

# Mount Lawley Matters

## Mount Lawley Society

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



**Secretary/ Newsletter**  
Beth McKechnie  
[bmckechnie@bigpond.com](mailto:bmckechnie@bigpond.com)  
0421 545 583

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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 or contributors are not necessarily those of others or of the committee.**

### MLS PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Bruce Wooldridge

Dear Members,

Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2013. I hope that you have had a good start to the year and are working through your new year's resolutions! Please see below for an update of topical matters that we hope are of interest to you.

#### **Demolition by neglect**

Submissions for the City of Stirling's Demolition by Neglect provisions closed in March 2013. Council's proposed amendment to the Local Planning Scheme would allow Council to enter a severely neglected heritage property, undertake repairs and recover the costs from the owner. We will provide a further update on this amendment once Council has considered the submissions and published the results and its intentions.

#### **Implications for R40 zoned lots**



We have received a number of enquiries in respect of an approved apartment development in Third Avenue, Mount Lawley. The development consists of twelve two bedroom apartments on a R40 zoned lot.



The lot did not contain a heritage property; however there is concern over the appropriateness of such a development in a residential street.

Changes were introduced to the R-Codes in November 2010, which we now understand permits multiple dwellings (e.g. apartments) on R40 zoned lots.

We have been advised by Council that they share our concerns and have now sought to initiate an amendment to limit multiple dwellings to areas coded R60 and above. The amendment is currently awaiting a decision from the WAPC to approve or refuse advertising.

#### **Over 300 years of history lost in one week**



In February, three adjoining heritage homes in William Street (Nos 570-574) were demolished. Collectively these homes represented over 300 years of history, which was erased as a result of the City of Vincent's continued apathy towards heritage protection and preservation. We remain grateful for the Heritage Protection afforded by the City of Stirling for most of Mount Lawley, Inglewood and Menora.



**Family lawn bowling event**

On a more positive note, March saw our first social event for the year, with a family friendly afternoon of lawn bowls at the Sportsmen's Lawn Bowls Club, Mt Lawley. It was a fantastic afternoon with the children displaying some real talent on the greens. A relaxed sausage sizzle was held to end the day. I suspect that the bowling club may now have some new members!

**Leadlight walking tour**

Almost 70 people joined our guided walk through "First Estate" on the evening of 11<sup>th</sup> April. The Society's Patron Barrie Baker entertained the crowd with the history of the properties and stories of their original owners as we made our way through some of Mount Lawley's oldest streets. A big thank you to the owners of the houses that turned on their entrance lights to show off their lead lights for the night. This was a fantastic evening, with the walk concluding with refreshments that went late into the evening.



**Forthcoming events**

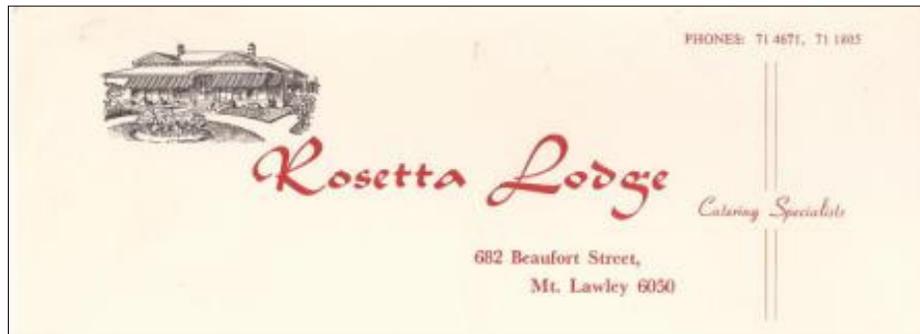
Our next event will be our annual gala dinner. An invitation will be distributed in May, for a night that usually sells out fast!



**Thankyou**

Margaret Hamilton has kindly donated a collection of oral histories and photos of the area. Our extensive archive is only due to the generosity of our members and the general community. Thank you Margaret.

**VANISHING HOUSES** taken from oral histories held in MLS archives .Thank you to past members who have compiled them. These are verbatim from the documents in the archives.



**Rosetta Lodge** – A Story of a Typical, Large Mount Lawley House (History written around 1977-1980) *There is a photograph of the house on the MLS website*

Residents of Mount Lawley that were familiar with Beaufort Street many years ago will remember with affection that landmark of Mount Lawley. Rosetta lodge – scene of many parties and receptions.

The house, built in 1903, was the family home of Gustus and Rosetta Luber. Gustus Luber came from Russia at the age of 21 and lived 2 years in London. There he stayed with Victor Mendelstan and family. When the Mendelstans ( great grandparents of Dr Alex Cohen) migrated to Australia, Gustus accompanied them. They arrived in Fremantle in 1885 on the ` Hampshire'. (They helped form a small Jewish community in Fremantle and they were responsible for bringing the first scroll of Jewish law to W.A.)

The girl (Rosetta) who was to become his wife sailed with her family from London at the time of the goldrush in 1887. She was one of 6 children . Her father Mark Shrimski was married to Annie. During the voyage out Annie died giving birth to twins. They also did not survive.

When Rosetta and her family arrived, they were met and looked after by the Mendelstans and Gustus Luber. The family lived in Fremantle. Rosetta was the eldest daughter; the next child was Bertha who was the mother of Sir Albert Wolff. Two years later when Rosetta was 17 ,she and Gustus married and for a time had a business in Northam selling supplies to would-be miners who would set off from this outpost to walk to the goldfields.

