

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 necessarily those of others or of the committee.

MLS PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Bruce Wooldridge

Dear members,

Welcome to the October Newsletter. Please see below for an update of topical matters that we hope are of interest to you.

Social event – Mount Lawley Bowling Club 6 August 2012

August saw the Mount Lawley Society hold its latest social event, which was held at the Mount Lawley Bowling Club. It was an excellent turnout by members, with Mayor David Boothman, City of Stirling Councillors, and Michael Sutherland MLA also in attendance.

Thank you to the Committee for their efforts in organising the event. A large number of our historical photos were put on display for the evening, in what is a fantastic venue.

Mount Lawley Primary School update

A planning workshop was held on 23 August 2012, with the ("DoE") confirming the outcome as **favouring a concept of a two storey facility incorporating the existing façade.**

Following the workshop, the DoE scheduled a September 2012 meeting to provide an update to the wider community, however this was cancelled. On 19 October 2012, the Minister for Education, the Hon. Peter Collier MLC, released a media statement **confirming that the new school retains the majority of historic Second Avenue facade.**

This is excellent news, and will result in a "win/win" for all stakeholders. This concept no doubt presented a challenge to the architects, as it is not as easy as treating the school as a green fields site. However, it produces an outcome that satisfies both the DoE and the community. This decision is being made today, however the legacy left to the community will make the additional work required by the DoE to retain the façade invaluable. We now eagerly await the opportunity to view the concept drawings, incorporating the facade.

The facade was in danger of demolition in July/August 2012. It was only the efforts of the Mount Lawley Society, school community, and others that stopped the demolition and forced a dialogue, which ultimately resulted in the saving of the facade. Strong support was also provided by Michael Sutherland MLA, Bob Kucera, the City of Stirling, Councillor Rod Willox AM JP, and Councillor Joe Ferrante. This was truly a collaborate effort from all parties to ensure that the facade of this iconic building is saved for future generations.

It is issues such as this that highlight the importance of heritage bodies such as the Mount Lawley Society. However, we are only as strong as our membership. For this reason it is imperative that we not only maintain our existing membership, which is healthy, but also increase our members. We are planning a membership drive in 2013, which we hope will further strengthen the society.

'Spring in the City' garden competition

You should have recently received an email in respect of the "Spring in the City" garden competition. This competition was also held in the prior year, with a large number of nominations received.

Nominations for this year's competition close on 9 November 2012, with prizes to be announced at the MLS Sundowner in December. I would like to thank Mia Flora Garden Centre, Planet Books, Bonanza Paints, Beaufort Garden World and La Vigna for their generous prizes for this year's competition. The Mount Lawley Society will also be providing cash prizes. Nominations are via the Mount Lawley Society web site.

Beaufort Street festival

The Beaufort Street festival is fast approaching, to be held on Saturday 17 November 2012. This festival is a wonderful celebration of this unique area, and I for one am looking forward to the day. The Mount Lawley Society will again have a stand to display a selection of historical photos. We are in the process of a printing a selection of new photos from our archives for this event.

Please drop in to our stand to say hello and see the newly reproduced photos. Please also let me know if you would like to help out at the stand on the day!

Annual Sundowner

When another Christmas appears on the not so distant horizon it means only one thing! That's right; the Mount Lawley Sundowner is fast approaching. The AGM is a small, but important part of this event; however the Sundowner does tend to take centre stage. I would like to extend an invitation to all members to attend this event, particularly new members. It is an excellent opportunity to meet other people from the community and discuss any matters you wish with the Committee. It will be held at Coode Street Cafe on 7 December 2012. A formal invitation will be circulated closer to the event.

Unearthing Your Garden by John Viska

John Viska is the Chairman of the WA Branch of the Australian Garden History Society and lectured for 25 years in horticulture in the TAFE system.

In 2008 was awarded the Heritage Council award for outstanding contribution by an individual to the Garden Heritage of the State

In this article he discusses how to locate information that will help in designing a garden or just gain a deeper understanding of your property.



Stage one ; The Site

Important physical evidence can be gained by walking around the garden site and noting surviving features such as the following:

Slightly sunken areas covered by grass could denote position of old garden beds, specifically behind front fences and around foundations.

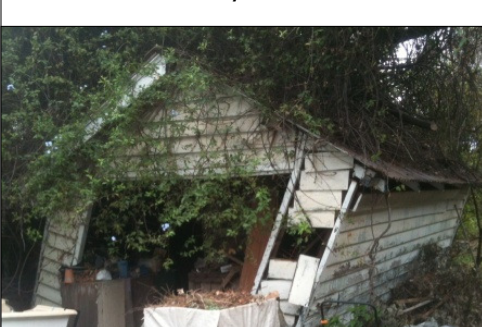
Paths covered by soil or grass show up as dry patches especially in summer and can give a clue to where an old pathway may have been e.g. leading to an out-house, or garden feature.

Remains of structures, e.g. a solitary fence post or picket could give a clue to size and style of original fence or a

post with holes drilled in it could suggest an old post and wire fence. A rough split wooden post with square holes, could have been a post and rail fence and remains of wire netting could suggest a fowl run, vegetable garden or tennis court.

Edging of garden beds.

Materials commonly used were small rocks, limestone in coastal areas, laterite and granite in the hills.



Edging tiles (plain or fancy) were manufactured by the local potteries but may not be as common as rock edgings.

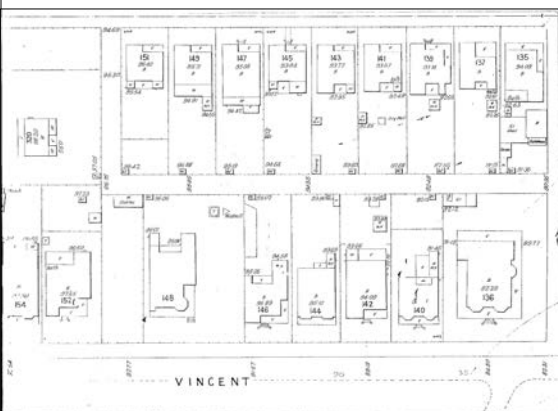
Jarrah used as edging for lawn or garden beds over time becomes buried.

