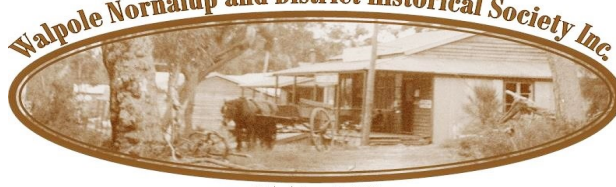


THE WALPOLIAN

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF WALPOLE NORNALUP AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

ISSUE 51

Walpole Nornalup and District Historical Society Inc



Walpole townsite 1939

Summer 2023

Welcome to the Elizabeth Gerner Walpole Library!

On December 14, 2023, the Walpole community celebrated the renaming of their Library to the “Elizabeth Gerner Walpole Library.” This event honoured Elizabeth Gerner’s significant contribution to the town, especially her dedication as a Librarian. Attendees included Elizabeth’s family - her husband Thomas and their children, Edward and Anna, who travelled to Walpole specifically to participate in this significant moment. The ceremony showcased historical elements from Elizabeth’s time as a Librarian, such as an old catalogue drawer she used, providing tangible links to her lasting legacy.

The remaining ceremony was marked by a series of speeches, highlighting Elizabeth’s contributions and the community’s respect for her work.

Notable speakers included the new President of Manjimup Shire, Donelle Buegge; Jenny Willcox, who paid homage to Elizabeth’s legacy in the community; Thomas Gerner’s moving speech resonated with the attendees, underscoring the honour bestowed upon the family and the memory of Elizabeth.

The event was meticulously prepared by current Library staff Tash Viner, Helen Webster and Margot Pierce, who ensured the Library and Supper Room were adorned appropriately for the occasion. They brought in historical elements such as old signage and photographs, adding a personal and historical touch to the venue.

As the community celebrated Elizabeth’s legacy, the ceremony not only served as a dedication but also as a reminder of the critical role public spaces like libraries play in nurturing community ties and preserving collective memory.

The Elizabeth Gerner Walpole Library now represents local heritage, embodying the spirit of community and the value of stewardship.

Reprinted with permission of *Walpole Weekly*
Walpole Community Resource Centre - December 2023



Elizabeth Gerner



Photos by: Don Burton

Tingledale Centenary 1924 - 2024

Keep up to date with WNDHS - wndhs.org.au



Walpole Nornalup and District Historical Society Inc.



Walpole townsite 1939

Walpole Nornalup and District Historical Society Inc.
(Founded in March 1992)

“THE HOMESTEAD”

Postal Address: PO Box 1, Walpole WA 6398
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Website: wndhs.org.au
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COMMITTEE 2023

President: Elizabeth Shaw
Vice President: Delys Ravenhill
Secretary: Jennifer Willcox
Treasurer /
Membership: Harold Luxton

General Committee Members

Ivan Woodhams
Kim Mills

Curators

IT/Media: Harold Luxton
Photographs: Don Burton
Research: Dawn Martin
Acquisitions: Kaye Edmonds

Membership Fees

Membership Fees are due 1st January each year.

Payment one year only

Single - \$22.00
Double - \$27.50
Corporate - \$55.00

THE WALPOLIAN

The official publication of Walpole Nornalup and District Historical Society Inc., produced quarterly and distributed free to all financial members.

Printed: Summer - Autumn - Winter - Spring

**Annual General Meeting
Tingledale Hall**

**Valley of the Giants Road,
Tingledale, Western Australia
3rd December 2023**

President's Report

Guest Speaker - Harold Luxton

Tingledale Centenary 1924 - 2024

Official Launch - Tingledale Website

2023 has been a successful year for the Historical Society.

Tingledale Centenary 1924 - 2024

In 2024 Tingledale celebrates 100 years since the first Group 116 Settlers arrived. A celebration will be held at Tingledale Hall 1st, 2nd and 3rd June 2024 (Long weekend). More details to come in the New Year.

