“Bassendean... celebrating community history.”

Janet Megarrity
Overview

- Introduction to Bassendean and district histories
- Local Studies Collection
- Management Committee and Volunteers
- Municipal Heritage Inventories (x3)
- Celebrating Community History - how to.
  - Annual History Lectures
  - Anzac Day Ceremony
  - Time Capsules and Milestones
  - Bassendean War Memorial online Tributes
  - Heritage Walk “Rails to River”
  - Streetscapes (Photographic Capture)
Swan River and Corner Surrey Street, Bassendean
Introduction to Bassendean

- Guildford founded as an English country town with market square, river for transport and access to agricultural areas of the Swan Valley.
- Bassendean was previously known as West Guildford until official name change in 1922.
- West Guildford Road Board formed in 1901 with leadership from Cyril Jackson as first Chairman.
Surveyor J.W. Gregory in 1841 recorded Bassendean as the name of 1455 acres for Mr P. Broun, who had his homestead on the West Bank of Swan River.

Peter Broun was W.A.'s first Colonial Secretary in 1832 and renamed Stoke Farm after a family property in Scotland, Bassendean in Berwickshire.

The homestead was built by Henty brothers in 1831 and it was demolished in 1946. It was known as the Bassendean Estate.
Members Of The West Guildford Road Board Inspecting The First Road Board Hall, 1913
May Holman 1893-1939
“Among the chosen : the life story of Pat Giles” by Lekkie Hopkins and Lynn Roarty, foreword by Joan Kirner and Cheryl Davenport.

Pat Giles was dedicated to improving the lives of the disadvantaged. As an ALP Senator in the Hawke and Keating governments, she entered Parliament, not as a raw recruit, but as an experienced trade unionist, policy maker, feminist campaigner and grassroots activist. This is the story of a woman whose determination never faltered, whose work ethic never faltered, the story of an activist working from within the established order to effect social change.

Pat lived in North Road, Bassendean.
Personalities

**Men**
- Peter Broun – first Colonial Secretary
- Cyril Jackson - first Director General of Education
- John Short - Commissioner of Western Australian Railways
- Rolf Harris

**Women**
- Margaret Hamersley-Pyrton, married John Forrest (Baron)
- May Holman, MLA
- Pat Giles (Australian Senator)
- May O’Brien (author)
- Daisy Bates (Success Hill)
A History of Bassendean by Alf Thomas (1947)

- Contracted historian from Royal Western Australian Historical Society by the Bassendean Road Board.
- Early history of the district including photographs and business information.
- No references to sources of information.
- Topics include:
  - Pioneers
  - The Road Board
  - BIC Reserve
  - Community Interests
  - Publicity Data (business information)

- Contracted historian and local resident.
- Utilised oral history interviews for social history.
- Contains index, origins of road names and list of office bearers.
Third history in progress

- Local Studies Collection content has been generated from community donations. There is a strong sense of local community identity.
- Local Government Review - Amalgamations with neighbouring local governments.
- Contracted historian currently researching 1970’s onwards.
Local Studies Collection
Local Studies Collection

A quiet place to study and research.
LSC Management Committee

- Unique management committee meeting 6 times a year with council reports.
- Membership of TOB Councillors and community members from the Bassendean Historical Society Inc.
- Volunteers in LSC
- Undertake clerical duties including indexing rates book. Provide local knowledge and contacts- invaluable!
Three MHI’s

- 1991- (Draft) Town of Bassendean Heritage Study by Naomi Lawrance and Tanya Suba
- 1996 MHI committee
- 2005 MHI committee
Comprehensive historical information and high number of buildings identified and photographed.

Architecture diverse and demolished and altered - in last twenty years.

Urban infill strategy rapid change in community. Changing community standards and values.