Remnants of structures e.g. **an arbor**, especially as an entry statement, popular in the interwar period, **a trellis** in rear garden used for vines or climbers, **shade or bush houses** and **lattice** structures covered with lattice work, some times with a gate, were commonly used as a line of demarcation between front and back garden.

After initial investigation, record the area with a rough sketch denoting placement of surviving features, plants and then photograph.

It is important to identify plants before any weeding, pruning or clearing up.

Stage two; The search for documentary evidence



Sewerage and drainage plans on microfiche located at the State Records Office ground floor of the Alexander Library Northbridge, open Monday to Friday. Expand with examples. Also try local history centre e.g. ToV Local History library. These can show location of paths and out-buildings such as fernery and stables.

Aerial photographs from 1940 and available from local libraries and Batty Library (3rd floor of Alexander Library) and Landgate, Morrison Road Midland.

These can help to locate features such as paths, structures, fence lines as well as placement of trees, shrubs and hedges.



Publications . WA publications can be located at the Battye library

Magazines .

The West Australia Gardener which was locally published from 1932 -58 and 1969 -98. Bound copies are in the Battye Library.

The Railway Institute magazine had a gardening section.

West Australian Nursery Catalogues ,Newmans, Wilson and Johns, and Dawson and Harrison.

Books .

The Western Australian Gardening Guide ,Wilson and Johns , 1924 revised 1936.

Gardening Notes by J.Martin, Head Gardener Subiaco Municipal Council circa 1930.

The Australian Rose Annual

Yates and Bunning's were popular garden guides which were frequently republished.

Newspapers.

The Inquirer and Commercial News 1833

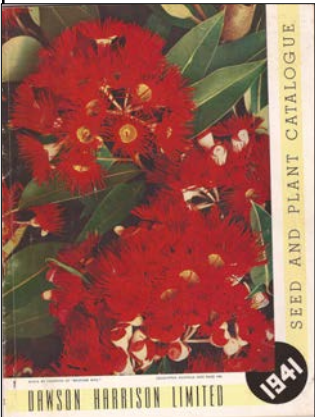
Printed in the ***West Australian*** are reports of the Agricultural and Horticultural Societies.

The articles listed the different classes for which prizes were given such as vegetables and fruits as well as ornamentals, e.g. best geraniums, fuchsia, coleus and hollyhock. The names of prize winners were also recorded and this could provide a clue as what was grown in a specific garden or locality or even the name of a former garden owner.

A regular gardening column, usually written by a nurseryman or garden enthusiast under a floral pseudonym, featured in the Saturday editions with lists of plants to grow as well as pertinent cultural notes.

The ***Western Mail***, also featured a regular weekly gardening column from 1890s .

Guildford Garden Study 1829 to 1930s prepared for the National Trust by Lorraine Lingard and Kath Napier, is very good source of information for Guilford gardens.



Digitised newspapers on line **TROVE** has proved to be a quick and valuable source of

finding information.

These can be found on Trove by just by entering the street name and number which can lead to interesting facts e.g. sales of the property, information about the locality, e.g. open air concerts in the grounds.

Photographs from historical societies, if a photograph of the specific house is not possible ,then the street or locality. Sometimes these are available from local historical societies, original occupants or family members.

The online pictorial catalogue of LISWA as well as the card index can sometimes provide photographs .

The Western Mail has many photographs which can be accessed on line as well as microfilm in the Battye library.

The **LISWA catalogue** on line may also provide entries on the person or property being researched .

Wise's Post Office Directory will provide the succession of occupants of the property.

If there is little or no direct information found then research can be done on the period

when the property was occupied to get a feeling of the era of the garden.

The WA branch's *A Guide to Conserving and Interpreting Gardens In Western Australia* will prove helpful .

This is available from the W.A. branch of Australian Garden History Society ph 93281519 cost of \$ 10.00.

More information can also be found on www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au

40 years of books collected by the MLS

The MLS has now catalogued all of the books in its possession and the list of these which will soon be put on to the website.

Materials can be photocopied for members at the cost of the photocopying and postage(copyright permitting)

If you are interested in viewing the list of books /articles etc please let us know .

GWEN WILBERFORCE - nee Bandy, Gwendoline Constance (continued pt 4

b20 JUL 1913 Perth .Oral history taken in 1999, courtesy of Peter Bandy, son of Lawrence Henry Bandy.



Bob **Gwen's husband Robert Wilberforce 1910 –1987**) would go away to the country and when he'd come home on a Thursday or Friday, he'd come straight in and we'd go out on the weekend. Occasionally he came and played tennis with us, but he was mainly busy with cricket and hockey. I used to go and watch that and watch the baseball when he played. They played baseball on a Sunday morning as a rule down on the Esplanade.

He was very keen to own his own house when we got married. And we did. He saved 250 pounds and we bought 131 3rd Avenue. The builder had built it for a SPEC SALE and Bob's mother **Alice Barr (Nana Wilbs)** had seen it being built and she thought it was a nice home and suggested we have a look at it. The courtship was just on 4 years, but we didn't mind. We used to go to everything together - we'd go to the races and do all sorts of things. He'd come and pick me up from choir practise Thursday night when he came home from the country and drive me home and we spent most of

the weekend together.

4 years didn't seem a long time. I was quite happy to wait. I was getting things for my glory box and having a good time enjoying things. I think we both felt we were suited to each other. We had so much in common.