At the turn of the century the Lubers moved back to the city. Because Mrs Luber wanted to live in a rural atmosphere, their house was built on the outskirts of Perth, in Beaufort Street. There were six children in the family and business was prospering so that their home was large – there were 14 rooms. Besides being amongst the earliest residents in Mount Lawley they were the first Jewish family in the area. Beyond First Avenue there was dense bush and wildflowers were in abundance in the area at the back of the house.

With the growing up of the family, the home became too large and Mr and Mrs Luber moved to First Avenue in 1927. One daughter, Miss Edna Luber, married at this time and she and her husband moved next door to her parents. These two houses at 55 and 57 First Avenue have been sold and demolished.

The Lubers let their house in Beaufort Street to the Mongers for a Maternity Hospital (also known as Nurse Binet's Private Hospital and by all accounts an excellent establishment) and it continued this way until a few years before the War, it then became a Guest House. During the Second World War it , like many Mount Lawley houses, was occupied by the Army. There was some damage, for example, to the carving of the mantelpieces but this was made good by the Army. For a few years after the War it continued as a Guest House until Mrs Luber Smilth (Miss Edna Luber) decided with her husband in 1955 to take over the property again, redecorate it and convert it to a reception lodge.

They ran this catering business for 13 years but by 1968 it had become too much for them and the property was leased again; this time for Aged Pensioners' accommodation. By the time the lessees had moved there had been considerable damage, the house was run down and the kitchen was filthy. In 1975 the property was put on the market and the purchaser had plans for an overnight stopping place for coach tours. There was a start at renovations , rumours flew around that a massage parlour was proposed, finance ran out and the new owner was forced to sell.

Time had run out for Rosetta Lodge. An investor bought it the property in 1977, demolished the house and there is now a modern bank on site at 682.

Now that there is a changing outlook for older buildings Rosetta Lodge possibly could have been rehabilitated perhaps as Mrs Luber Smith suggested it would have become consulting rooms for a group practice. There are medical specialists, in fact, in the old Holland house at 691 Beaufort Street.

Following on from Gwen Wilberforce's recollections of growing up in the area, the MLS is also appreciative of the following memories by Russell Elsegood on his childhood in Field St Mt Lawley when the family moved from Bunbury to Perth in 1946.



**Les, Reg and Harold Elsegood back row**

*The connection to the Bandy/Wilberforce family is as follows: Alfred Henry Elsegood 1859 m Henrietta Buggins 1861 and had 4 children, Leslie, Constance, Reginald and Harold (Goo). Les married Grace Meyers and they had 3 children, Constance, Ronald Leslie and Alfred Keith. Russell is the son of Ronald Leslie Elsegood. His father and mother Ivy managed and operated the Astor Theatre and other picture theatres in the State such as the Capitol in Northam and Lyric in Bunbury*

On our return to Perth, 'home' was in a block of flats in 1 Field Street, Mt Lawley -- again behind a theatre (the Astor). Our first flat was down near Walcott Street, but we later moved up next to the cinders lane leading to where the tenants' cars were garaged. (The lane to some extent doubled as my backyard -- as the yard of our flat was tiny and impossible to use for play, being bordered by hydrangeas on one side, windows on another and the next door neighbour's carefully-tended roses etc.)

If adventures like the great Hyde Park platypus hunt had severe repercussions, there were many other episodes in Mt Lawley for which I have mixed feelings. Take for instance the following -- and these were just some of the crazy escapades and scrapes and I got involved in as a youngster:

Guy Fawkes night was something we kids looked forward to with great anticipation. In the pre firework-prohibition era we had great fun in making a 'Guy' --stuffed with paper and dressed in any old hand-me-down clothes -- scrounging many a 'penny for the Guy', building a bonfire, saving the 'donations' and our pocket money (I think mine was about sixpence - 5c - a week, 'cos I got into the Saturday matinee for free!) to buy penny 'bombs', jumping jacks, Tom Thumbs, Catherine Wheels, sparklers and Roman Candles. Great expectations were built up for November 5, which really had no historical relevance to Australia, though we knew about the ancient plot to blow up the British parliament because British history was seen as a far more important part of the school curriculum than Australia's short history. Those expectations were built up by letting off a few crackers before THE night -- mainly small Tom Thumbs or Jumping Jacks -- behind mates, though girls were favourite targets, as they could always be counted on to scream louder at the shock of a small explosion at their feet! But my most vivid memory of Guy Fawkes night is tinged by the potential for tragedy. I was at my mate, Wayne McKinnell's house for this particular November 5 and I had carefully hoarded all my fireworks in a tin. It was full of the works -- rockets, penny bombs, jumping jacks etc. Somehow, during the evening, as I was bending over to get a fresh cracker to throw into the bonfire, a spark landed in the tin. The result, I was told, was spectacular, with the whole lot going up. I reeled back, blinded and anticipating that I was to be engulfed in fire. Fortunately, neither was the case, though I did suffer superficial burns to my hands (I recall my thumb was numb for a couple of days) and my shirt was singed. I'm certain this episode was embellished with the re-telling, but it wasn't long after that fireworks were banned in WA (a) because of the instances of injuries -- many of them very serious and (b) because it was patently silly to be burning bonfires and letting off fireworks in summer when fire restrictions were generally enforced elsewhere!

