

MUNDARING PROBUS BULLETIN

No. 486



August 2026

GUEST SPEAKER



Our speaker last month was Jeff Murray from the Mundaring and Hills Historical Society regarding the importance of keeping accurate records on the history of our area.

Supporting his interests in local history, Jeff has spent time mapping pastoral stations and was instrumental in the reimagining of the Perth Lost Wetlands Project.

More recently, Jeff is committing time and effort to Aboriginal cultural mapping the Shire of Mundaring. He is developing a record of Aboriginal sites that include ceremonial grounds, artwork, and artifacts.

In the Perth Hills, we are fortunate to still have evidence of days gone by – ie railways (gone but still there), vineyards and orchards (fortunately still there) and, of course, our famous Mundaring Weir, even though it's unlikely to overflow again! All water above the dam is captured through the Helena River catchment into the Mundaring Weir. A grant has just been received to contract a conservation plan that will identify what renovations are required at the No. 1 Pumping Station. During the construction of the Weir a settlement existed nearby that housed many families, shops and a school. It also had a railway station at Portagabra but this was closed down and eventually rail was re-routed to Chidlow from where Mundaring townsite is now.

Jeff is a devoted Cartographer who uses his skills to research, field identify and record Aboriginal sites. He explained that the sites he locates can only be included in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register as 'recorded' sites. To have sites 'registered' requires confirmation by an Aboriginal person or organisation. This is often difficult as locating informants with knowledge to confirm sites can be challenging.

Aboriginal Cultural Mapping consists of a process of collecting, recording, analysing and displaying information in order to describe the culture and provide us with a fresh perspective. In the Shire of Mundaring alone, there are 50 registered and 65 recorded sites! In the proposed North Stoneville townsite development alone there are 14 registered sites!

Jeff provided several examples of Aboriginal sites in the Shire of Mundaring that included the John Forrest Scarred Tree in John Forrest National Park, the ceremonial ground at Bailup, the Helena Valley Stone Arrangements, and the rock carvings at Parkerville.



Jeff's enthusiasm to elaborate on Aboriginal Cultural Mapping in the Mundaring Shire resulted in him going overtime, requiring a quick closing summary and perhaps an opportunity to return to complete the remainder of his talk.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2026

For our monthly meetings, we suggest you aim to arrive at 9.30/9.45am for a cuppa. Our actual meeting will start at 10.00am sharp.

Monday, 10th August

10.00am—Our Member, Selma Clay, will be talking about Wood Turning.

Saturday, 29th August

10.00am Morning Tea at The Hive, Darlington.



HOUSE OF HONEY MONDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER

A luncheon has been booked at the House of Honey in West Swan. Please add this event to your calendar. Further details will be sent out closer to the date.

Car pooling can be arranged by contacting Sue.

MORNING TEA ROSTER

Thank you to the following members who have offered to supply morning tea on the 10th August:

- Gay Ross
- Carol Warren
- Sharryn Turrell (savoury sandwiches)
- Lyn Allison
- Elaine Reynolds (sausage rolls)
- Pat Moxon (biscuits)



Please give your name to Elaine if you would like to supply something for morning tea in September.

MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

It is important for us to keep correct details of all members. If there have been any changes to your address, phone number/s, email address or emergency contact, please let me know.

Pat Moxon
Membership Officer

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO
WEAR YOUR BADGE TO ALL
MEETINGS AND OUTINGS.**



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