Valuable as an historical reference.
1991 MHI

- 1991 saw formation of the Bassendean Historical Society Inc.
- BHS Inc. responsibility for the former Pensioner Guard Cottage at 1 Surrey Street, Bassendean established in 1857.
- This was purchased by the TOB in 1988 and is listed on the national estate.
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1996 MHI Categories

- Single volume publication.
- Contains a summary of history of district from Bassendean: A Social History 1829-1979 by Jennie Carter.
- Contains limited written and illustrative information about historical sites in 5 categories.
- Undertaken by a committee.
2005 Municipal Inventory

- Two categories
- 23 entries in Category One - examples such as Cyril Jackson’s house Daylesford, Guildford Road Bridge, Two Storey Convent Building (Sisters of Mercy), Padbury’s Building, Bassendean Post Office (former), Bassendean Masonic Lodge, Bassendean Fire Station.

Category Two - many residential places.
Celebrating Community History

- Annual History Lectures
- Anzac Day Ceremony
- Time Capsules
- Bassendean War Memorial
- Heritage Walk “Rails to River”
- Streetscapes
Speakers and Subjects

2012- Dr John Paterson  
1970’s in Bassendean

2011- Paul Bridges  
Pensioner Guards in W.G.

2010- Janet Megarrity  
May Holman

2009- Rod Dickson  
Shipbuilding in Bassendean

2008- Carol Leigh  
Early Life in Bassendean

2004- Val Fitch  
Indentured Servants

2003- Eric McCrum, OAM  
Biodiversity and Biography

2002- Prof. Tom Stannage  
Growing up in Bassendean
Bassendean War Memorial
Opening West Guildford War Memorial 1920
Anzac Day March, Bassendean c1940’s.
Anzac Day, Bassendean c1940’s
THE CITIZENS OF BASSENGEAN are proud of your services to our Country and extend to you a hearty welcome on your return to civil life.

We trust the future holds for you all those better things for which the Empire stands, and for which you served the Country in her hour of need.
Private Ben Harold Bailey

- Member of the 11th Battalion, killed in action on 25th April 1915 at Anzac Cove, age 20.
- Ben Bailey was one of the first casualties of the war from the district.
- Attended West Guildford State School.
- Founding member of the Volunteer Fire Brigade.
Two time capsules undertaken by community and council.

- 1988 Australian Bicentennial
  Local commemoration at site of Pensioner Guard Cottage entrance.

- 2004 Time Capsule established for fifty years hence. (Photographs and microforms) Bassendean Memorial Library
Milestones
Heritage Walk “Rails to River”

- Used the MHI to identify and assess the value of places in district.
- Photographs over time in LSC
- Identified oral history interviews and information from other sources (newspapers, volunteers, local publications, community donations)
- Document and deliver in a variety of formats- paper brochure, podcast and website.
St Michael’s Primary School
Sisters of Mercy Convent

- Originally Sisters of Mercy convent, St Joseph’s Church was built and opened in 1914. Later renamed parish of St Michael’s.

- The original church was destroyed by fire in 2000. School extensions undertaken in 2011.
St Josephs

Brick Convent 1926
Streetscapes

- Based on concept “Daphne Street: the biography of an Australian community” by Bolton, G. C. Images and text, biographical information relevant to a street illustrating changes over time.
- Old Perth Road (10 year intervals)
- Surrey Street (volunteer researching)
- Devon Road (future project)
- AARB photographic capture of every residence and business in TOB
Perth Road
1925 and 1964
Celebrating Community History - Ideas

- Annual History Lectures
- Anzac Day and Remembrance Day Ceremonies
- Time Capsules
- Bassendean War Memorial online Tribute
- Heritage Walk “Rails to River”
- Streetscapes (Street Histories and Photographs)
Sources

- “Daphne Street: the Biography of an Australian Community” by Bolton, G. C.
- A Joy Forever: The Story of Kings Park and Botanic Gardens by Dr. Dorothy Erickson.
- A History of Bassendean by Alf Thomas
- Bassendean: A Social History 1829-1979 by Jennie Carter
- ABS Census 2011.
Thankyou.

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