Another of our escapades that, on reflection, could well have resulted in tragedy, was our passion for digging tunnels. There are two instances that remain fixed in my memory. My first entry into the art of tunneling was spurred by my reading Paul Brickhill's best-seller 'The Great Escape', which told how POWs ingeniously built tunnels to make a mass breakout from Stalag Luft III. With our 'engineering energy', Wayne McKinnell's backyard was literally honeycombed with tunnels. These were trenches about two feet deep, covered with cardboard, sheets of iron and timber, with the excavated sand spread over the top. We even built a cubbyhouse with a concealed trapdoor leading into our network of tunnels -- mimicking the POWs' method of concealing the entrances to the tunnels from their barracks. Lighting was provided by candles, which was the most stupid of several stupid things we did in building our tunnels. The candles would, of course, burn up the oxygen in the confined spaces where we lived out our fantasy of being master escape artists. The result is that we could have passed out or even suffocated. On reflection, now, suffocation was also a possibility if the roof of our tunnels collapsed under the weight of the sand piled on top. Today I suffer from mild claustrophobia which is probably compounded by the second of my tunnel escapades.



At the top of Field Street there was a vacant block -- running between Lawley and Queens Crescents -- which had a long, steep sand hill. This block was a favourite spot for several of our pursuits -- sliding down the sand on bits of cardboard or sheets of tin, snatching fruit that grew over the fences of the houses that backed onto the vacant block and, of course, burrowing into the sand hill. The latter being the most dangerous -- although, to our mind, being hit by a flying sheet of tin if you or a mate fell off the makeshift toboggan or being caught by an irate householder who guarded their bounty of fruit, were of more immediate concern! Some of our 'caves' in the sandhill went back many feet and, had the sand slipped, those inside would certainly have been entombed and suffocated. I shudder, now, at the thought, especially as I read of kids losing their lives in similar escapades

Eating 'forbidden' fruit was a favourite pastime for we young Mt Lawley 'mates', and there were plenty of opportunities to indulge our taste for taking risks and for mulberries, grapes, passionfruit, apricots and figs, that seemed to grow in profusion over the fences that bordered back and side lanes and the few vacant blocks in our inner-city suburb. Of these fruit, only the mulberries were 'harvested' without fear of being caught, because McKinnells had a huge mulberry tree in their backyard. With all the tunnelling that went under its root system I marvel that the tree didn't collapse. It was also at risk of iron overload poisoning from the hundreds of nails embedded in it during our many treehouse building and remodelling projects. These treehouses were ideal places to retreat to, where we could indulge in gorging large, juicy berries that covered hands, mouths and clothes with indelible, hard-to-remove purple stains. The lofty 'fortresses', hidden by the dense foliage and overlooking a well-trafficked back lane, were also ideal vantage points to ambush members of rival 'gangs' (though the term gang, then, had none of the modern connotations) and to pelt these 'intruders' with the abundance of purple-staining ammunition that was close to hand.

Before I graduated to a two-wheeler bike, my pride and joy was a red, Cyclops scooter (I still have it....). In hilly Mt Lawley it was a great mode of transport and exhilarating to go pelting down hills flashing past front gates, drive ways and even over roads, with a toe just caressing the brake pedal! But my exuberance almost cost me a serious injury as I scooted down Walcott Street, failed to slow at the lane that ran behind the Astor Theatre and catapulted head first into the side of a car. There were no such things as helmets in those days and my thick, young cranium dented the door of the T-model Ford.

Somehow, I remained conscious and began bawling, while the concerned car driver -- a wonderful neighbour of ours, Bob Maiss -- tried to placate me. In retrospect, the car suffered more damage than either I or my scooter. Graduating to a two-wheeler bike was no less dangerous for me. Most of my mates -- eg Wayne McK and other mates had bikes long before I did. I used to cadge rides on their bikes when ever I could. On one occasion I remember falling (or jumping) off Wayne's little 14-inch bike at the top of Storthes Street, which was a steep road running down beside the Mt Lawley Tennis and Croquet Club. The bike continued on its own down the street, gathering speed --and pursued by Wayne and me -- crossed Queens Crescent and Rookwood Street (which was all the more remarkable given that there's a 'kink' in Storthes Street at that point) and slammed into the front fence of McKinnell's home.

When I finally got my own bike -- built by my Dad and Uncle Keith from bits salvaged from a fixed-wheel Greyhound -- its 'christening' on Christmas Day 1952 was less than auspicious. For that Christmas I also had received a pair of Hopalong Cassidy 'pearl-handled' six-shooters, complete with black leather holsters. To emulate my cowboy, matinee idol I rode my new (second-hand) 'steed' down Field Street with both guns drawn and found that riding no-hands has hitherto unexpected perils. The front wheel hit the kerb and I flew over the handlebars, grimly holding onto my guns and, thus, landing face-first on the verge. I don't know whether my Dad was more upset at my cut lip and bleeding nose, or the fact that I had, on this maiden ride, severely buckled the front wheel of the Greyhound. Unfortunately, this lesson did not stop me riding no hands in future. In fact my improved skill of riding in this manner was to be of value later when I had a newspaper round in Wembley.

Barry Carroll, who lived behind us in Mt Lawley, discovered a World War II bomb shelter in the backyard of his block of flats. To we kids this proved a magnet -- a place of mystery that could be used to play out scenarios of wartime that we could never have experienced nor remembered in our young lives.