One thing I remember - we were sitting on the front steps at Glenroyd St and Bob said: "I've got to tell you something." I wondered what on earth was going to happen and he said: "I have to tell you that my father is an alcoholic." Poor thing having to tell me that, but he was right. His father was dreadful - he used to drink a lot - it was terrible. He worked for Brians and was manager of their hardware department for 35 years - right next door to the Australia Hotel, and all the travellers used to say: "Come and have a drink Bob, come and have a drink," and he'd be blind drunk nearly every night. He was Alfred Robert Stanley Wilberforce, but he was always called Bob.. He died on Anzac night when (Gwen 's children) **Judy dob 9th May 1947** and **Susan 27 th June 1944** were quite young. We had a sleep-out at 3rd Avenue and they were in a flat at the time because Jack and Heather went to 3 Nanhob St and lived in their house. Bob's mother and father first of all took over the delicatessen on the corner of Clieveden St and Walcott St. It's still there. They had that for about 2½years. He had a heart attack and died on Anzac night in our bed in the sleep-out. We had friends playing cards (poker) in the lounge-room - Lew and Maude Shutt. He was manager of MacRobertson's Chocolates in Perth, and he also belonged to the North Perth Cricket Club. Maude was an ex matron at the hospital and she heard this noise coming from the sleep-out and she said: "There's a problem there." We both went out and he was gasping his last breath. Maude took over and she did everything which was marvellous. Bob's mother stayed with me for quite some time after that because that day, she'd hurt her leg on some steps at the flat where they were living, and it turned into a dreadful ulcer and she had to have all sorts of treatment. So she stayed on after he died. Then she went back and lived with Jack and Heather for quite a while. It wasn't a very amicable relationship really, because Heather was a very difficult person - very difficult. Often she used to be a bit harsh I thought, and others used to say so as well. I shouldn't speak ill of the dead - it's a dreadful thing to say, but she was a difficult person.



Gwen, Judy and Susan

Heather and Jack had 4 children - 2 boys and 2 girls and they got a nice unit for Bob's mother in Adair Parade up near us. Bob used to take her to the races every Saturday when he wasn't playing bowls in the wintertime. After she'd been there a few years, she realised she was getting on and something had to be done for the future, and that's when she made arrangements to go into Hardy Lodge, a nursing home. It was of her own volition - we hadn't mentioned it to her or anything, but she said to me one day: "I've been in to see the Rev. Sutton and made arrangements to go into Hardy Lodge as soon as we can finish finalising things at the unit.

I remember at the Bunbury Bowling Carnival one day I looked across and said: "That's Val (**Valmai Esme Watts**) over there - what on earth is she doing her at the Bunbury Bowling Carnival?" I didn't think she was remotely interested in bowls because she didn't come and watch your Dad play - once or twice when he was in the singles final or something, she came over to the fence and just watched. Then I saw her with Bluey Grey - and he was - he used to hang over the bar and he had this beer belly - an uncouth type of man I would have called him. And I was staggered that your mother, being so particular about herself. But then after a while, he seemed to reform quite a lot - whether it was her influence I don't know. She was fantastic to him at the end.

When Bob and I were married, his mother's cousin was married to the manager of Burns/Philp, who had their big offices in Fremantle - a very powerful firm. Marks Miller said to Bob's mother one day: "We've got this soft-goods warehouse in Murray St Perth - do you think Bob would be interested in taking over the manager ship of it?" He was still with McConnor and McBeef and he could have got a promotion with them very easily, as he was the boss's white-haired boy well and truly. So, his mother talked him into taking on this job at Burns/Philp. He actually took over on our wedding day. On the Saturday morning he had to go in and get the keys, but we had 4 days away after we were married. We honeymooned at Caves House Yallingup, a favourite honeymoon place.

Before Bob there was a chap I worked with - Bill Elphick, an articled law clerk in a law firm where I worked. We worked in the same room. I was the boss's secretary and he was the articled clerk. He took me to the Hockey Ball and to another Ball at Canterbury Court. I went out with him a few times - to the pictures etc. There was never any romance or anything like that.

Bob and I had a lot in common, what with him coming to the house a lot for various functions, and he was always very gentlemanly and very nice - a very loveable sort of person in those days. I must have thought he was the right man for me because it just went steadily on from there without any hiccoughs.

He proposed to me. No. He told me his plans. He said: "I'm away an awful lot and I can save a lot by getting expenses while I'm away. In those days, to save 250 pounds was a lot of money. He was only getting about 5 or 6 pounds a week. So I was quite happy to get a house of my own - that didn't worry me at all. I had a busy and enjoyable life. It was nice to have a steady boyfriend - someone to take you here, there and everywhere. His mother said to my mother: "My great wish has come true. I always wanted my son to marry your daughter." So that was rather nice.

Laurie **Laurence Bandy 1911-1984**) wasn't a problem when he was young but he was very spoiled by his mother - particularly after he developed the diabetes. Before that, everything was perfectly normal. Once he was diagnosed diabetic at age 21, life sort of revolved around him. It was discovered by a relative - one of the Bryans - he was a doctor who came from England. The Bryan family was on Grandma Hartland's side. The doctor was one of the sons of Auntie Annie Bryan. He was the one who wrote "The Swan River Sagas". There were many symptoms, but we didn't know. He lost weight, he was tired and he was thirsty all the time. On his desk at work (in the AMP) he had this tin of Faulding's Fruit Saline and he'd drink glass after glass after glass all day long. Mum apparently discussed this with Cyril Ryan and he did some tests which revealed diabetes. They put him straight on to Insulin. Dr Bruce Hunt, a specialist in Perth whose wife was a diabetic, put him on the insulin and got him settled down as much as they could in those days. Then the AMP doctor who diagnosed Judy's diabetes, John someone, took him over. But it was strange - he was able to play State Cricket and Hockey and there didn't seem to be any trouble with the diabetes. He didn't have any at home. I can't ever remember him having any of those "turns" that he had later on. The household revolved around him in that Mum had to cook especially for him. He'd always be late home at night (cricket and hockey practise) and his meal was always kept hot on the saucepan. After work he used to spend a lot of time playing billiards. He loved the game. He had a mate he always played with in the billiard saloon in Barrack St. We very seldom had a meal with him at night - he was always late home. Not terribly, terribly late, but not to sit down to a meal with us. Apart from that, life just went on normally. Diabetes didn't change him at first. Judy occasionally gets off beam herself. He did later on very much so, and often at our place too. At New Year's Eve parties he'd suddenly go deathly white and all listless and I knew immediately what to do, but everyone else was frightened. But I know it changed his personality. He wasn't as easy to talk to. He was all right mixing in a crowd - he didn't seem to be very much different at home. Because he was away in Kalgoorlie for a while too working for the AMP - during the war.

