



Friends of  
Donnelly Village Inc

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR



Welcome Friends of Donnelly Village

to our Christmas Newsletter. We wish you all the very best for the Christmas and New Year Period and hope that you and all those you hold dear have a happy and safe festive season.



# DECEMBER 2016

**WEBSITE ...** We've been receiving some positive feedback on our website. If you haven't already done so why not hop onto the site and have a look around [www.friendsofdonnelly.org.au](http://www.friendsofdonnelly.org.au) Leave us a message of your experience on the site as this will allow us to keep updating with the things you would like to see, know and do. You can also visit us on Facebook and give us a 'Like'.

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS ...** Our circle of friends is slowly but steadily increasing. Thank you to everyone that has renewed their membership for another year and a warm welcome to these new members:

- Sue Hall
- Tim Muirhead & Anne Pickering
- Rob & Lee Wallis
- Professor Walter Bloom
- Julie Cresey
- Ed & Carol Valom
- Tim & Kathleen Larsen
- Jackie Perry (nee Morfitt)

We appreciate every one of you joining up. Having a healthy membership really does go a long way in convincing Local, State and Federal government that people really do care about our little village and the rich history it has. With an organised and timely approach FODV is committed to lobbying local authorities about issues that affect the Village and all the people that love it.

A membership form is now available on our new website [www.friendsofdonnelly.org.au](http://www.friendsofdonnelly.org.au) We have also included one with this newsletter for you to pass onto friends or complete yourself and send in for those who don't have any online capability. We are happy to receive membership forms any way you can get them to us.

## MUSEUM NEWS ...

A HUGE thank you to everyone who attended our meeting held at Donnelly on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>. Some very valuable input from members was put forward for planning the official Museum Opening.

The original date of **Sunday 2nd April** for the FODV museum opening has been re-scheduled. It is now scheduled for **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 17TH 2017**. Make a note in your diaries, it would be wonderful to have as many friends, past residents and workers make it along to see yet another moment in Donnelly's history in the making. More details will follow via the Newsletter and we'll keep you updated on our website.

If you are planning on visiting Donnelly for the weekend it would be prudent to book some accommodation as early as possible. If you are planning on a day trip then there will be plenty of refreshments, good cheer, friendly faces and places to sit and take in the special atmosphere of Donnelly Village.

There is much to do. So much in fact that we are looking for some volunteers to assist in the following areas:

**Administration** (mail outs), assistance to our Chair, Treasurer & Secretary – basically any time is a good time so if you have any free time up your sleeve then we would love to hear from you.

**Ushering/Information** on the day

**Manning FODV Membership Table**

**Catering** (setting up, food & beverage serving, manning a tea & coffee stand, manning the barbecue, cleaning up).

**Recording the Event on Video** - we are hoping to find someone with a steady hand and some experience in basic framing who could record the official part of the opening as well as mingle and engage with our visitors afterwards.

If you are wondering how you could be of help all you need to do is make contact with our Chairperson Cindy Spight. Details are as follows:

Email: [chair@friendsofdonnelly.org.au](mailto:chair@friendsofdonnelly.org.au)

Phone: 9227 7026, Mob: 0439 614 067

If no answer leave a message and we'll get back to you.

Or drop us a line at:

Chair - Friends of Donnelly River  
18A Venn Street  
North Perth WA 6006

## Donations

Thank you to **Professor Walter Bloom and Chas Sheridan** for all your research and work regarding the Donnelly River Village coin/medallion that was sold in the Village general store during the 1980's. The original cast and die has been donated to our museum and will take up a special position within our collection of memorabilia.



Thanks also to **Greg Fawell** who has kindly donated artefacts and some photographs for our collection.

**Interviews** – A big thank you to **Greg Fawell** for allowing us the opportunity to interview him in our quest for more stories about the Donnelly.

Thanks in advance to **Kathleen Larsen, Grace O'Neill & Carole Steele (O'Neill)** for agreeing to participate in our interviewing.

**2017 National Trust Heritage Festival – “Having a Voice” – Story Telling on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2017. Time 2.00-4.00pm**

Come along and hear a group of women talk about living and working at a rough and ready timber mill town, 'The Donnelly', near Manjimup between 1948-1978. They will share their stories at the Museum and you are also welcome to walk around the town which won a State Heritage Award in 2016.

