

Mount Lawley Matters

Mount Lawley Society

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WEBPAGE : www.mountlawleysociety.org.au



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.

MLS PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members,

I hope that this newsletter finds you well.

The Society has been quite active over the past 3 months with the successful launch and exhibition of "Mount Lawley Memories" – our historical photographic collection. The exhibition launch, held at the Mount Lawley Bowling Club on the evening of Wednesday 26th May, was attended by more than 50 guests and opened by local member Michael Sutherland MLA. The evening was a huge success – thanks to the great efforts by our Social Coordinator Charlotte Christo with help from Beth McKechnie, Rebecca and Brendon Atkinson. Society member, Elizabeth Pye (First Avenue) made the winning bid in the auction of the beautifully framed print of "Beaufort Street Looking South in 1908". Well done Liz!



The launch was followed by the exhibition held in the Astor Arcade on the weekend of 29th and 30th May. The exhibition was superb and the organising committee was very proud of the display of 40 prints of the Mount Lawley area dating back to the 1890's. There are so many people to thank for the success of this project which started in earnest 12 months ago. Much of the background work was performed by Society Patron, Barrie Baker who identified and researched all 1200 photos! This work took several months and now the Society has another truly valuable resource. The organising committee of Beth McKechnie, Barrie Baker, Charlotte Christo, Brendon Atkinson and Rebecca Atkinson then met over several nights (and bottles of red) to short-list the photographs for the exhibition.

One of the most personally enjoyable elements of the project was working with local entrepreneur Bruno Zimmerman who kindly offered to host the exhibition in the delightful Astor Arcade. Bruno also kindly digitally restored the images and arranged for the printing and mounting of the final photographs. Bruno was so accommodating with every aspect of the project and his overall contribution to our Society has been greatly appreciated. Thank you so much Bruno!

Our PR coordinator, Rebecca Atkinson, did a wonderful job managing our media releases and designing the posters and flyers that you may have seen in Mount Lawley leading up to the exhibition. Rebecca's husband, also our capable treasurer, Brendon Atkinson – helped me cart display boards and set up the exhibition and generally helped do so much running around that made everything run smoothly. Thanks Rebecca and Brendon! **cont next Page**

Thankyou also to Beth McKechnie, (the glue in the committee who keeps everything together), and thanks also to the volunteers who helped out during the exhibition.

The whole project was truly a team effort and a greatly satisfying and enjoyable exercise. Through the sale of photographic prints now hopefully the Society can benefit from another income stream that will allow us to take on even greater projects to benefit the community. If you haven't done so already, please take the time to browse through the photographs on the new website – I'm sure you will find a print or two that would look great in your home!

Cheers, 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

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 Association meets at 7.30 pm. on the third Monday of the month in the former dining room in the old hotel. The membership fee is \$10.00 and \$8.00 for concession card holders. Visitors are welcome to the meetings and a gold coin donation is requested.

Maylands Aerodrome 1924-1963

The Federal Government selected the site for the new Maylands aerodrome in 1923 when the airmail service from Derby to Geraldton was extended to Perth. The Maylands site had previously been used for farming but was low-lying and prone to flooding in winter. A proposed levee bank along the river frontages was designed to overcome the problem. The site was leveled and made ready for operation by December 1923.

The first aircraft to land at Maylands Aerodrome was a Bristol Tourer operated by Western Australian Airways, which arrived from Geraldton on 15 January 1924, piloted by Keith Anderson.

Throughout the years, Maylands Aerodrome saw the arrival and departure of many famous aviators and aircraft. Although small in size, the aerodrome was Perth's aviation centre for the next thirty-nine years. As the city grew and modern aircraft became larger the site proved to be unsuitable and Guildford Aerodrome was developed.

At midnight on the 30th June 1963 the Maylands Aerodrome, which had played such a major role in the development of aviation in Western Australia, was closed forever.



Maylands aerodrome pre WW II



Maylands aerodrome hanger today; police centre

Crossing the line: early policing around Mt Lawley #5

By Peter Conole, Police Historian

As mentioned in the previous issue, the people of Mount Lawley were to have reason for some contentment in regard to police protection during the last period of the Great Depression of the 1930s.

The Highgate, North Perth and Maylands police stations functioned well. Work loads were also lightened marginally throughout this group of suburbs by mounted police patrols, then by motor cycle patrols. However, it is a moot point as to whether police officers in residence at North Perth, or who simply worked there, were entirely happy.