I remember it as a dark hole -- a few feet underground, lined with what appeared to be planks or old railway sleepers. It was full of cobwebs, which conjured up nightmares of giant spiders, and the sand that covered the shelter used to filter through the rusting tin and timber roof, but it was a place we just couldn't resist. I think the shelter was later filled in because of concerns that it might cave in.

*To be continued*

## Crossing the Line – early policing around Mount Lawley #16: Movers and Shakers (Part Three)

By Peter Conole, Police Historian.

The previous issue on Commissioner Frederick Hare (in office 1900-1912) focussed on his triumphs as a clever administrator and developer of law enforcement infrastructure in and around Perth and Fremantle. Hare was the man who presided over the move north and the centralising of policing administration in the Northbridge precinct from 1902 onwards. With the support of Sir John Forrest's successors Hare was able to squeeze enough money from treasury officials to build a number of new premises in the metro area and renovate others. He revealed himself as a deft planner and improver across the whole State during a 'boom decade' based on the Gold Rush and agriculture.



Governor Arthur Lawley,  
Baron Wenlock

One key to those achievements lay in his social standing - and ties of kinship with many leading families of WA as both a Colony and the State. He was a member of the Weld Club and a staunch layman of the Church of England, on friendly terms with the likes of the famous Archbishop Charles Riley of Perth. It was a suitable link as Hare's ancestors included bishops and deans or canons of major cathedrals back in Britain. Hare also moved in the same social circles as Governors Frederick Bedford (served from 1903) and Arthur Lawley, Baron Wenlock (from 1909, pictured here) and assisted them with organising events involving pomp and pageantry of the day, including the provision of police mounted escorts he led in person.

In a best of all possible worlds Commissioner Hare would have flourished and retired in glory at a time of his own choosing, perhaps to live in the already fashionable residential suburb of Mount Lawley, named after the wife of his governor-friend. It was not to be. Under circumstances beyond Hare's control his career came to an abrupt end and most of his latter years were spent in self-imposed exile. The reasons for his debacle seem to have been threefold: unfortunate clashes with people of influence; malicious and venomous hostility from self-styled 'progressives' among local press barons and like-minded politicians; resentment and hatred

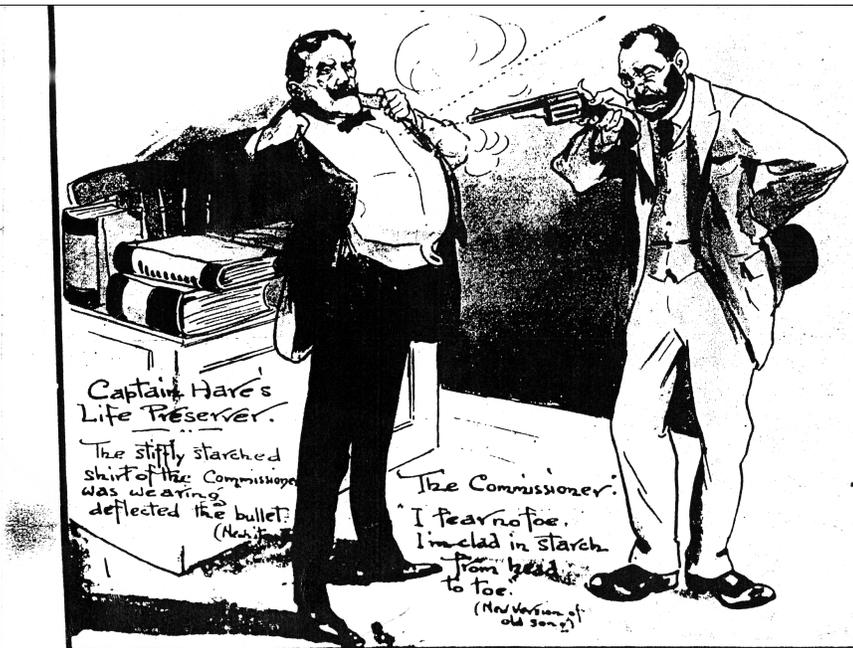
from some sections of organised labour.

The first serious signs of trouble came in 1905 when Hare became angry about what he considered to be unjust criticisms of the police in the published Roth Royal Commission Report. Hare went public, describing some folk who gave evidence as the "scum and riffraff of the north". Possibly true to some degree, but the State Government of the day was furious and suspended Hare from office for several days until he apologised. The *West Australian* expressed sympathy for him.

It is hard to tell how the editor would have reacted over the Lady Forrest incident of 1907, as it was kept under wraps. The Mill Point police station (in South Perth) consisted of premises rented from the Forrest family since 1898. The quarters were not in good condition and, despite some repairs agreed to by Lady Forrest in 1905, one of Hare's inspectors

still described them as "unfit for human habitation". Hare obtained agreement from Sir John Forrest for a new cottage to be built and it was occupied by the police in January 1906. Then in the following December the commissioner had to abandon the lease because of administrative changes. Lady Forrest was furious and insisted on being given six months paid notice...Hare had to agree and the issue simmered on until mid-1907, costing the police friends in high places as well as a little money.