We will keep you posted on this up and coming event through our newsletter and website.

If you or anyone you know would like to contribute any information or stories for the event then we would love to hear from you as soon as possible. We can arrange an interview or simply take some notes and work on a story with you. Please get in touch and we'll work out a plan of action.

## POSSIBLE RESTORATION PROJECTS

### Donnelly Mill ...



Current status sees FODV in possession of a Conservation Management Strategy document which was received in November 2016. We are currently reviewing the document and will continue to pursue further discussions with the Department of Lands and the Honourable Terry Redman in the New Year.

We will keep you posted ...

**How can you help?** Members, friends, colleagues can help by discussing the mill within your own social circles and encouraging people to get on board by joining our friends group. There is a membership application form attached to the newsletter or one is available on our website. We can effect change by sheer numbers so why not get busy talking up our wonderful old mill. We can make a difference!

### Jack's Shack ...

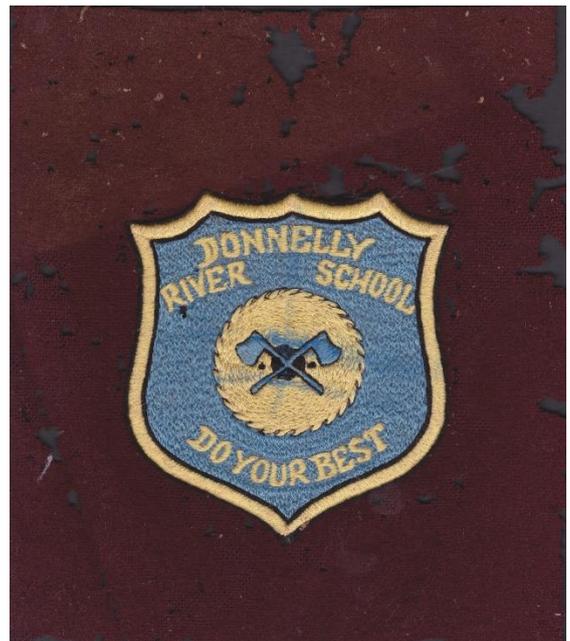


FODV received notification from the Nannup shire that Jack's Shack sat partially in the Shire's reserve but they did not foresee any issues should the FODV conserve/preserve the shack to be made available to the public at some time in the future.

We have asked for support from the Department of Lands to commission a Conservation Management Strategy report to give guidance on Jack's Shack and the surrounding area. We are currently awaiting a response and will keep you posted of any developments.

## CAN YOU HELP??

**Donnelly River School Badge** – If anyone out there has any information about how the school's badge design and how the school motto came into existence then we'd like to hear from you.



**Apple Queen** ...We haven't had any information come to light as yet on the "Apple Queen" parades that were quite the event in the past. From what we can gather someone would have the honour of being the Apple Queen and people would make colourful floats and lead a parade through the Village. We would love to find out more so please drop us a line or give us a call. Anyone with old photographs we would love to hear from you, we can arrange to have pictures scanned and put on display in the museum.

## COMMITTEE NEWS ...

Our AGM was held during December. Details of elections below:

Chair – Cindy Spight  
Treasurer – Sally Paulin  
Secretary – Jo Borchers  
Committee – Tony Paulin, Trish Johnson, Aaron Felton and Michael Spight.

Our next meeting will take the form of a planning/brainstorming session that will allow us to plan and prioritise our tasks for 2017. The session will be held at 2.00pm on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 18A Venn Street, North Perth.

## OUR CONTACT INFORMATION ...

Email: [chair@friendsofdonnelly.org.au](mailto:chair@friendsofdonnelly.org.au)

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## OBITUARY

### MARTYN THOMPSON

It is with great sadness that we make mention of the passing of Mr Martyn Thompson in June 2016. Martyn happily talked to us very early on in FODV's inception and provided us with some wonderful stories. Martyn was a former employee of Donnelly Mill and spent his formative years working in the timber industry. He was fresh off the boat from England and had very little knowledge about the south-west. He held many different positions throughout his career at Donnelly and the one thing he kept returning to was just how wonderful and special the people and community of Donnelly had been to him during his time working there as a young man.