When war broke out, Bob was manpowered for nearly 2 years - Burns/Philp wouldn't let him go. Jack and the McKenzie boys were all going into the army and Bob was getting hostile because he thought he should be pulling his weight. Eventually he was released from Burns/Philp on the understanding his job would be there when he came out. He went into the army and I didn't fancy living in the house alone, (we didn't have the girls then) so we let it and I went down to live with Mum and Dad. Bill was also away in the army and there was no one at home. That's when Lawrence was in Kalgoorlie. It wasn't so very long - 12 to 18 months. He didn't come back very often, as it was a long way. Laurie had a lot of girlfriends - he was always very keen on the girls. One I thought he was going to be quite serious with was Julie Ovens from Wongabine out of York. She used to play country hockey and when all the country girls came down for hockey, our boys, the McKenzie's, the Wilberforce's all used to go and practise with them to coach them and give them practise for the Carnival. They got to know these country girls very well. Laurie was very keen on this Julie Ovens who was one of a family of 12 children. They were a lovely family. I stayed at their farm and still know some of them. They were great people. She used to come and sleep at our place in my bedroom with me when Lawrence took her out to a ball or party. I don't know what happened there or why they broke off. Then he had a couple of other girlfriends and then the one girl who married a big time businessman and came to our wedding. She was the last one I remember before he started taking your mother (**Valmai Esme Watts, dob: 19 MAY 1923**) out. I don't know how long they were going out together before they were married. They were married during the war. *To be continued*

Crossing the Line – early policing around Mount Lawley #14: Movers and Shakers (Part One)

By Peter Conole, Police Historian

This series has so far focussed as sharply as possible on the development of law enforcement around and about a prosperous and very attractive 'garden' or residential suburb – old Mount Lawley. Residents will be aware that it was not an 'orphan suburb' just because a police station was never planted in the middle. As a thriving but peaceful community its protection was carefully planned and accounted for by adjustments to policing activity around it from one decade to another.

There is a broader context to consider. The theme deserves more expansive treatment and may be of real interest for those who like examining the historical development of urban communities and suburbs. In a nutshell Mount Lawley was the product of a massive economic explosion – the gold years of the 1890s – and the WA Police were caught in the middle of a chaotic era of social change. The man at the helm was a typical gentleman of the Victorian Age, Commissioner George Braithwaite Phillips (1836-1900) of the WA Police, in office from 1887 until his unexpected and perhaps premature death.



The commissioner's background and connections were remarkable and reveal him to be a member of the innermost circle of the WA ruling elite. He is pictured here in a Queen Victorian Jubilee photograph of 1897. Phillips was the son of John Randall Phillips, a former West Indian planter who arrived in WA in February 1830. The older Phillips obtained land grants in the colony and became a notable public official, the Resident Magistrate at Albany from 1840 to 1847, where he died in 1852. The younger Phillips became a public servant at an early age and, being rather adventurous, he volunteered for service on Robert Austin's notable northern exploration expedition of 1854.

The career of George Phillips was marked by solid promotions; he became Assistant Colonial Secretary in 1880. On the side he developed a great interest in military affairs and rose to high rank (lieutenant colonel) in the Colonial Volunteer Force. He acted as commandant of the colony on a couple of occasions. In the social sense, Phillips was on first name terms with anybody in WA. He became a founding member of the Weld Club and a stalwart of the Church of England. He and his siblings developed an astonishing network of marital alliances with other gentry families – names like Hare, Burges, Bussell, Burt, Huddleston and Brockman spring to mind.

The second wife of George Phillips was Annie Hare, daughter of Gustavus Hare, a former WA Chief of Police. Phillips himself succeeded fellow Weld Club member Matthew Smith as Commissioner of Police, which further demonstrates the tightly knit nature

of the upper class of the era. The new senior man was a methodical, hard working and painstaking administrator and also forward looking – the passage of a new Police Act (1892), the creation of a police numbering system (1898) and the introduction of new technologies useful for policing work such as bicycles (1897) and photography (1898) were among his achievements. His abilities and contacts proved to be a great asset during the roaring 90s. He did well in managing law enforcement priorities in the chaotic and soon-to-be-sprawling metropolitan area.

His working methods are revealed in flexible patterns of resource allocation and building as police priorities changed. South of the Swan, the volatile port city of Fremantle and new suburbs around it received systematic treatment. Fremantle Police Station officers were gifted with a new lock-up and charge room in 1898. Even earlier, suburban spread close to the port resulted in the building and opening of a brand new station at Beaconsfield in 1894. Work at East Fremantle is of interest. As was to become a common pattern, Phillips first obtained money to rent a building for police use in 1898, then negotiated with treasury officials to buy land for a police reserve and finally to build and open another new station (September 1899). North Fremantle received speedier attention – a station was built and opened there in one hit during 1898.