Sergeant William Archibald was a great character of the Police Force, one of the Irish stalwarts who were the backbone of the organisation right through the inter-war years. He was a gallant World War I veteran who retired as an inspector in charge of the Geraldton District – and proved to be at all times a very outspoken policeman. During his brief stint at North Perth in 1934 he complained about the run-down, miserable state of the quarters. Detective Sergeant C.H Lewis offered further criticisms soon afterwards – office space was poor and detectives could not hold private conversations or talk to members of the public who came to them with problems.



The former North Perth Police Station in Angove Street as it is now

Work on renovations at the station began soon afterwards, but were incomplete by 1947. Things had reached such a state by 1953 that a resident officer paid for repairs to the bath heater out of his own pocket. The police establishment of the day gradually received more generous financial support from State Governments as the 1950s drew on, but nothing was ever granted easily.



A close-up of the main entrance, former North Perth Police Station

Police Commissioner James Murray O'Brien decided to go all out to help the North Perth officers and won an extended paper war with the Under Secretary for Works in 1959. It was one of many scrimmages the assertive but tactful O'Brien had up to the mid-60s in his efforts to upgrade and standardise premises. By 1961 an extra room, a side window, a front and rear porch, a new office and a timber floor had been added to the complex.

A new period of instability began in 1978 – the quarters of the Officer in Charge were given up and handed over to the staff of the Police Lecturing Branch. A year later, the situation was reversed, but this brief (and probably contested event) was a sign of things to come.

By 1990 five police officers and a police cadet were based on North Perth. However, the two cells were now being used for storage space – which meant people being held overnight had to be taken elsewhere. In consolation, a premises report noted that the "station was still solid and should last for many years to come". During these years it was becoming unfashionable for Officers in Charge to occupy quarters at police stations and the trend eventually sounded the death knell for some older stations still operating in the old way.



Police Commissioner James O'Brien, in office 1958-1965, years of expansion and consolidation

The Officer in Charge of North Perth Station moved into private accommodation in 1995. The quarters were taken over and used as a centre for the Mirrabooka Police District Training Centre for several years. Not long afterwards, the Tactical Investigation Group moved in and this seems to have effectively brought an end to the station's traditional usage. Minor repairs to the buildings continued, especially those necessary to prevent rain water damage.

After a brief hiatus, a notable change came in October 2006, when the important Property Management Division of the WA Police occupied the site. The Officer in Charge was Superintendent Michael (Mick) Emmanuel pictured here, an officer of thirty three years service who turned out to be the last police officer to preside over the historic old station. The Property Management portfolio moved to new premises in June 2009 and, at the time of writing, Superintendent Emmanuel is now responsible for the WA Police Community Engagement Division.



Superintendent Mick Emmanuel, last master of the Angove Street police complex

The future of old North Perth Police Station, a fine heritage-listed piece from our Federation era, has yet to be decided. The Council of the Town of Vincent decided to bid for the property and purchased it at auction in October 2009. As of June 2010, tendering is in progress for use of the site. The Town of Vincent is interested in appropriate community activities for the place.

HERITAGE MOORABOOL 1909 onwards by Mary and Kevin Basley article submitted in part as entry in City of Stirling Heritage Awards Programme May 2006

We purchased "Moorabool" in November 1997. "Pick up a paintbrush" urged 2cm print and a charming picture in Saturday's classifieds. We could do that - we'd painted our rambling weatherboard hills home on its steep half acre for more than 20 years! "Touched by Tradition...Original Federation Home in a Dress Circle location"; on 534 sq. metres in Mt. Lawley's Heritage Protection Area; and "Category 2A - Conservation Recommended, an authentic example of the Federation Bungalow Style" read the Municipal Inventory. We were tempted! Bought the evening before auction and inspected by us and a builder just two days prior to that, we spent a restless night and drove down early to witness, relieved, the dismay of intending bidders in the crowd, for "Under Offer" read the sign...and where was the bunting?



Moorabool in the beginning

There *was* something else; in 1991, in need of a J.P., I had contacted a Beatrice Henshaw of Mt. Lawley who, although unable to help us, spoke of her sadness in moving from her home to a unit due to the increasing dependence of her blind husband, a solicitor. Her wit and spirit were memorable as she confided hopes of commencing tertiary study despite her age and the incident was recalled as the real estate agent explained that indents in the eleven inch skirtings were from the tapping of a cane. Aha....familiar ground! Later, in May 2003, a conversation with Sydney daughter Sandra Stead was helpful: all three fire surrounds are original though Henshaw did enjoy collecting at nearby auctions; four children grew up in the house; "yes, she did the subdivision" and, "is that toilet still in the back garden?"