By now the press lords were often downright hostile. On the evening of April 23, 1907 a former policeman named Frederick Tyler - mentally unbalanced, drunk and armed with a pistol - decided to try and kill the commissioner. The latter was working back late in his office on the first floor of the Beaufort Street Court building. Tyler made his way there, burst into Hare's office and opened fire.



Western Mail May 4, 1907 p23

CARTOONISTS

One bullet hit the commissioner in the shoulder, but the ammunition was defective and it bounced off his starched shirt, leaving only a severe bruise. Frederick Hare managed to force back his attacker and Tyler was arrested when help arrived. The deranged man got a ten-year stretch in prison for his pains. The 'progressive' editor of the *Western Mail* thought the incident worthy of satire and printed the attached cartoon two weeks later.

The year 1910 turned out to be a nightmare. One of his officers was prosecuted for assault at Collie and the editor of the *Sunday Times* had a field day dragging him through the mud and attacking Commissioner Hare into the bargain, describing him as that *"high and mighty quintessence of vanity, insolence and ignorance..."*. The policeman was acquitted and the editor apologised, but the anti-Hare game restarted scarcely a month later, with the *West Australian* leading the pack.

In August 1910 employees of the Perth Tramway Company went on strike over pay and working conditions and the city centre was thrown into chaos. Brawling broke out between different groups of workers and a terrorist threat completed the picture, although an exploding detonator hurt nobody and a bomb threat turned out to be a hoax. But some politicians were inciting the mob to open violence, so Hare sent the mounted police to restore order. A couple of 'progressive' politicians were later arrested by warrant and fined. From the safe haven of Parliament House one of them abused and threatened the commissioner, crying *"he is such an absolute idiot, I hope he will be put out of his position soon"*. A warning had been issued, a vendetta had begun.

Frederick Hare had a last moment of glory in 1911 when he was among the first men in Australia to receive the King's Police Medal for his distinguished services as an administrator. In October of that year John Scaddan became Premier of WA. In February 1912 his government organised and carried out a political purge of the public sector. Nine senior officials were removed because they were linked to the old elite or seen as unsympathetic to 'progressive' ideas. Commissioner Frederick Hare was among the victims. Some sections of the press were unimpressed and even the radical editor of the *Sunday Times* decided to fight for his old enemy Hare, proclaiming that *"his removal smells of politics"*. Furthermore the editor detected broad hostility to the action, claiming the public *"regard the removal of the Commissioner as an exhibition of political spite"*.

Such complaints made no difference and Frederick Hare was forced into premature retirement. In 1913 a Select Committee of the Legislative Council examined the circumstances of his downfall. The Committee's report concluded that Hare's removal had not been in the public interest, as he had been a capable and far-sighted commissioner. The findings no doubt gave their subject some satisfaction, but developments in public life beyond his control had ruined him and other deserving men. His son Lieutenant Maurice Hare (5th Pioneer Battalion) served Australia with distinction in World War I. After the war the former commissioner did not remain in WA for very long. Frederick Hare moved to Tasmania and died there in April 1932.

EXTENSION START	EXTENSION FINISH	NUMBER OF LINES	DATE COMPLETED	<b>HISTORY OF TRAMS AND MOUNT LAWLEY</b>  <b>Beaufort Street Line</b>  <b>Tram No 17 – to Salisbury street</b>  <b>Tram No 18 – to Grand-Promenade</b>
Esplanade	Bulwer Street	Double	2 October 1900	
Bulwer Street	Walcott street	Single	2 October 1900	
Barrack Street Jetty	Esplanade	Single	June 1905	
Bulwer Street	Walcott Street	Double	May 1913	
Walcott Street	Second Avenue	Single	11 September 1916	
Riverside Drive	Esplanade	Double	March 1921	
Second Avenue	Seventh Avenue	Single	17 August 1923	
Seventh Avenue	Dundas Road	Single	25 August 1929	
Walcott Street	Fourth Avenue	Double	February 1930	
Dundas Road	Salisbury Street	Single	19 February 1933	
Fourth Avenue	Normanby road	Double	March 1933	
Salisbury Street	Grand Promenade	Single	8 March 1943	
Normanby Road	Salisbury Street	Double	8 March 1943	
Closure	Closure		19 July 1958	

**Continued: Western Australia's Founder and first Governor Stirling . Hollow words – your help is needed!  
By Researcher Sid Breeden**

Unwanted sad news - the solely WA focused memorial of Western Australia's Founder and first Governor again seems destined for the scrap heap, allowed to be forgotten by our State Government and National Heritage alike. My appeal at the end of this article seeks your assistance with one last shot at resurrecting what all agreed is a worthy project.

After initial very encouraging support from our State Government, including their funding commitment and progressing the proposed memorial replacement to the design stage (see sketch) they have done an 11<sup>th</sup> hour back flip! Why? In February 2012, their London office succumbed to what I consider questionable intervention by a distant descendent. Effectively our state government placed Western Australia's heritage and sole initiatives below a belated sudden interest and different agenda of one very distant descendent. Galling is before 1977, descendents had no knowledge or interest in James and Ellen Stirling's burial site until invited after Perth's Channel Nine John Izzard found the smashed grave-stone under a pile of rubble about to be taken to the rubbish dump. Conspicuously, no one even knew Stirling's unknown grave, with others, had been legally removed and officially no longer existed, under authorisation of a Buckingham Palace *Order in Council* dated December 1974. While some may consider it of small significance, remember from an earlier article, all James Stirling descendents are via female lineage thus his lineage Stirling name does not survive.

