Coolbinia.

The Friends of Inglewood propose that there are other areas in the LAP catchment area (such as Coolbinia school/ Mt Lawley Golf Course) that need to be included and that these bushland corridors need to be maintained to preserve wildlife, plants and trees.

MLS has a copy of the submission as does the MCMLRPA.

The Urban Bushland Council is the peak community organisation for the recognition and protection of urban bushland in Western Australia. It comprises approximately 60 community conservation groups concerned about urban bushland. The Urban Bushland Council is involved in local action and networking, policy development, lobbying and raising public awareness. For contact and further details you can contact either organisation or email the urban bushland Council on ubc@iinet.net.au

Development at 2nd Ave; Some Mount Lawley residents are opposing the plan to develop a new supermarket on the corner of 2nd Ave and Beaufort St. Concerns are over the amount of traffic that will be using the existing roads to use the shopping centre with the use of the Avenues and Wenberi Lane to access the centre.

Freddie Dessauvagie reports that 1136 signatures on a petition have been collected which have been sent to the Council .

There has been approx 140 letters of objection to the proposal which have been forwarded to the applicants of the development. They have a right of reply . Once they reply to Council then the proposal will be put to the planning committee, probably at the meeting in May.

51 and 61 Railway Pde have recently been sold as "offices. MLS will keep a watch on any plans to redevelop these buildings.



Correction;

In the last Heritage article on Windsor House it was stated that the property belongs to Perth College. It does not, and it is privately owned.

MLS Committee 2010

Paul Hurst : President

Brendon Atkinson : 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

Rebecca Atkinson

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

Marcia Barclay

Freddie Dessauvagie and Cathy Ferrins