

KWINANA HERITAGE GROUP

Preserving and Promoting Kwinana's Unique Heritage



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

About Us

The Kwinana Heritage Group is made up of passionate volunteers who have cared for the Smirk's Heritage Site for over 25 years.

The foundational purpose of the group is to preserve and promote awareness of Kwinana's Heritage.

Over time the group has managed other heritage sites, saved buildings from demolition, successfully secured a museum space and delivered activities in and around Kwinana.

The Kwinana Heritage Group members meet on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8.00am until 11.30am.

A variety of jobs are undertaken including gardening, repairs & maintenance, cleaning and rearranging displays, and preserving and recording the historical collection.

Visitors are welcome during this time and at our Open Days on the first Sunday of the month from 10.00am to 3.00pm.

Kwinana Heritage Group is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC).

Our Management Committee

The 2023-2024 Committee:

President:	Jo-Anne Trent
Vice President:	Greg Wilson
Secretary:	Jo-Anne Trent
Treasurer:	Mike Rice
Curator:	Diane Newton
Committee Members:	Christine Scambler John Wightman Vodek Keller

Non-committee roles:

Historian:	Kaylene Heard
Garden & Maintenance Coordinator:	Greg Wilson
Kitchen Co-ordinator:	Yvonne Richardson
Cleaning Co-ordinator:	Cheryl Wilson

Our Purpose

The purpose of Kwinana Heritage Group is to preserve and maintain the collection of heritage items and buildings at the Smirk's Heritage Site and to promote awareness of the heritage value of the site and artefacts to the local community, local and state education providers and other interested groups throughout Western Australia.

Smirk's Heritage Site is a collection of buildings and spaces which showcase the regions settlement history through to the development of Kwinana as a town.

The focus of the site is Smirk's Cottage, a heritage building surrounded by beautiful gardens, a museum, a settlement house, machinery shed, blacksmith shop and repair shed.

A local history collection is managed by the group on site.

Achieving Our Purpose

Our dedicated group of volunteers spend many hours maintaining the Smirks Heritage Site, its contents and artefacts and documenting the collection.

This involves:

Grounds and gardens: We keep our lawns and gardens in immaculate condition by mowing lawns, trimming trees, lawn edging, weeding, planting new shrubs, fertilising, reticulation maintenance.

Cottages, outbuildings, museum, alfresco areas: Regular cleaning of the cottages and other areas, ongoing maintenance of the buildings, workshops and tool sheds.

Museum and cottage contents: Preserving, cleaning and documenting all furniture, displays and artefacts within these buildings.

Promoting our heritage: We have an Open Day on the first Sunday of each month from 10am to 3pm where the public can enjoy the tranquillity of the site, view the cottages and displays in the Museum and throughout the site, and learn about Kwinana's history. We also encourage clubs, groups and schools to visit us and have had many local school visits, the Alzheimer's Group, the Umbrella Multicultural Community Care Services, support groups, and various clubs.

Volunteer Highlights



Vodek

In 2017 Vodek relocated to Kwinana to be closer to his daughters. Upon discovering Smirks Heritage Site he was captivated by its stunning gardens, tranquillity and the sense of family that emerged when he enquired about volunteering. Vodek contributes significantly to the gardening, maintenance and overall care of Smirks Heritage Site.

President's Report

Another year has passed, what a year it's been.

We had a successful year with learning, growth and community engagement, our dedication to continuous learning, as evidenced by our participation in workshops with the City of Kwinana and Inclusion Solutions, is commendable.

Our team of volunteers have been a crucial part of our success, and it's wonderful to see that their hard work is constantly recognized by the city.

The variety of events and activities we have participated in, from visiting the Azelia Ley Homestead and the Army Museum to hosting a wedding, demonstrates our commitment to community involvement and diverse experiences.

The development of our website and the donation of the train set by Brian McLaren are exciting additions that will surely enhance the visitor experience at our site.

Most importantly, our emphasis on self-care and ensuring that everyone takes the time they need to rest and rejuvenate is most important in the care of our volunteers.

We have made excellent progress and achievements over the past year. Learning from volunteers about cost-effective ways to care for large items like the tar-cart is a great example of collaborative learning. Our team of volunteers are dedicated and hardworking, and it's fantastic that their efforts were recognized by Denver from the City.

The variety of activities and events we have participated in, such as visiting the Azelia Ley Homestead, the Army Museum, the Rotary fair, Medina Hall for the auction, the Serpentine Tractor Museum, and Old Blythewood Homestead, shows our commitment to community engagement and continuous learning. We have engaged with various groups like Peter Carnley School Children, Little Rascals Childcare, Bethanie Clients, and the Kwinana Heritage Walk, hosted weddings, and even had a Paranormal Group hunt for ghosts, which added a diverse range of experiences by our heritage site.