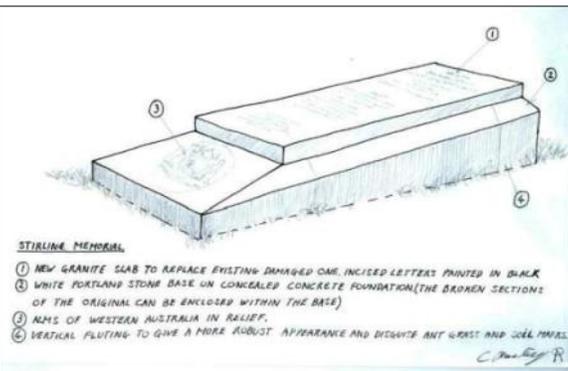
Approaches to NTA (WA) on 18th September 2012 resulted in confident support of a successful outcome for WA but ended in another backflip!

A glimmer of hope occurred late February 2103 when UK Secretary for Defence Philip Hammond during his visit to Perth took up our Premier's challenge to look into the "Stirling grave" issue. My subsequent direct contact to Philip Hammond resulted in another dud. With all his resources, he didn't even try past old well churned basics! It would appear our Premier did not follow through either.

It seems no-one in Western Australian decision making circles passionately cares about perpetuating due reverence to our Founder and first Governor – the man whose endeavours and persistence gave us the system of government and administration they enjoy today!

These very same people sit back allowing a far distant relative, with no real claim to a smashed grave stone on its way to the rubbish dump, to ride on the back of solely Western Australian initiatives and want this site to now commemorate James Stirling's other worldwide exploits.

Unambiguously since 1977, Stirling's memorial stone in Guildford England has been solely WA inspired and focused. Notably, retired ex St John's Stoke Reverend John Skinner, who in 1978 proposed the stone be used as a memorial and the new church centre named *The Stirling Centre*, in recent correspondence to me, considers the memorial was developed in sole recognition of Stirling's Western Australian connection with his church, and belongs to the people of Western Australia.



There is one possible hope – every person and group interested in our WA heritage write to the Premier expressing a strong desire that our State Government retakes the initiative to rebuild the memorial in the sole interests of Western Australia, as was the original concept proposed in 1978 through to early 2012.

Otherwise, the opportunity developed in 2010 will fall by the wayside and our Founder and first Governor's resting place sole connection to Western Australia will be lost forever. That would be a shameful indictment on us all.

I've pushed the project as far as I can and hope you will all help with one last ditch effort for a replacement memorial to continue as solely WA focused and with due dignity, perpetually commemorate the singularly most important person to our Western Australian Heritage. Over to you.

Next article will cover some information on the grave of another person important to Western Australia, Admiral Sir Charles Howe Fremantle plus another lost grave - Captain Matthew Flinders.

## HERITAGE by Barrie Baker

### THE HAWKINS FAMILY AND MOUNT LAWLEY

James Hawkins = Elizabeth de Bearne  
(1843-1927)                      ↓                      (1842-1927)

John Bearne Hawkins (Snr) = Ada Margaret Donnelly  
(1872-1950)                      ↓                      (1878-1951)

10 Children

- 1 Alexina Elizabeth Hawkins MBE  
(1902-1991)
- 2 Hettie Dorothy Hawkins = Carl Reginald Westlund  
(1903-1994)                      (1905-1983)
- 3 John Bearne Hawkins(Jnr) = Mavis Ethel Clarke  
(1905-1989)                      (1911-1986)
- 4 Ada Lillian Hawkins = Sir Barton Pope  
(1906-1991)                      (1905-1983)
- 5 Neil Campbell Hawkins CBE = Thelma Jean Hill  
(1908-1987)                      (1908-1982)
- 6 Ronald James Hawkins = Kathleen Anne Hickey  
(1910-1976)                      (1912-1987)
- 7 Ethelwyn Louise Hawkins  
(1912-2012)
- 8 Katharine Doreen Hawkins  
(1916-1991)
- 9 Robert Donnelly Hawkins = Norma Frances Wallace  
(1918-1985)                      (1921-1982)
- 10 James William Hawkins = Lila Ethel Richards  
(1920-1983)                      (1923-1998)

#### The children of John and Ada

**Alexina Elizabeth Hawkins MBE, QAIMNSR** (Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve) (25 /03/1902 – 21/05/1991), was the eldest daughter of John Hawkins Senior. She attended the Methodist Ladies College, firstly helping her mother at home with the younger children until qualifying as a registered nurse at royal Perth hospital in the 1930s. She left for England in 1936 on a working holiday. She was called up by the Port of London Authority to serve on an ambulance ship on the Thames in 1939. Joining the QAIMNRS she served with distinction in Iraq, Ceylon and India. At the end of WWII she was sent to Singapore to serve on ships returning Prisoners of War to Australia and India. She was awarded an MBE .She returned to Australia in 1946.

Specialising in child care she was appointed Matron of 'Morrison', caring for infants whose mothers were undergoing tuberculosis treatment at the Chest Hospital. On retirement she worked voluntarily for the Tuberculosis Association



*Alexina, taken c 1946*

In 1952 she and her sisters Ethelwyn and Katharine joined her in a Hawkins built home at 73 Armadale Crescent, Coolbinia. In 1963 they moved to another Hawkins built home at 159 The Boulevard, Floreat Park. In 1975 she and they moved to Pearson retirement Village at 25 Pinaster Street, Menora .