The house was built in 1909 on Lot 471, and the first resident was journalist J.A.B. Adey in that year. In Swan Location Z, between Walcott Street and First Avenue, the First Estate extended from the railway line to Clifton Crescent and was released in 1903 by the Mt. Lawley Estate Co. established that year by Samuel William Copley and John Robinson on land acquired in 1900. In 1906 John Robinson's interest was transferred to Robert Thomson Robinson and, in 1911, 6 Clifton Crescent was transferred to Robert Thomson Robinson and Charles Baxter Cox. With the death of Baxter Cox in 1919, Thomson Robinson became the sole proprietor until his death in 1927 when probate was granted to Elizabeth Gordon Robinson of Killowen, Mt. Lawley. On 1 April 1927 Lot 471 was transferred to Sidney John Grace of Yarloop, schoolmaster, formerly of Victoria and Cue, and later Subiaco Rover and Headmaster of Subiaco Primary School. Roy Grace, youngest son, wrote that his father, "in 1918, committed himself to the purchase of a house in Perth, and my mother and I took up residence there so that I could attend Perth Boys School while he batched for many years alone in the country. My mother and I used to see him every second weekend - my brothers Jack and Ted were away at the war".



Moorabool prior to renovations

Grace died on 18 May 1960 and at this time the property was transferred to William George Adamson, Fruit Shipping Officer, and Beatrice Mary Adamson, Married Woman of Dalkeith. In 1971, Transfer No A360750 lists Beatrice Mary Adamson and John Ross Henshaw as tenants in common and on 28 December 1972 Adamson, then a widow, married John Ross Henshaw. In 1987 the original lot 471 was subdivided; (permissible with then Residential "R20" zoning which required a minimum lot size of 450 m²). The front 534 m² at 6 Clifton Cr. became Lot 20 with an offset rear boundary fence and the original outhouse ("that toilet"), and the rear 450 m² Lot 21 or 13 Rookwood Street. Lot 20 was transferred to Leslie Franklin Miller and Carolyn Anne Miller in 1988 and to us in December 1997.



Moorabool looked "tired" but was solid in construction and sat well on the corner with a good street setback. The small portico and verandah was supported on turned posts, and decorative plasterwork embellished tuck-pointed brickwork. Four spacious rooms, a bathroom and kitchen had high ceilings; there were three fireplaces; the hall, and front room with cast iron fireplace, had deep cornices and ceiling roses. There were sash windows, finely reeded architraves and high skirting boards; dated carpet covered five inch wooden floorboards. All of this needed work (and more than been done in recent years. A rear skillion section, small, light-framed extension and detached washhouse were impractical and in a poor state...and the house was dark. The bathroom was inadequate.

The beginning of renovation; *Continued next newsletter*

ART DECO DISCOVERY WALK NO. 110 – MENORA/MT. LAWLEY Sunday, 23rd May, 2010 by Yvonne Geneve, President Art Deco Society

The 110th Art Deco Discovery Walk was held in Menora/Mt. Lawley at the end of May recently. The seventh in the area, it was organised, partly, in response to a request from the local press to respond to a heritage alert to overturn plans by the Stirling City Council to utilise the Art Deco theme in the restoration of Beaufort Street between Walcott and Queen Streets, Mt. Lawley.

This perfectly logical arrangement apparently upset Haydn Robinson of the Beaufort Street Network, who, backed by Town of Vincent councillor, Warren McGrath, said the Art Deco theme doesn't reflect the precinct's "hip and modern café culture" and that the plan will further divide Mt. Lawley along the Stirling and Vincent Council boundaries.

Notwithstanding the fact that Art Deco is not seen by some as "hip and modern" - (how more modern can Art Deco be? – it was (and still is) the essence of Modernism) – the Art Deco Society's response to this proposal points out that the Deco theme for Mt. Lawley was decided upon about 20 years ago when the Society was represented on the Beaufort Street Committee. Since that time many of the Art Deco buildings in Beaufort Street and other parts of Mt. Lawley have been classified by the National Trust of Australia (WA) and several including the Astor Theatre, Beaucott and Alexander buildings etc. have been entered on the State Register of heritage buildings – rendering the theme, we believe, more relevant than ever.

It is at least partly because of the unifying effect of the Art Deco character and detailing that the precinct has developed the "quirky and arty identity" that Councillor McGrath is so keen to project. It is the Society's belief that the Stirling City Council should be supported in their plan to further develop the Art Deco appeal of the area.



Members selected a relatively quiet and sedate section of Mt. Lawley/Menora to point out the true 1930s nature of the suburb. We believe this character to be important to the value of the area and strongly advocate the conservation and enhancement of the styles of the 1930s. The area chosen included a diverse collection of building styles from a group of residences (no commercial buildings here) from a period of about 15 years.... all built within our period of interest – from 1926 to 1940.