Phillips and his most senior officers were obviously well placed to obtain cooperation from other arms of government, such as the Premier's Department, the Treasury and the Public Works Department. Economic activity, suburban sprawl and calls for a police presence from local organisations explain a lot of their activity. One classic example will do. The South Perth Road Board put pressure on Phillips for a station from 1895. He responded when the time (i.e., money) was right by renting premises near old Shenton's Mill in November 1897. The arrangement later caused headaches for the successor of Phillips in the early 1900s: the owner was no less a person than Lady Forrest.

Further east, population increase and some tribulations in Victoria Park caused the Road Board there to start lobbying. Phillips again rented premises and opened a station (January 1897) just as the citizens of expanding suburbs close to the main metro railway line started crying out for attention. The Subiaco Progress Association in particular put on the pressure for a strong police presence. Phillips somehow pulled resources together and Subiaco Station opened in July 1898.

There is clear evidence that the folk of Leederville (rented building for a station in 1897, new station on the corner of Oxford and Bourke Streets, August 1898) and West Perth (corner of Loftus and Collins Streets, January 1898) had stolen a march on the Subiaco citizenry. It is worth bearing in mind that civic pride often underpinned the push for police stations to be built in particular areas. Their appearance enhanced local prestige and further marked a communities 'advancement', as did the reassuring sight of police officers striding around on beat duty.

During the Phillips years Freshwater Bay (small school converted into a station and quarters in 1897), Kelmscott (new station, August 1897) and Midland Junction to the east all received due attention. In the latter case, the Railway Company workshops were at Midland and a lot of working people set up house there. The WA police responded to the usual civic appeals and requests: rented premises for a station in September 1896, then the building of a new one plus quarters for the local officers in 1898.

Closer to the heart of the city, George Phillips and his senior men were already planning what turned out to be the most important development of all. Police suburban jurisdiction had already been extended well to the north of the railway line in November 1897 when the staff at the new Highgate (Highgate Hill) station hit the streets. The history of those premises was covered in parts One and Two of this series – the foregoing overview of the suburban explosion and the response of Commissioner Phillips and the WA Police to it will hopefully contextualise the 'big picture'.

The police establishment had decided to abandon the Terrace and move even central administration north of the line, where major commercial and industrial was underway by the mid 1890s. Land resumption began in March 1897 when police reserves were declared in March 1897 in Roe, Beaufort and James Streets. Some sub-standard houses in the area were already being used as quarters by the time Commissioner Phillips died in March 1900.

His successor was his own brother-in-law, the colourful and flamboyant Commissioner Frederick Arthur Hare, who completed a lot of unfinished police developmental business from the 1890s, including the transition of the police power base into what later became Northbridge. Frederick Hare proved to be a very capable leader – but also a controversial one who served in years of constant political and social turmoil.

'Heritage Spring Walk and Open House' is being held on a Sunday 28 October 2012 encompassing Vincent's key heritage residential streets and places of interest including Brookman and Moir Streets, Lake Street, Stuart Street, Palmerston Street, Robertson Park and then finishing for a sundowner at the Northbridge Hotel on Brisbane Street. The walk will start at 2.30pm at the site of the former Ormiston House on the eastern end of Robertson Park opposite the round a bout at the intersection of Palmerston Street and Brisbane Street. This year the walk is likely to also include an 'Open House', so that participants are able to view internally some of Vincent's residential heritage buildings.

Bookings are essential. For further information on any of the mentioned items, please email: mail@vincent.wa.gov.au or contact Tory Young on 9273 6514 or Hoping Au on 9273 6069.



Continued: Western Australia's Founder and first Governor – the Forgotten Grave almost found.

By Researcher Sid Breeden

This instalment pieces together more of the burials jigsaw, how the Stirling grave became forgotten, followed by an amazing accidental discovery at St John's Stoke church graveyard.

Described previously was Ellen's wish to be buried with her husband. Rev John Skinner analysed my material and concludes that in 1865 James was buried in the ancient graveyard. Then, in 1874 Ellen, by necessity, was buried in the new extension graveyard opened in 1869 with James reinterred there to fulfil her wish. This logic is supported by Ellen's burial ledger showing "with her husband" and the Scottish pink granite grave cover stone found in the extension graveyard inscribed with both their names. Myths abound but my chronological cross checking plus the smashed grave cover gives high probability their grave was amongst the 1974-75 removals described further on.

History from the 1874 burial until 1977 is unknown. We can only postulate that like many graves, family members visited for a time and with generational change, visitation ceased and the grave forgotten.

I need to describe the early 1970s. Rev Skinner's St Saviour's parish controlled St John's and the soon-to-be new Curate-in-Charge was married. The Guildford Diocese, not church parish, had responsibility to replace the unsuitable old vicarage located some distance from the church. They decided to use part of the long closed overgrown western section of the extension graveyard. This required removing a number of old graves and deconsecrating the section. On 18th December 1974 Buckingham Palace issued an "Order in Council" with the condition all human remains believed to be there plus tombstones and monuments be removed and disposed of in accordance with specific rules. More on that in a later article.

A local contractor removed graves in 1974-75, creating the large pile of rubble shown in the accompanying photograph. The firm no longer exists so their information is unavailable. However, my January 2012 letter to the Surrey Advertiser newspaper resulted in several people contacting me giving invaluable information.



Stirling smashed grave found under here at St Johns 2 April 1977

New vicarage construction commenced October 1975 and the new Curate took residence September 1976.