**Hettie Dorothy Hawkins** (11/06/1903 – 16/08/1994) was the second child of John Hawkins Senior. After education at the Methodist Ladies College she worked in the office of the family building company until marriage to engineer Carl Reginald Westlund (?/?/1905 – 08/06/1983) in 1934.

*Hettie and Carl Westlund,  
taken about 1975*



They lived at 399 Walcott Street in the house built by her brother John until after WWII when they moved to Melbourne. After Carl retired they moved to Mandurah. They had no children.



**73 Armadale Crescent, Coolbinia**



**399 Walcott Street, North Perth**



**John Hawkins (Jnr), c 1940**

**John Bearne Hawkins Junior** (24/04/1905 – 01/08/1989) was born

Perth, the third child and eldest son of John Hawkins Senior. He was educated at Maylands Primary School and Guildford Grammar School. He travelled to Europe to gain experience in all aspects of the building industry and on return was appointed Chief Supervisor. He took over the family business in 1939 which grew to be one of the leading building companies in Western Australia.

Among the buildings his company built were:

Innovative MLC Building, 171 St George's Terrace (1957)

New T&G Building, 37 St George's Terrace (1960)

Council House (1962)

Commonwealth Bank Building, 50 St George's Terrace

High Schools at Collie (1958) and Narrogin (1955)

Power Stations at Muja (1966) and Bunbury (1957).

He was the first builder to operate on Cocos Island.

He wound the family firm up on his retirement in the late 1970s.

He held many public offices including:

President (1945 -6 and in 1957) of the Master Builders Association of WA, and Life Member.

President of the Master Builders Association of Australia

President of the Institution of Builders of WA

Member and Chairman of the State housing Commission

Member of the Metropolitan Market trust

Trustee of the Forrest Park and Wesley Churches

Deputy Chairman of Good Samaritan Industries

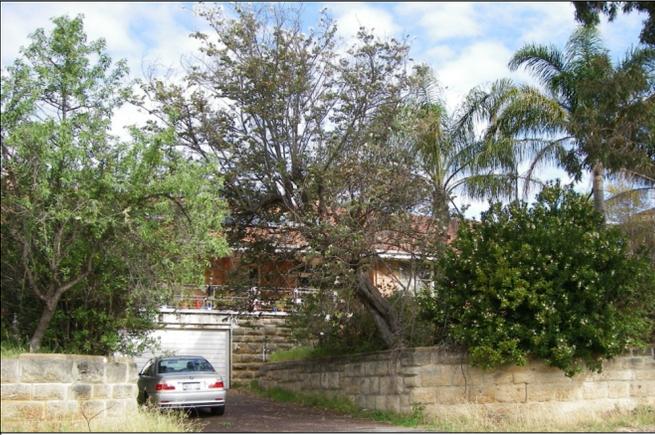
Council Member of the Methodist Ladies College, Wesley College and Children's Homes



**397 Walcott Street, North Perth**

In 1935 he built 397 Walcott Street, Kyilla where he lived until 1945, He also build 399 Walcott street for his sister, Hettie, also in 1935.in 1945, he divided 'Highweek' into two and moved to live there in one half with Mavis and daughter Gail, whilst his father lived in the other.

**71 Armadale Crescent, Coolbinia**



In 1952 he built and lived in 71 Armadale Crescent, Coolbinia. In the same year he built 73 Armadale Crescent for his three unmarried sisters (Alexina, Ethelwyn and Katharine). In 1963, he built and lived at 157 The Boulevard, Floreat Park, again building a house for the three unmarried sisters next door at No 159. After 21 years there, he and Mavis moved to Rowethorpe until they died.



***Mavis Hawkins, about 1940***

In 1934 he married Mavis Ethel Clarke (26/04/1911- 23/11/1986), daughter of Frederick Edward Clarke of 137 Grosvenor Road, Mount Lawley, and his wife Leah (nee Mitchell). Frederick was a clerk in the WA Treasury Department assigned to State Batteries .

John and Mavis had one child Gail Margaret (26/01/1938 - ).



***John Hawkins (Jnr) and Mavis Hawkins, about 1985***

The other children of John and Adam will be continued in the next newsletter

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS**

- Jarrad and Kellee Zen
- Justin and Angela Hale
- Jane and Afton Galbraith
- Val Marsden
- Stephen and Carol MacDonald
- Angelique Both

**2012 Garden Competition. Winner for Inglewood . Mick and Lisa of 174 Tenth Ave Inglewood**



*As it was before Mick and Lisa planted the garden*



This photo and the one below were taken in November 2012, missing out on the best of the blooms .



Mick sent the editor photos of the garden in full bloom . What a wonderful garden!  
This house is now being sold . Lets hope the person who buys it appreciates the garden and continues to care for it and enjoy it as Mick and Lisa have.





**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 2 continued to 1930.**

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

Following the end of World War I, as the Australian economy improved, output from the factory at the Institute increased, leading to the need for further extensions to the place. The new buildings, together with the necessary fittings and plant, were completed at a total cost of £2,741. The 1936 Sewerage plan indicates the works carried out included the construction of the third of the brick buildings to Sixth Ave.