The group viewed and discussed building types ranging from Art Deco, Art Moderne, Streamline Moderne, Tudor Revival, Californian Bungalow and those with an Arts and Crafts influence. The residences we noted on our stroll through the area ranged from the relatively modest to one or two quite spectacular mansions built for well known local identities at the time.



The Discovery Walk concluded at the home of one of ADSWA's long-term members at Ferrar Street, whose obliging young family invited the group for an enjoyable afternoon tea. Here we were met by the member for the area, Michael Sutherland MLA, who spoke encouraging words to the group about his and our involvement in promoting the heritage of the area.

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

Lawley Ladies College continued

Joy Sherrington remembers she came down to LLC at the beginning of 1942 from Cunderdin where her father was a butcher and because of the war she was sent to Perth for schooling. Cunderdin had an air force base. She was 12.

Within a month of her starting at the school the whole school was evacuated to Dangin (near Quairading). Joy remembers a lot of children came to Dangin and a lot of younger ones as well. Boys came too from colleges such as Wesley. They stayed in several houses in the District and the older children stayed in the hotel and the Methodist Hall.

There were about 150 children staying with a few mothers and the Misses Sharps and Grandma Sharp and Mr. Cook. Joy remembers many of the mothers who initially came up on the special train returned home leaving their children there. There were children there who were evacuees from Singapore. Food was often rabbit and spinach. As an older child she helped look after the younger ones and there were only 2 mothers that she remembers who stayed on; Mrs. Reid and Mrs. Lund

They stayed in Dangin from March until end of 1942 and then returned to Perth in 1943

On the return to Perth a lot of the children went to other schools and as Miss Sharp and her charges could not get back into Bona Vista (the Army was still there) they went back to 7 Longroyd St and boarded there. They went to school temporarily in a Congregational church hall in William St and walked to and from the house on Longroyd and the school daily returning to Longroyd for lunch. There were not many boarders but quite a few day children who attended as their mothers were working. Joy recalls there were only about 15 girls in her junior year of which half were boarders.

In 1944 the Army left Bona Vista and the school returned to these premises and Joy continued here until she was 15 at the end of 1944 when she left and obtained work at an accountancy firm CP Bird (National Service Company)

Joy recalls that Miss Sharp's girls were highly sought after in the commercial field "if you were a Miss Sharp's girl you never wanted for work"

Miss Rosalie (Rosie) Sharp started her own school around 1929 after teaching at Perth College. She was a commercial teacher. Her sister Mabel was the missionary "China Sharp" The Sharps were Church of Christ and strongly Christian. The school also had a lot of children of the Jewish faith as there was no Jewish school for primary school children in Perth at that stage

Joy says she believes the Dangin stay caused a lot of stress both financially and emotionally to the Sharps. Joy says she helped with Miss Sharp's books and they struggled as they were not always paid for the schooling provided by parents. There was a war on and times were tough for many. The stress of caring for a large group of younger children in Dangin with little help other than from 2 parents also took its toll on Miss Sharp, she believes.

Miss Sharp finished teaching a couple of years after Joy left and the school became a boarding house for girls attending other schools until it was sold to the Perth Bible Institute.

One of Joy's strong memories is accompanying a group of smaller children on a boarder's weekend into the city to meet up with others when the air raid siren went off. They were walking towards Walcott St on the corner of Walcott and Longroyd next to the group of 3 houses there on the corner; a lady, who lived in the middle one, came out and took them inside until the all clear siren sounded.

Joy's sister who is 4 years younger also attended the school

Joy still lives in the area although she and her husband lived in the country for many years returning to live in Coolbinia in 1970 and after his death in 1990 Joy moved into the avenues where she continues to live.



ORAL HISTORY SECTION CONT

Different journeys, same destination :GROSVENOR Road Mt Lawley in the 50s

by Andrea Kora and Grace D'Alessio

Andrea Kora arrived in Perth with her mother Eva, father Endre, brother Peter and grandmother from Hungary in 1949. The family were displaced persons, refugees who moved west when the Russians invaded Hungary and the family were not able to return to their town when the borders were closed. They arrived in Perth and were placed at the Graylands camp. Endre was contracted to work for the Government for 2 years under the immigration programme of that time. At Christmas 1950



Kora family at Graylands camp in 1949



28 Grosvenor rd 1984

they moved into a rental at 32 Grosvenor Rd and later purchased no 28 Grosvenor Rd which stayed in the family until Eva died in 1984. Andrea writes;

'I loved growing up in Grosvenor Rd, Mt Lawley. Many countries were represented there.

The kids in our street were exposed to multi-culturalism, incidentally, in that, since mostly our parents were so busy building up their lives after WWII we all had a lot of freedom and were in and out of each others houses without formality and with a wonderful hospitality. The cuisine was a good example.