Walpole Volunteer Marine Rescue Group

In April 2023 WVMRG informed our community via the Walpole Weekly that their Rescue Vessel 'Harlequin' was being replaced after 15 years of service - and was requesting a name for the new boat - this was discussed at our April committee meeting and the Society put forward the name 'Swarbrick' in honour of the Swarbrick family. A letter from WVMRG dated 9th November 2023 was received informing the Society 'Swarbrick' was accepted and the new boat was officially named and blessed at - Thank a Volunteer Day - Blessing of the Fleet Saturday 2nd December 2023.

St John Ambulance Walpole-Nornalup Sub Centre

A mural was positioned on front of the St John building in Nockolds St, Walpole, by St John committee, acknowledging history of the centre and the people who volunteered to provide service to the isolated community of Walpole, Nornalup and districts. On request the Society was able to help with some local history for this project.

Walpole Library Change of Name

New name is Elizabeth Gerner Walpole Library. In recognition of a lifetime of dedicated community service a renaming celebration for Elizabeth Gerner Walpole Library will take place at the Library, 2 Pier St, Walpole. Thursday 14th December 2023 from 11.00am - 12.30pm. Elizabeth Gerner was a Foundation Member of the Historical Society and had a great interest in the history of the area. She was also a Life Member of the Walpole Nornalup and District Historical Society.

Italian Oven - c.1959 - 1960

David O'Brien of Hunter Road North Walpole mentioned to the Society about a bread oven located on his farm, he thought it had been built in 1940's. David invited the committee to view the bread oven. On research it is assumed the oven was built by an Italian family, Vito Marcello who owned the property 1959 - 1960.



Grass-tree regrowth after bushfire Manjimup Road
Photo: Don Burton - 14th March 2015

President's Report *cont'd*

Antique Lincoln Welder

Lincoln welder 150 Amp PTO (Power Take Off or Belt Driven) c.1950. Taken to Walpole Work Camp for clean up, tidy up, and restore some parts. Ready for display in future when required. Original trailer that the welder was on, no longer required by owner and can go to the tip.

Walpole-Nornalup Visitor Centre TV Display Unit

32" BLAUPUNKT TV - Purchased by the Historical Society from Walpole Post Office at discount price \$249. Replacement for TCL TV unit which was purchased by the Society with help of Op Shop funding in 2016 for the Walpole-Nornalup Visitor Centre local history displays.

Rail Trail - Denmark Historical Society

Denmark Historical Society informed the Society about their current project, a Rail Trail which extends from the Hay River to Nornalup. Heritage signs, including maps, photos and history notes will be placed along the trail at all heritage sites. Nornalup and Marks Siding included. Ross and Bev McGuinness visited committee at the 'Homestead' 18th November 2023 and explained the project. Very interesting!

Walpole Museum

Progress continues in regard to the Walpole Museum. Approval and some site plans were received from the Shire of Manjimup earlier in the year. First meeting arranged with Roger Menezes, Baysen Construction, Collie in Walpole 4th October 2023. It was an introduction with Roger and committee to discuss planning, view site, Shannon sheds etc. Roger has sent preliminary drawings for initial consideration 6th October 2023. Ongoing.

'Mandalay' Wreck Exposed August 2023

'Mandalay' - wreck exposed August 2023. Curator of Photographs, Don Burton viewed and took photos of the exposed wreck Thursday 31st August 2023. Word is 'Mandalay' was exposed Winter 2021, Historical Society not aware at that time. 'Mandalay' was wrecked 15th May 1911.

Acquisitions -

Varied items of historical interest continue to be donated to the Historical Society. Total 102 individual items received and listed - 2023.

Website Enquiries Received

Allen family history Walpole

Lisa Allen requested information ie. Rose Allen Haberdashery Shop, Walpole 1934 - 1950, information sent. Also, further Allen family history sent to Lisa Allen by relatives Delys and Trevor Ravenhill.

Sept Sweeney family history

Some information sent to Greg Branson, advised to contact Landgate WA for further information.

Frank Collins requesting history Walpole Catholic Church

Some information sent.