Our team's hard work in maintaining the site, fixing the tool shed, and repaving the entry to reduce tripping hazards, demonstrated their dedication and commitment to creating a safe and welcoming environment.

My sincere gratitude towards the team as you are truly inspiring. It's clear that the teamwork has been instrumental in achieving the successes of the past year. Teamwork indeed gets jobs done and fosters a dynamic environment where constant transformation can occur.

Here's to another year of great teamwork and continued success at Smirks.

Jo-Anne Trent
President 2023-2024

Volunteer Highlights



Cheryl

Cheryl visits Smirks Heritage Site for its tranquility, lovely gardens and the family atmosphere it offers. She takes pleasure in dedicating her time to maintaining its cleanliness. Cheryl cherishes the connection to the past and appreciates the way people managed their daily tasks and life in the early days.

Curator's Report

We have had a very productive year improving the premises, thanks to everybody who contributed.

The group is continuing with the research and recording of the many items moved to the Tool and Engine Museum area during the year. Photographing, positioning and creating information display sheets for each engine is ongoing.

The Tool Museum area has new overhead lighting plus display lighting installed above our bottle collection. We are continuing to clean and move the rest of our bottles from the Smirk laundry.

Thanks to our working members for the months of hard, physical work to eliminate and prevent further damage from rust and water behind our Tool and Engine Museum. The soil that was removed has been used to create a new shaded picnic area for public use.

A large replica working historical tram rail line display has been installed in the alfresco area near the museum entrance. It was created and generously donated by our local resident Brian McLaren. Thank you Brian.

Thanks to Kwinana Senior Citizens Centre we have had multiple donations including display cupboards, tables and a desk. Greatly appreciated!

After months of organisation we had a successful auction in April to fundraise for protective shelters for the heritage agricultural machinery.

Thank you to the City of Kwinana for the use of the Medina hall and to Rotary Club of Kwinana for their assistance with morning tea.

Diane Newton
Curator

Volunteer Highlights



Alan

Alan seeks the tranquility of the place. He enjoys identifying problems and addressing them promptly. Volunteering brings him peace and he takes pleasure in applying his skills. He enjoys the company of the other volunteers, which enhances the experience.

Historian's Report

Accessions

Over one hundred items were accessioned in the year including both long-term and recent donations. The former were mainly tools and engines stored between two sheds/workshops and have now been combined in the same location to be known as the Tool & Engine Museum. Recent donations (examples below) have been diverse and have required identification and relevance to the different collections and the people of the Kwinana area.

Recent Donations

During the year we have received many donations that have added to the experience of visiting the Site and providing a visual history of the area.

One of the main items has been the diorama of the rail/tram-line built to clear the timber at the start of the Soldier/Group Settlement in the area. It is a close replica of the route with a working model train which catches the imagination of the public.



We have also received domestic and industrial items found and/or used in the local area.



Facebook

Each week photos and text are posted on our two Facebook pages (Kwinana Heritage & Kwinana Heritage Group) to keep people aware of what is happening on site and to advertise our Open Days and upcoming events. An attempt has been made to vary the entries to cater for the interests of the nearly 5,000 followers, and the extended reach of being able to post on other Facebook sites to over 100,000 viewers.

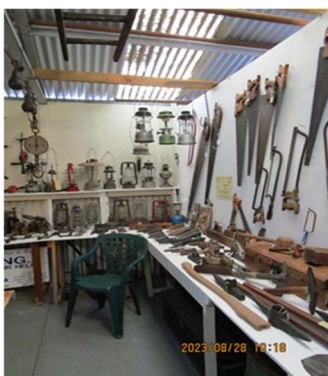
Heritage Research Visits

In August members visited the Azelia Ley Museum Homestead and Wagonhouse, Hamilton Hill and the Army Museum of WA Fremantle. In each case we observed features to use on site, talked to fellow volunteers, and shared the knowledge to those who were unable to attend.



Future & Existing Projects

The opening of the Tool & Engine Museum (T&E Museum) is the largest of the new projects. We hope to have it officially opened early in 2025. The Museum is an adjunct to the existing Kwinana Museum, the two existing Heritage-listed cottages, and the other displays.



The preservation of the existing collections is ongoing. We are also removing items no longer relevant to the premise of relevance to Kwinana and/or damaged beyond repair due to mould or exposure to the elements.

Kaylene Heard
Historian

Finance Report

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

July 1 2023 to June 30 2024

1. INTRODUCTION:

Our 2023-24 Annual Financial Reports were completed and presented to Peacock Accounting for Audit in early July so that the Audit would be available for the Annual General Meeting.

In the Auditor's opinion our statements reflected fairly the financial position of the Kwinana Heritage Group Inc. A copy of the Audit Report is on the notice board.