We were Hungarian. My granny lived with us and she was a great cook and her speciality was 'continental cakes.'

Up the road lived a Burmese family and my mouth would water at the scent of the fabulous curries that would simmer on the stove and I would often angle for a taste.

The Jewish family a few doors down gave me my first taste of Matzos bread. Before Passover we ate it with honey and it was fascinating to see the big boxes of bread arrive. They seemed to be stacked everywhere.

Our next door neighbours were Italian and whilst we couldn't communicate verbally- action spoke louder than words. Their feelings of friendship were indicated by the vegies

they passed over the fence. I remember my parents joy when we got some capsicums which you couldn't buy and which they had missed in Australia. The Australian contribu-

tion was 'The Roast' and I fell in love with my first taste of roast pumpkin swamped in gravy. Just thinking about it all makes me nostalgic...and hungry for a taste of the past."

Grace D'Alessio arrived in Perth in 1951. Her father Federico had been sponsored earlier from Italy by his uncle Charlie, then he was followed by his brother. Grace's mother Anna, Grace's brother and sister and aunties and cousins all followed later when there were places to live. Grace's father was a grano worker and bought old houses, renovated and sold them.

Frederico bought up houses in Monger St and Angove St as well as houses in Grosvenor Rd (numbers 51,53,61,67,69). He demolished 67 Grosvenor Rd, and rebuilt. No 69 is still owned by the family as is 67. Grace grew up at no 67(which is the original house) and there is a garage flat that runs across the 2 properties. Very recently the other property that the family own at the corner of Hutt St and Grosvenor Rd (No 61) has been demolished.

Frederico, years ago, sold the other houses that he owned in Angove and Monger St and the family went back to Italy for a year.



67 Grosvenor Rd today



69 Grosvenor Rd today



61 Grosvenor Rd

The lives of Andrea and Grace have crossed over the years and they still have friends in common from the time they lived in Grosvenor Rd in the 50's. They recently met again and reminisced over the years in Grosvenor Rd. Between them they remember everyone who lived in that section of Grosvenor Rd in the 50's.

RENOVATION 18 Almondbury Rd by Darryl Ryan

Our town house in Chelmsford Road, Mount Lawley, had everything a busy, working couple could want. It was very unassuming from the street, shrouded by purplish-green cottonwood trees and viburnum hedges, but, tardis-like, once inside, it opened into a spacious, well appointed home. Polished floorboards, high ceilings, reverse-cycle air-conditioning, double garage with right-of-way entry, built in robes, masses of storage space in the kitchen, laundry; even more storage under the stairs. The backyard was compact without being cramped, with shady, mulched palms. Automatic reticulation. Excepting the narrow strip of verge at the front, there was no lawn to mow. Everything was new, crisp and clean. There was really not much to do, but enjoy the pure lack of maintenance and the numerous cafes and restaurants scattered along nearby Beaufort and William Street.

Despite all of this, we weren't satisfied.

My fingers itched for soil and handiwork. It almost seemed pointless to start my bright red mower to cut a few metres of verge. Before the Masport had time to warm up, I'd be finished. Its blades became dull and rusty. The carburetor began to choke, causing spluttering emissions of blue smoke to drift upwards into the surrounding atmosphere. It took me more time to push the machine from the garage, along the Jack Mark's lane and around to the front, than it did to do the job. And so I began cutting my neighbours' verge. And then my neighbours' neighbours' verge. On both sides of our house.

When my wife confessed to me one day that she wished she had a lemon tree, that was all the excuse I needed.

"Alright," I grumbled, "We will have to buy a new house."

The primary criterion in selecting our new abode, we decided, was land.

I particularly wanted a garden - an expanse of greenery, which would include of course, amongst other things, the obligatory lemon tree. I also dreamed of finding an old garden - preferably one that was overgrown and neglected, so that I could, a la Edward Scissor hands, cut and prune it back to its former glory. I loved the idea of acquiring a garden established, with tall, spreading trees that would be cool and protective in the hot months of our summer.

We also decided, that since we had lived in Mount Lawley for 5 years, it might be advantageous to try a different suburb. Although we had no complaints, we reasoned that, in the same way we had gained a new lifestyle by moving to Mount Lawley, other exciting discoveries and experiences lay ahead in the uncharted and unexplored area of our next house; wherever that may be.

Months and months passed with great expectation. We looked in Fremantle, Cottesloe, City Beach, North Perth, South Perth, West Perth, East Perth, Nedlands, Claremont and Kensington. We went to Victoria Park and Burswood. Then back again to Fremantle.

