

MUNDARING PROBUS BULLETIN

No. 484



June 2026

MUNDARING'S HIDDEN SECRETS

Our speaker on Monday May 11th was Tracy Willet, who is the curator of our local museum housed in one of the classrooms of the old Mundaring Primary School. This is situated on the same site as our Visitor's Centre near the northern side of the Great Eastern Highway. It is open to visitors 9.30 – 4pm, Monday-Saturday.

Nearby, off Jacoby Street, is the restored Station Master's house where the Mundaring and Hills Historical Society is based. This building is open to the public from 9.30 – 4.30pm Monday-Saturday and where Tracy and Jeff Murray, Office Manager of the Society, have their offices.

Tracy retired 25 years ago from working with the City of Stirling, and took up Museum Studies at ECU. She now lives in Chidlow with her family on an acreage and is so happy living in the Hills as she was brought up in the country.

Such is the importance of retaining this area's unique history that Mundaring Shire now employs Tracy and Jeff for two days per week to look after all the donated artefacts and photos from the last 70 years. She also welcomes the many visitors from all over the world, enquiring relocations of old photos of buildings, railway stations, where their ancestors lived and worked etc. Tracy even researched her own family history and found to her surprise her own great grandparents actually lived locally! All artefacts and books donated to the museum are photographed and digitised and items labelled.

Tracy emphasised how important it is that we lodge in writing all our local knowledge of our ancestors who lived in this area, so that in the future, the next generation can access them. All artefacts and books donated to the museum are photographed and digitised to preserve them for future generations.

Some of the current historical projects being researched are that of Chidlow Tavern. The Mahogany Inn and the Sawyers Valley Hotel, finding out when and why these buildings were built and by whom. Many convicts from the UK after being freed, worked in the area as wood choppers, using pit saws to produce planks for building houses, sheds and shops etc and producing charcoal for using as a fuel used by blacksmiths.

Each year several groups of school children from local primary schools come to experience a day at school a hundred years ago. At the end of the day they are asked to identify items – a favourite one being a chamber pot! (they have no idea of its use! Haha!).

Thank you, Tracy, for your inspiring enthusiastic presentation and for reading some of the stories written by the residents of the area during the last 70 years or so.

At our next meeting on July 13th, Jeff Murray will talk to us about how the development of the local railway lines in the area years ago helped establish the current community in the area. If there hadn't been railways, would Mundaring Shire ever have become such a great place to live today?

We are all looking forward to Jeff's presentation. Maybe we could organise small group visits to these buildings prior to having lunch at one of our great Mundaring cafés?

Helen White

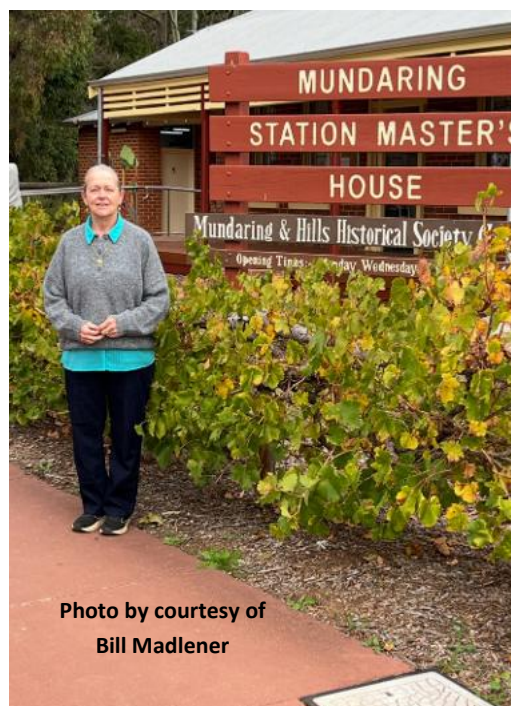


Photo by courtesy of
Bill Madlener

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Apologies for missing the meeting on the 11th May.

I'm assured by other members that Tracy Willet's talk was very interesting. Her knowledge of local history is quite expansive. As curator of the Mundaring Museum exhibits at the Visitor's Centre, Tracy gathers and selects items for the exhibits. I'm sure you learned that from her talk.

Maybe we could have a "Bring an Item" display at another meeting for Tracy to examine.

Later in that week, Pat, Gay, Peter and I represented the Club at the Governor's Morning Tea. This was to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Probus in Australia. We met and mingled with fellow Probians and enjoyed some tasty finger foods.

While waiting for our return transport, I took the opportunity to photograph one of my heroines, Edith Cowan.



Robyn Cain



PROBUS AUSTRALIA TURNS 50!

"Probus Australia was formed in 1976, which means this year, Probus celebrates 50 years in Australia. Our Club will celebrate in Probus Week in October with something a little bit different.

Vale Eileen Elton

We were saddened to hear of the recent passing of Eileen. She was a long time member of our club and wife of Nick Elton, our Life Member. Our sympathies to Nick and his family.

URGENT REQUEST

We are asking for a volunteer to be Publicity Officer. This involves writing articles for The Darlington Review and similar publications.

We also need someone to write the front page of the Bulletin each month, giving a run-down of our speaker.

If you would like to take on these roles, please contact Pat - 0410 651 271.

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.

Saturday, 30th May

10.00am Morning Tea at The Hive, Darlington.

Monday, 8th June

Our 42nd Birthday Celebration at Chidlow Tavern, in lieu of meeting.

Saturday, 27th June

10.00am Morning Tea at The Hive, Darlington.

Monday, 13th July

10.00am Speaker Jeff Murray, giving an insight into the local railways in our area in days gone by.

Saturday, 31st July

10.00am Morning Tea at The Hive, Darlington.

Monday, 8th June

Our Club's 42nd Birthday Lunch

CHIDLOW TAVERN



There will be a great selection of Raffle prizes to be won.

Everyone present will be given a FREE raffle ticket

MORNING TEA ROSTER

Volunteers are needed to supply morning tea on the 13th July.

Please give your name to
Elaine - 0419 936 740



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.**



2026 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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