In March 1921, it was anticipated that the new factory accommodation and new plant would enable an increase in output. On 1 August 1921, at Perth Town Hall, the Governor, Sir Francis Newdegate, launched a State wide fund raising appeal for the Blind, which was run in conjunction with the Braille and Advancement Society. By March 1922, almost £9,000 had been banked. It was anticipated that the net result would be around £10,000 including assistance promised by the W.A. Trotting Association and the W.A. Turf Club (both of which have been long term supporters for the Institute), and other returns. State wide appeals such as this have played a significant part in enabling the Institute to fulfil its role.

In the early 1920s, it was emphasised that admission to the Institute was not selective, and any person certified as being without sufficient sight to earn a living outside would be admitted and employed there, unless they were too frail, when care would be provided for them. As there were no extensive social services to assist people in need, this provision was significant, especially after World War I (and World War II) when numerous Australian servicemen lost their sight, and during the Great Depression. The Institute was justifiably proud that, due to the care it provided, there were no blind beggars in Western Australia, in contrast with other Australian States and overseas countries.

In the post-World War I period, as the number of blind children generally in Western Australia decreased, the number of children at the Institute fell from 17 in 1917, to seven in 1922-23, and to five in 1926-27. In 1922-23, chair caning commenced, and the younger girls were especially employed in this work. In September 1923, basket-making and manufacture of sea-grass furniture commenced.

In 1922-25, with support from public figures, including Dame Nellie Melba, who had assisted previously, and Prime Minister W. M. 'Billy' Hughes, £10,000 was raised in conjunction with the Braille and Advancement Society. The fund raising tours by the concertina band from the Institute proved popular. The so-called 'Wheat Appeal', in which individuals and local businesses donated various goods, also operated to raise funds for the Institute in 1925.

In 1925-26, production of brush-ware at the Institute's factory declined due to competition from machine-made goods, whilst production of sea-grass furniture increased, but conditions were cramped.

In March 1927, it was reported that the Institute had purchased the old Pay Office in Francis Street from the Commonwealth Government and a contract had been let for its re-location to the Maylands site at a cost of £1000. It was utilised for hair curling and teasing, so more space could be allocated for wickerwork.

In 1928-29, additions to the mat and matting factory were completed, and a dining and sitting room for women workers was established at the factory, at a total cost of £1,000.

In September 1929, three blind beggars were active in Perth, one of whom claimed he gained more money from begging than if he were at the Institute. It was asserted that they originated from Tasmania, South Australia and the United States of America. Their presence in the city provoked a public outcry, as voices from all quarters noted that the Institute was available to them, and there was no valid excuse for such begging.

In 1930, utilising machines donated by Fremantle Gaol, automation was introduced to the mat workshop at the Institute. The mat shop continued in operation until 1989, when it was closed because it could no longer compete with cheap imported products.

In 1929-31, the Great Depression resulted in a decline in subscriptions to the Institute. In March 1931, it was reported that there were insufficient funds to pay weekly wages of £220, and re-organisation was necessary to ensure workers were paid. As in numerous other businesses in this difficult period, this meant reduced working hours. In what was known as a reduced week scheme, hours for the Institute's factory workers were cut to Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for single workers, and an extra working day for married men on Thursday.

In 1932, the place was re-named The West Australian Institute and Industrial School for the Blind.

In March 1936, it was reported that as working conditions at the factory were severely cramped and some blind workers had been refused employment due to the lack of space. Pledges from the Government, Lotteries Commission and other sources resulted in "the biggest building advance by the Institute since its inception 40 years ago" to proceed.

From March 1936 to April 1957, the brush shop staffed by 'girls' operated at the first floor of the Sixth Avenue buildings. When transferring to the new shop on 4 April 1957, the remaining 'girls' left a written record of this usage, mounted and framed, and hung on the wall, where it remains in 2007.

In February 1937, A. E. Clare, Principal Architect of the Public Works Department (PWD) signed the plans prepared for the extensive alterations and additions to the Institute. The plans (drawn in October 1936) show the proposed works required removal of the old furniture store at the rear of the existing mat workshops. The links between the three existing brick buildings to Sixth Avenue were to have roofs removed from the second and third buildings, whilst the roof of the first (being that nearest to Railway Terrace) was to be retained, being higher and on line with the new building. The verandah and women's lavatories between the second and third of the existing buildings was to be demolished and the office in the existing buildings was to be removed. Generally, windows and doors were to be removed and built up, with the windows to Sixth Avenue to be replaced with steel frame windows, to match windows in the additions. The alterations to the existing brick factory buildings would provide accommodation for wood-working, light brushes and heavy brushes, and a bulk store at the ground floor, and separate shops for roll matting, binding and finishing, and mats at the first floor. The adjoining additions provided for a two storey building, 136 ft. x 140 ft., fronting Railway Terrace (present day Whatley Crescent), comprising a show room, office suite and large general and furniture stores at the ground floor, with cane, wicker, paint, upholstery and fitting shops at the first floor. The existing timber and iron building was to be converted to accommodate large matting and cane stores. Alterations and additions were also to be made to the buildings which accommodated cleaning, sorting and teasing of hair. A number of drawings were prepared by Stanley Buckingham Cann, who became an influential architect in the PWD and its principal architect between 1968 and 1980. In March 1937, there were 76 workers at the Institute, with 20 others awaiting admission.

*To be continued*

## MLS Committee 2013

**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 7.30pm.

All members are welcome to attend.