We found ourselves inevitably comparing each potential suburb with what we currently had in Mount Lawley. Inevitably we found them wanting. Some were too far from the city. It quickly dawned on me that I wouldn't be able to walk home from work. Other candidate homes were in neat, leafy areas, but seemingly miles away from the cafes, restaurants and shops we had grown used to and dependent on. There was no "Fresh Provisions" in City Beach, no "Planet Video" in Burswood and no "Swish-n-Chips" in West Perth. The Western Suburbs loomed like a verdant urban desert, devoid of any life or activity, save for the fleets of shiny four-wheel drives commuting to and from Bayview Terrace.

I grew very despondent.

We discussed that perhaps we would be better off simply staying put. But that was now not an option. I needed the land, the space and a garden. Besides, I had promised my wife her lemon tree. I could not and would not, let her down.

We had to move - but where? Out of desperation, I suggested Melbourne. My wife, with her keen sense of adventure and love of travel, actually began to entertain the idea. For many reasons, such a move, whilst not impossible, was fundamentally impractical.

It seemed we would have to remain in our townhouse.

And then, in my darkest hour, it came to me. The eureka moment. The flash of light. The purity of thought. The clarity of reason.

Why not buy a house in Mount Lawley?!?!?

An old house. A character home. Federation - with lead-lights. And a circular window. My wife chimed in - "With a veranda!" One we could restore. One with a good size block and a garden. One that craved care and attention. Something we could work on during our holidays and weekends. One you could do something with. It would be fun! And it would be a good investment. By restoring such a dilapidated house, we'd make money. Someone else's neglect would be our good fortune. It would not be that hard. We were still relatively young and energetic. We weren't afraid of hard work. It would be, in fact, stress relief. Through our restorative labour, we'd increase our equity. We'd be the absolute envy of all our friends and family.

The answer seemed so simple. So obvious. It had been staring me in the face, yet I hadn't seen it. We could have what we wanted, without losing what we had grown to love.

We immediately went back to the internet and miraculously, within minutes, found a house in Almondbury Road which was for sale. This house obviously was not a renovators delight. From the photographs we could see it had lovely manicured gardens; the house nestled under its veranda, behind a large Jacaranda tree. Decadently, it came with a gas-heated swimming pool. Quite recently, the kitchen had been renovated. Although it did not tick all the boxes, it looked temptingly promising. Having already been to the bank, I knew it was realistically within our price range.

The home open wasn't until Saturday at 10.00am. The week crawled by painfully until finally the clear September morning arrived. As we crept along the path and made our way to the front door, it was oddly quiet and palpably apparent that we were the first and only ones at this home open. We felt like intruders, sneaking in through the open entry way into someone else's house.

"Hello" I called out.

"Down here" was the eventual and slightly officious reply. My wife and I made our way along the photo-frames that adorned the hall and emerged to be confronted by a plumpish, bespectacled man, sporting a bow tie and a condescending look. For some reason, I started to feel as I had underdressed for the occasion. I noticed that he did not bother to rise from his seated position as we approached him. The real estate agent produced a regal smile

"This is an outstanding home," he postulated and began to spiel off the features as we waited patiently for him to finish his oratory. When he did finish, he waited and blinked behind his round, designer glasses, as if imply that it would be our privilege and honour to make an offer to buy this house from him. When I commented that interest rates were predicted to rise, his face contorted to reflect his distaste.

"The people that will buy this house," he proclaimed with a certain degree of smugness, "are not Mr and Mrs Average. My clients," he paused to make it obvious he didn't consider us to be in that exclusive club, "are gynecologists, top Q.C.s, doctors. They are not concerned with interest rates rises. If they want a property, they will buy it, whatever the price might be. My clients," he luxuriated over the words, "are in a class of their own." He blinked, like a pompous owl and gave us a weak, condescending smile, to signify our audience with him was over. Again, when we took our leave, I noticed he didn't bother to get up.

Making our way back to our car, I looked at my wife's face and knew we wouldn't be buying that house.

"Hey Ali!" I exclaimed in exaggerated enthusiasm (my wife's name is Alison) "What about this house?"

Before us, partially hidden behind a high red brick wall, stood a proud, old house on a corner block, looking down Clotilde Street. Strangely, even in its run-down condition, it seemed friendly. As we peered over the fence, rising above the dead grass and rampant asparagus fern and ivy, we could see an expansive veranda, tuck-pointed walls and gables with peeling white paint, framed by rusting gutters and lichen covered terra-cotta tiles.

What started as a throw away line designed to cheer up my wife, exploded into reality.



I have heard it said that you don't choose a house - the house chooses you.

To be honest, I never understood what that meant. It certainly wasn't the case with our first two houses and I am definitely not a person who believes in fate.

But here was a house that we hadn't set out to find; yet it had found us.

"What do you reckon, Ali?" I teased. She didn't have to say anything.