Early 1977, preparing for our Sesqui-centennial anniversary, Laurence Kieran, General Manager TV Channel 9 Perth, sent Producer John Izzard to England with cameraman Roger Dowling to 16mm film historical segments for a WAY79 TV series. Given free reign, John decided to film something on our Founder and first Governor. Vaguely knowing the Guildford connection, they travelled there eventually establishing Stirling's grave was

at St John's Stoke. Searching the graveyards drew a blank. On 2nd April 1977 about to give up and return to their London hotel a nearby resident came over expressing

concern with bulldozed graves. He indicated a large pile of grey grave rubble, which out of idle curiosity John inspected. A piece of pink granite caught his eye. On closer examination, John saw the name "Sir James". He and Roger dug around finding eight pieces of smashed Stirling gravestone.



Shocked and elated, John knew he had found a significant piece of Western Australian history about to go to a rubbish dump. Dispelling any doubts, Roger confirmed to me in 2010 that tenacious John Izzard was indeed the finder and therefore saviour of this important link to our history. He deserves a medal!

John informed a shocked Curate. It transpired contemporary church authorities simply did not connect with the name Stirling or his significance nor even know the grave was there – truly making it “The Forgotten Grave”.

John Izzard with new found smashed stone 2nd April 1977

Borrowing the Curate’s wheelbarrow John stored all pieces in the garage then informed his delighted boss in Perth. News quickly travelled back to The Times in London who interviewed John. Articles appeared in various newspapers and on Channel 9. Unfortunately, the 16mm film of finding the smashed stone cannot be located at Channel 9. We can only hope it still exists and found one day!

Unsuccessful attempts to find Stirling descendents were made through the Surrey Advertiser newspaper. Not until an 11th April 1977 nationwide BBC Radio “PM” program, arranged by the Western Australian Agent General’s London office, did some distantly removed relatives come forward. My conversation with an elderly direct descendent, who in 1977

lived in the Guildford area, found they simply did not know their great great grandparents were laid to rest at Stoke. Sadly, neither had successive Western Australian Governments monitored our Founder and first Governor’s grave.



In 1978, a descendent funded piecing the smashed gravestone together as best possible and laid as a memorial display in the front porch of the church. Soon after, Rev John Skinner came up with an outstanding suggestion that will be explained in the next newsletter.

Graveyard fence is the edge of 1974 removed graves area

RENOVATIONS 18 ALMONDBURY RD by Darryl Ryan

Episode 6– The Italian Job

If one were to compare our house renovation to an exquisite 10 course meal, clearing the block was merely a small appetizer, a tongue-whetter, for what was to come.

We were told by our neighbours that in the 1980's, a well-known local real-estate agent had owned the house and made various "improvements" to it. To find out what the house was like before he made the changes, we invited him over and, to our delight, he came. I'm sure he was very curious to have a look at what had become of his family home some 30 years down the track.

One of the major changes the real-estate agent made to the property was to the rear of the block. Originally, the kitchen door opened to a back area, which was retained with a small flight of stairs leading to an outside laundry. The real-estate agent explained that, as his wife was pregnant at the time, they decided it was impractical for her to trudge up and down stairs to get to the outside laundry. So it was that a massive retaining wall was constructed closer to the rear boundary wall and the original outside laundry was demolished. The ground was leveled and the real-estate agent added on a small laundry, which could either be entered from outside or through the existing kitchen door. Tacked on to the new laundry and sharing a common brick wall, was a quaint little garden shed, made out of asbestos, painted dark green and capped with a corrugated tin roof.



Needless to say, the laundry had to go.

It was our first decisive move towards restoring the house back to its original state.

It was not a hard decision. Whilst I'm sure the real-estate agent's heart was in the right place and his wife was relieved at not having to go outside to do their washing, the laundry was in reality a cramped, dank, miserable space. Although it had a window, it seemed gloomy. Whoever designed the laundry, kept it under the existing roof line – which has a fairly steep pitch. The result, in contrast to the rest of the house's lovely high ceilings, was a very low affair. In an attempt to solve the problem, the laundry floor was lowered below that of the adjacent kitchen, requiring the homeowner

to step down into it. Ali and I both felt it was room of claustrophobic proportions.

I decided on Sunday, 20 December 2009, that I would commence demolition of the unoriginal laundry. It so happened that on that particular Sunday, my mother-in-law, who runs a ballet school, was having her annual end of year concert. This was a fact that I was sternly reminded of by my wife when she saw me dusting off my trusty sledge hammer. "You know it's my mother's concert this afternoon" said Ali, as if I would forget. "Of course, my darling" I beamed. "It will only take me a couple of hours at the most."

Golden Rule of Renovating Number 5: "Whatever time you estimate a renovation job to take – it will take you a lot longer than what you told your wife."

The demolition of the laundry was something that had to be done that weekend, because I had arranged with our builder, Carl, that we would start work on rebuilding our dilapidated verandah the following Monday.

As much as I was itching to put the sledgehammer to work, my practical side won over and I started by removing the tiles from the laundry roof and taking the outside door off its hinges. Surprisingly, it was hard work – up and down the ladder, removing and stacking the tiles and working out how to isolate the water to the laundry. Fortunately, there was an isolation tap around the back of the house, which I was able to turn off. It did, however, take me a while to find it. Before I knew it, a couple of hours had passed and I hadn't even got to the good bit yet.

Ali popped her head out of the kitchen window. "Are you almost finished?" she asked. "Yes – I should be finished soon" was my cheery reply. Well, how hard could it be? I just had to remove the tile battens, the rafters and the old insulation and then I could start knocking down the walls.

Now, with the benefit of hindsight, I can tell you it was not a quick or easy job.

When it came to taking off the tile battens – those thin strips of wood which cover the rafter and on which the tiles rest, I managed quite well with my claw hammer. The plaster-board ceiling also didn't require too much persuasion. That came down in a cloud of dust and rat-droppings. The rafters, however, were another matter. They had been secured with some really big, long nails. On reflection, what I needed was a crow bar. You may be amazed to learn that, at the time, I didn't own one. (I now have five; all of various gauges and lengths.)