Liz Willemsen requesting Colin Story's 'Between the Trees'

European settlement of Walpole and surrounding districts.

Video sent.

Walpolian Newsletter

Four issues per year, Summer, Autumn, Winter, Spring. Sent to members also to Royal Western Australian Historical Society in Perth, State Library WA and Denmark Historical Society. We receive History West monthly from RWAHS and Koorabup quarterly from Denmark Historical Society. RWAHS Affiliates News - WNDHS is mentioned - March 2023 and November 2023.

Book Sales

Book sales over the past year have again been pleasing, including new book 'Towards the West River' by Lee and Geoff Fernie. We have had reprint of 'Rest Point Remembered' and 'Tracks in the Sand'. 'A Hazelvale History' by Dawn Martin can be ordered through the Society.

Library/Walpole-Nornalup Visitor Centre Displays

Library displays are ongoing: Society arranges displays of historical interest for our community and visitors to enjoy. Walpole Nornalup Visitor Centre display remains unchanged.

Homestead Inventory 2023

A requirement by Walpole Community Resource Centre - Inventory of 'Homestead' contents - 5th July 2023. Copy emailed to Cherie Smith, Walpole Community Resource Centre. Monday 10th July 2023.

Displays to Powerpoint

Displays to Powerpoint—Ongoing

WNDHS - Public Liability Insurance Requirement

Certificate of Insurance with Rainbow Coast Insurance Brokers, Albany. Renewal - 17th June 2023. Public Liability Insurance cover to 20th June 2024.

Fundraising

Our sincere thanks again to Helen and Ian Gallash who generously provide popular homemade preserves, Jams, Pickles, and Chutneys, on sale at Walpole Community Resource Centre.

We thank Walpole Community Resource Centre for their continued assistance with sales.

WNDHS has a Donation Box in the Walpole Nornalup Visitor Centre and cash donations are always welcome.

Bill Armstrong

It is with sadness that Bill Armstrong passed away 26th November 2023. Bill's family were early settlers of Walpole and Bill had great knowledge of the history of the area. Bill was a past member of the Historical Society.

Valued Members

I would like to thank our valued members for their ongoing support. As mentioned at the beginning of my report it has been a successful year for the Society.

WNDHS Committee

My sincere thanks go to our dedicated committee, for their commitment, time and excellent work over the past year, 2023.

Elizabeth Shaw

President

Walpole Nornalup and District Historical Society Inc.

Sunday 3rd December 2023



SWARBRICK

The Walpole Volunteer Marine Rescue Service invited the community to suggest a name for its' new Marine Rescue Vessel. The Service chose "*Swarbrick*" suggested by the Walpole Nornalup and District Historical Society Inc because:

- **Historic Significance**
Thomas Swarbrick was born in Albany in 1888 and in 1913 married Nell Emerson. In 1926-27 they set up a guest house "Rendezvous" which later became "Rest Point": to this day a popular recreational centre for tourists and boaties visiting Walpole.
- **Link with Protection**
Just as the boat will rescue and protect lives, so too, the name "Swarbrick" is synonymous with local protection. Tom Swarbrick was appointed Honorary Ranger for the district in 1927: a job he held for 24 years until 1951.
- **Iconic Boat Builders**
"Swarbrick" is akin to Iconic Boat Building not only in Walpole where, in 1934, Swarbrick built the launch "Lady Walpole" enabling many visitors to voyage across the inlet. The Swarbrick family continued by building the first yacht to be sailed single-handed twice round the world (skipper Jon Sanders) and single-handed round the world by the two youngest skippers (David Dicks and Jessie Martin) as well as the America's Cup Yachts "Kookaburra" series.
- **Enduring**
Just as "Swarbrick" is perpetuated in history, the Society wishes Rescue Vessel "Swarbrick" a long and fulfilling life.

By: *Harold Luxton* - Photo: *WVMR*

TINGLEDALE CENTENARY 1924 - 2024
June long weekend 2024
More details to come