The house had made up its mind.

Continued next page



36 hours later, in spite of the fact that there was no for sale sign and, as we later found out, the house had received numerous offers that were subject-to-sale (and which had not amounted to anything), incredibly, our offer on 18 Almondbury Road, Mount Lawley, was accepted.



Next issue: An unexpected occurrence and an important discovery.....

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Town of Vincent Amendment No. 71 contains a new Draft Policy relating to **Residential Streetscapes**. The Draft Residential Streetscapes Policy is a procedural Policy which provides landowners a mechanism to protect the residential character of their street where supported by owners. This represents a change to the former approach to streetscapes management that has been proposed by the Town, where individual streets were listed in the Draft Policy. The draft Policy was considered at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held 27 April 2010, which can be viewed on line A copy of the Policy is available for inspection at the Administration & Civic Centre, Library & Local History Centre, Beatty Park Leisure Centre or can be accessed on line. Enquiries can be directed to Co-ordinator Strategic Planning Tory Woodhouse by telephone 9273 6514, facsimile 9273 6099, TTY 9273 6078 .

The City of Stirling Local Studies collection has a core set of books, photographs, and oral history recordings. These provide information on the social, educational, vocational and cultural history of the local government area, along with videos, slides and other documents **website** <http://www.stirling.wa.gov.au/Home/Library/Local+History/> To speak with the Local Studies Librarian or the Archivist please telephone 9345 8555.

Mount Flora Regional Museum Elvire Street Watermans Bay
Museum tours are available by appointment. Community and school groups are encouraged to visit where the Museum Curator will relate local stories and give a historical background of the museum site and building.

Historical pictures of Perth website <http://www.wahistoricalphotos.com.au/perth.html>

TOWN of VINCENT has a Local History Centre at the Loftus St Library ,99 Loftus St Leederville.

Phone: (08) 9273 6534 Fax: (08) 9273 6098 www.vincent.wa.gov.au

59 Chelmsford Road, Mt Lawley
SUBDIVIDED HERITAGE HOUSE AND VACANT RESIDENTIAL LOT
To be sold separately or together

Lot 801 - Vacant Lot
293 sqm

Lot 800 - "Tudor Lodge"
Heritage Listed
1,066 sqm

Tudor Lodge 59 Chelmsford Rd is for sale. Tudor lodge is an example of Inter War Californian Bungalow and was used as a hostel for children for many years. As such it has an interesting history Tudor lodge has been entered into Heritage Council of WA permanent register of heritage places and also is on the Town of Vincent Heritage Inventory List.

Register of Heritage Places – Assessment Documentation Tudor Lodge pdf 30 March 2007 is available from the editor for those who wish to read it

Traditional water wise gardens

Deryn Thorpe

Water restrictions have had a marked influence on the way that we garden in Perth, but the decision to use less water does not mean that we need to completely change our style of gardening.

While everyone has their own opinion on the type of garden that suits a Federation-style house, my preference is for a garden that mixes many types of plants in an informal manor with some structural hedges for balance.

This is the type of garden that was in vogue when the houses were built and there are many plants available today that suit this style and cope easily on our two watering days from spring to autumn.

Most gardens did not have reticulation systems when the houses were built and relied on sprinklers and hand watering – so garden plants needed to be tough.

Walk around the neighbourhood and you can see some remnant plantings from this period such as Plumbago or Tecoma hedges, both indestructible plants from South Africa.

It is the style of garden that is important, not where the plants come from, so you can mix local area natives from Perth, plants from Southern Africa and other Mediterranean climates to create a plant palette.

Roses are very traditional plants beloved for their fragrant blooms and once established grow easily on two weekly watering, though they will flower less frequently in summer without an extra drink.

In my experience the older varieties, especially the tea roses, which flower year round, are the best suited to low water use. The flamboyant hybrid tea roses are probably the most finicky about water, but all will survive.

If you are keen on Australian plants try using them in a new way, such as making hedges or topiary balls from Westringia (coastal rosemary) or Grevilleas like G. olivacea or G. Seaspray.

Annual plants need more water, so grow them in winter when we get more rain (though this season has been very dry) or just have a few in pots near the front or back door so you can give them the occasional drink as well as the left over coffee grounds and tea leaves.

Perhaps the best way to make your garden more sustainable is to plant more trees. Use deciduous trees on the North side of the house and evergreens to block out the harsh sun from the west. Shade is cooling and will drop the temperature in the house by several degrees in summer.

Reduce the area of lawn, while I think a patch of green is cooling and restful it is better to have a smaller, well maintained, lawn than a huge weedy patch.