We ended the financial year positively with a profit of \$6,910, thanks mainly to the Auction fund-raiser and those who worked so hard to make it a success.

2. CITY OF KWINANA OPERATING SUBSIDY:

While there were some delays in receiving the Subsidy payments due to a new Services Funding Agreement replacing the old Management Agreement the full subsidy was received by the end of the financial year. Subsidy payments are now made 6-monthly rather than quarterly and are still subject to the Group achieving the required KPIs in the agreement.

3. ACCOUNT BALANCES:

The Kwinana Heritage Group Inc account balances at 30 June 2024 were:

Cash Management Account	21,811.08
Business Account (card)	680.08
Term deposit 157810425	5,323.29
Term deposit 158234419	16,135.76
Total balance:	<u>43,950.21</u>

4. PROFIT & LOSS:

Our Profit and Loss report for the year shows an income of \$19,918.78 and expenses of \$13,008.47, resulting in a profit of \$6,910.31.

Our main income was \$10,000 from the City of Kwinana's Operating Subsidy, \$5,500 from a very successful auction, \$1,817 in donations (up 24% from last year) and \$385 in memberships.

Our main expenses were \$3,300 for new alfresco blinds, \$1,452 for garden and general maintenance, \$1,379 insurance, \$1,468 internet & phone and \$645 for member catering.

Copies of all reports are available from the Treasurer if required.

5. UPCOMING:

The Group is currently seeking approval to construct a cover over the outdoor machinery. No quotes have been provided yet but if approved it will probably need to be paid for from our reserve funds.

I'm not aware of any other significant projects planned for the 2024-25 financial year. To assist with forward budgeting details of any such projects or proposed spending should be provided to the Treasurer.

6. SUMMARY:

Generally a successful year financially, mainly due to the auction fund-raiser, donations and well-managed spending. Any additional funding ideas could help us repeat that result this year.

We all need to keep a focus on the KPIs in the Services Funding Agreement so that we can receive the funding as soon as possible and not just at the end of each 6-month period.

Mike Rice
Treasurer

AUDIT REPORT KWINANA HERITAGE GROUP INCORPORATED

Scope

We have audited the financial statements, being a special purpose financial report for the year ended 30 June 2024.

The committee is responsible for the financial statements and it has determined that the accounting policies used are appropriate to meet the needs of the Associations Incorporations Act 2015 and the needs of the members.

We have conducted an independent audit of these financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to the members. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the needs of members.

The financial statements have been prepared for purpose of fulfilling the requirement of the Associations Incorporations Act 2015 and for funding bodies. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial statements to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Our procedures include examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respect, the financial statements are presented fairly and in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements. These policies do not require the application of all Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

AUDIT OPINION

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, the financial position of the KWINANA HERITAGE GROUP INCORPORATED as at 30 June 2024 and the results of its operations for the year then ended. Furthermore, in our opinion the Association has kept reasonable accounts and records of its transactions.

Yours sincerely,



Activities

We were kept busy during the year with Open Days on the first Sunday of each month, Committee meetings on the second Monday of each month, regular meetings with the City of Kwinana and the usual activities on our regular working days.

Many hours also went into planning for the very successful Auction in April.

Other activities included:

July	Filming on site for a Health Promotion Project
August	A trip to Azelia Ley and the Army Museum
October	Umbrella Multicultural Community Care visit to Smirks
November	Senior's Week lunch
February	Conservation Management Consultant visit
March	A wedding was held on site at Smirks
April	Alzheimer Group visit to Smirks Our Auction was held at Medina Hall
May	Peter Carnley School visit to Smirks Kwinana Heritage Walk – starting from Smirks

Forward planning

- One of our main projects being considered is to erect a cover over our farming machinery. The machinery is currently deteriorating due to being uncovered and out in the weather. Issues such as cost, feasibility, design and City participation are currently being investigated.
- Ongoing action to rectify the damp and mould issues in both Soldiers and Smirks cottages is a top priority. Dehumidifiers are helping reduce some of the damp but more work is required to seal both cottages from rainwater and water absorption through the walls.
- More storage cupboards for archiving files and documents and the protection of artefacts.

More of our Volunteers



John

Mike

Kaylene, Alan, Diane, Cheryl & Greg

Contact us

Find out more about us on our web site at <https://www.kwinanaheritagegroup.org.au/> or email us at hello@kwinanaheritagegroup.org.au

Site Address:

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday from 8am to 11.30am
2 Beacham Crescent
Medina WA 6167

Phone: 9548 7210

Postal Address:

PO Box 430
Kwinana WA 6966

Open Days:

First Sunday of
every month
10am to 3pm

2 Beacham
Crescent, Medina



Wander around our beautiful gardens, look through our heritage cottages and museum, and see all our machinery and tools on display.