Which leads me to Golden Rule number 6: "What ever tools you have, you will need more and MORE tools."

Not having a crow bar made the job of removing the rafters difficult. It required a lot of banging. It was hard. It took a long time. I was perched precariously on top of the rafters, trying to knock the underside of one to dislodge it from the jarrah beam below. It was an occupational health and safety nightmare.

Ali re-appeared. "I'm going to have a shower now and then I'm getting ready to leave for Mum's concert. I hope you are going to be ready in time." I understood this to be a statement rather than a question, so an answer from me wasn't expected.

Sometime later, as I was about to attack the last remaining rafter, Ali appeared, clean and smartly dressed, ready to leave. I was covered in dust, the sweat of my efforts acting like a magnet for the dirt that had previously lived in the ceiling space.

"Well, I'm going now" said Ali. I could tell by her tone she was disappointed that I was not coming with her. I felt guilty, but I was between a rafter and a hard place. I had promised our builder that I would have the laundry demolished before he started on Monday. I hadn't even finished removing the roof. What could I do? Lucky for me I have a very understanding wife. "I'll explain to Mum why you can come. Hopefully you'll be finished by the time I get back" Ali waved goodbye. She would be gone for at least 3 or so hours. Surely I would be finished by then.

Because the house had no power connected to it when we bought it, we had it completely rewired, as surprisingly, the original cloth covered wiring was still present in most of the house. The electrician who we engaged had a small army of young men who miraculously did the job while Ali and I were at work. Within a few days it was done, with absolutely no effort on our part. It was very satisfying to have power in the house – it was as if it had finally been brought back to life.

Luckily, I mentioned to the electrician that we were intending to demolish the laundry and he wisely disconnected the electrical wiring that fed into it. At least I didn't have to worry about being electrocuted.

Finally, I reached the point where I could start knocking down some walls. This was the moment I had been waiting for. This was the easy part. I had a huge sledge-hammer and I was ready to use it. In my imagination, I pictured myself taking one almighty swing and an entire wall collapsed. It was going to be that simple.

No, actually, it wasn't.

It is a fact that the Romans, before the birth of Christ, invented concrete. It is amazing to think that such ancient technology is still used today to marvelous effect. Certainly whoever did the laundry addition to our house used it marvelously, because despite my best efforts with my sledge-hammer, I could barely dislodge a brick, the concrete mortar was so hard and fast. In fact, the brick gave way before the mortar did. Worse than that, I soon found out the laundry was double brick – on every side. That meant, effectively, I had to demolish twice the amount I had anticipated.



Four and a half hours later, by the time Ali got home, I had knocked down half of the laundry walls. It took me another 3 hours to finish off the rest and then another hour to clean up and dump the rubbish in our skip bin. I still had the concrete laundry floor to remove, but as the sun began to set, I had neither the strength nor the inclination to embark on that task. It would have to wait until the morning.

The next day, I was up early, as Carl was arriving at 7.30am. By 7.00am, I had eaten breakfast and was out surveying the last remnants of what had been the laundry – some mocca brown tiles which covered the laundry floor. I say tiles, but they were more like steel plate. I

should have guessed, by their pristine condition – after having brick and rubble mercilessly dropped on them the day before, that they were virtually indestructible. By the time Carl arrived, I had removed three or four tiles. It was excruciating. The worst, however, was still to come.

When Carl saw what I was doing, he asked me if I had checked out how far down the concrete floor went below ground level. Of course I had not.

A few minutes later, after digging a substantial hole at the foot of what had been the laundry door, it was apparent that the concrete floor was thick. Very, very thick and reinforced with steel. There was no doubt that the floor was ridiculously over-engineered for a tiny laundry. An enormous swing with my mighty sledge-hammer would not do more than tickle this floor.

Carl stood for a moment and contemplated the formidable exposed slab.



"I'd say an Italian did this job," he drawled.

I stared at the grey mass and nodded grimly to indicate my assent. It was an Italian job alright and it wasn't going anywhere.

HERITAGE by Barrie Baker will be continued in the next newsletter

Report on the building kindly donated to the MLS by the WA Ballet Centre . History INTERPRETATION PLAN MAY 2011 Philip Griffiths Architects and again donated to the MLS by the WA Ballet Centre.

The history of Senses, Maylands in its current setting, falls into four main timeframes: -

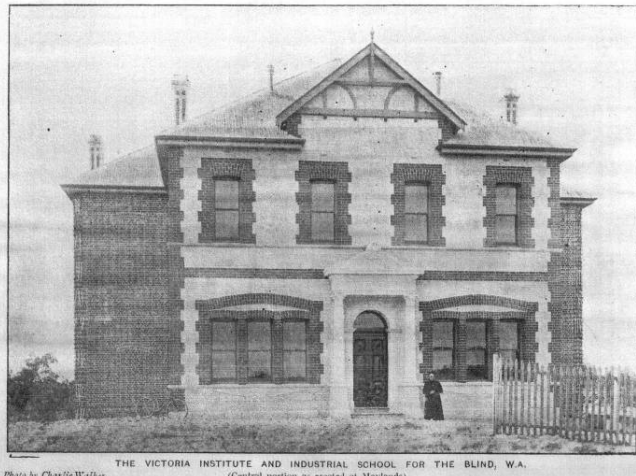
1897-1918: *Development of the Victoria Institute and Industrial School for the Blind and construction of initial buildings .*

Inter-War period: *additions to workshops (1920s), and major expansion, with major alterations and additions to develop main building in the 1930s .*

World War II period to 1950s: *wartime activities; major expansion in the post-war period, with additions to main building and new workshops .*

1960-present: *Development of new residential buildings, hall and showrooms; decline and closure of workshops, and eventual decision to re-locate .*