Traditional gardens often had a vegetable patch out the back. Vegetables are not waterwise and need daily watering, but growing your own food makes us more sustainable, reduces our carbon footprint and reconnects us with nature.

Fruit trees are both attractive and productive and there is space for a citrus tree in nearly every garden. If you really don't have space look out for the dwarf varieties Sublime Lime and Lot-a-Lemon which are great in pots.

The new range of dwarf nectarines, apples and peaches are also good dwarf specimens that are highly productive, but these will need spraying with fruit fly baits (or netting) throughout the fruiting period.

The number one way to make your garden better able to withstand less watering is to improve the soil. Mt Lawley has sandy Bassendean sands which do not hold onto water. Improve the soil with lots of organic matter like compost and soil improver and/or bentonite clay before planting and use a fertiliser that contains Zeolite as this helps it hold onto the water and nutrients.

I always put a few hydrated water storage crystals (soaked in Grow Potion or a seaweed tonic) into the planting hole to help the plant get established. Always keep the garden well mulched using a coarse mulch like street prunings up to 10cm thick.

Don't fertilise until spring as a lot of the fertiliser used in winter leeches through the sand into the waterways. Provide plants with regular doses of Grow Potion or seaweed tonic as these products help strengthen the cell walls of plants so they can better withstand drought.

Lastly, remember that gardens need regular rejuvenation. Don't think that you can plant and forget as even low maintenance gardens need regular trimming and fertilising to look their best.

Below are a few waterwise plants that I think suit gardens in Mt Lawley.

Mediterranean

Roses - Jean Ducher, **Comtesse** de Labarthe
Lavender – look for the attractive Italian Bee Series
Echium (pride of Maderia)
Tagetes lemonnii (bush marigold)
Rosemary

Australian

Eremophila Roseworth – great groundcover/lawn substitute
Fan flower (Scaevola) groundcover
Kangaroo paws
Dwarf grafted Corymbia ficifolia trees (Eucalyptus)

Items of interest continued

RON STONE PARK The lease was for a 25 year term commencing on 1 May 1978 and expiring on 30 April 2003 with an annual rental of one peppercorn, if and when demanded. The City has been holding over as a monthly tenant under the existing terms and conditions since the expiry date. The City has been liaising with the Water Corporation to negotiate a new agreement in respect of the management of the land known as Ron Stone Park. The Water Corporation has recently advised that they are prepared to enter into a Licensed Agreement with the City, in respect of the management of Ron Stone Park, with the following proposed terms and conditions:

Licensors Water Entering into a License Agreement with the Water Corporation will provide the City with a legal right to maintain the subject land, commonly known as Ron Stone Park, for 20 years. This will allow the City to continue to provide a well developed and maintained recreational park for community use. (*Co 5 minutes Resource management Committee 22.6.2010*)

Mount Lawley Society has started a register of houses in the Mt Lawley, Menora, Coolbinia and Inglewood for which approval is given to demolish or not to demolish. The area covers 3 Councils and there are differing policies with each Council. Some of Councils decisions are being taken by owners to the State Administration Tribunal where they can be overturned. MLS is interested in keeping an eye on all proposals to demolish houses in this area and ask members to let the committee know of any.

54 Woodroyd St has been approved for demolition. *That Pursuant to Clause 2.2.3.5 of District Planning Scheme No. 2, the application for the demolition of the existing dwelling at Lot 891, House Number 54, Woodroyd Street, Mount Lawley be APPROVED, subject to an archival record of the dwelling being undertaken to the satisfaction of the City, at the applicants expense and submitted to the City prior to the issue of a demolition licence. The motion was put and declared CARRIED (8/1). For: Councillors Collins, Cooke, Furlong, Getty, Italiano, Proud, Robbins and Willox*

23 Sexton St Inglewood *That pursuant to Clause 2.2.3.5 of District Planning Scheme No. 2, the application for the demolition of the existing dwelling at Lot 199, House Number 23, Sexton Road, Inglewood be APPROVED, subject to an archival record of the dwelling being undertaken to the satisfaction of the City, at the applicants expense and submitted to the City prior to the issue of a demolition licence. The motion LAPSED for want of a seconder.*

Town of Vincent Local History Centre has the display of **Ian Atkins Historical Bus photographs**. These were taken by Ian between 1958 and 1962 and provide a very interesting view of our streets at that time as well as buildings that no longer exist. So you don't need to be a bus enthusiast to view the exhibition. It runs until the 8th October during library hours.

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.

WELCOME TO MLS NEW MEMBERS

Neville and Frances Binning

Helen and Ted Rollinson

Leta Liwszyc

Jennifer Cross

Stuart Irving

Michelle Urban

Michael Smith

Jim Richards

Vince Gareffa

Robert Garreffa