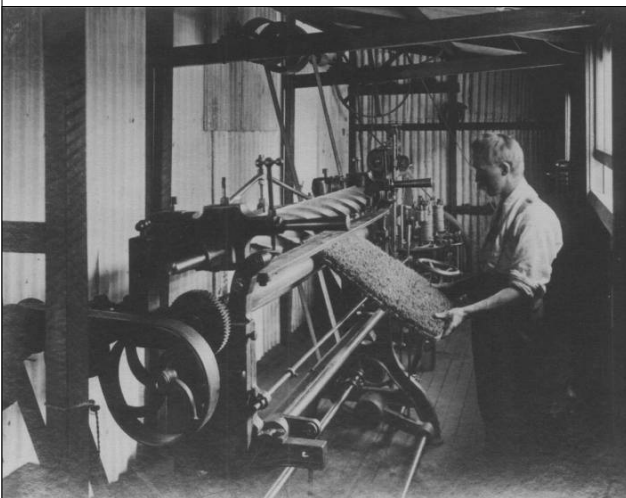
Detailed history follows Pt 1 continued to 1918



THE VICTORIA INSTITUTE AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, W.A.
(Central position as erected at Maylands)

Photo by Charlie Walker.

year. In December 1901, the new workshops, a timber-framed shed-like structure with vertical-groove corrugated iron cladding, were erected at a cost of £237.17s.6d.



In October 1900, accurately anticipating that industrial occupations would become 'a leading feature' of the Institute, its council took the opportunity to purchase an additional 4 lots of land adjoining the site at a cost of £190.

To initiate teaching various trades at the Institute, it was decided to proceed with the erection of 'a suitable workshop' and to purchase tools and plant, which would benefit the present inmates and other blind people 'who are understood to be willing to enter the institution as soon as trade instruction' commenced which would enable them to earn their own living. A sub-committee determined that brush-making was the most suitable industry with which to commence. On 1 August, it was reported money was being sought for the fit-out, and it was hoped to have the workshops in operation by the end of the

In March 1901, after the necessary plant was imported and erected, and instructor Mr. F.W. Dickens was employed, brush-making work commenced. During 1901-02, a piano was purchased, using gifts from the public.

In March 1903, new lavatories and bathrooms at the ground floor were under construction at a cost of £80, and it was hoped to build a gymnasium. In 1903-04, a new store was erected for the brush ware, and electric power replaced the windmill pump.

In 1904, work progressed on the two storey north-west wing of brick construction, which comprised a library, boys' room, and portico at the ground floor; and dormitories and bathrooms at the first floor; and improvements to the rear of the building. 'Up to date' sanitary arrangements were added, and new tanks replaced the original tanks which were corroded. In November, the new wing was completed.

In 1906-07, the Institute was finally connected to public water mains, bringing to an end the problems that had been experienced with sand, wells, windmills and water tanks. Since its establishment, the brush factory had proven successful, producing 14,135 brushes in 1906-7, and the factory section ran at a profit.

In 1907-08, the single storey, brick construction, gymnasium was completed and equipped with horizontal and parallel bars, horizontal ladder, Roman rings and trapeze. It effectively completed the Victoria Institute building, where no other major works were carried out until the post-World War II period.

A timber framed, corrugated iron clad construction mat-making plant had been added to the place, similar to the brush workshop and the box-making department.

In 1908-09, improvements made to the Institute included bathing facilities to provide hot and cold bathing for men and women; extension of the mat-making department and installation of new machinery. A new building, of timber and iron construction, was provided for hair-curling, which included a teasing room, rope walk, store room and fumigator, enabling commencement of hair-curling for saddlery and upholstery work.



In 1909-10, to meet the need for expansion at the Institute, and because of the unbearable working conditions experienced in the summer heat in the existing timber framed factory buildings, it was decided to erect a permanent factory of brick construction, and also to make alterations to the existing factory. Accordingly, the Institute's Honorary Architect, P.W. Harrison, prepared plans and called tenders for the erection of a brush factory, warehouse and store at the Victoria Institute for the Blind at Maylands in early January 1910. The contract was awarded to well known builders Messrs. Pitman and Totterdell. The new buildings at the Institute were duly completed in 1910, at a total cost of £760.28

Having gone into overdraft at the bank in order to fund construction of the two new brick buildings, the Institute was very appreciative of a bequest of £740.14s. from the Estate of the late Walter Padbury (b. 1820, England, arr. 1830, d. 1907), which enabled re-payment of the overdraft in 1910-11.29.

By June 1911, the mat-making and brush-making operations were beginning to pay their way.

In 1912-13, Junior Workshops were established at the Institute to train blind children in industry. A movement towards compulsory education for blind children had begun, and there were 15 children attending the blind school at the Institute by 1914 and 'good progress' was being made in erecting the looms for mat-making, and it was anticipated that they would be in production in early August. The five looms installed at this period were to enable manufacture of cheaper grades of mats. Mat-making continued to be an important part of the Institute's operation for many decades.

In 1914-15, the outbreak of World War I impacted on the activities of the Institute.

Subscriptions fell as donors supported war-time charities, there were difficulties in obtaining some raw materials, and with decreased production from the factory, it ran at a loss, as it did the next year, albeit less. The workers at the Institute were higher paid than others in similar institutions in Australia.

In 1918, the Institute appealed for renewed public support as its liabilities had increased to £500. There would be further fund raising in the 1920s. *To be continued*

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Michelle and Mark Narustrang

MLS Committee 2012

Bruce Wooldridge : President

Beth McKechnie : Secretary

John Wreford ; Treasurer

Ian Merker

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

John Baas :Represents Ratepayers Assoc

Andy Ross

Roger Elmitt

Christina Gustavson

Paul Hurst

Committee meetings are held 1st Monday of the month at the Mount Lawley Bowling Club at 8.00pm.

All members are welcome to attend.