



Friends of
Donnelly Village Inc

MARCH 2018

Welcome Friends of Donnelly Village to the latest edition of our Newsletter.

We hear you have missed us and to answer the question that may have been on your lips, no you didn't get a Christmas 2017 newsletter and why not? Well, the FODV Committee to put it bluntly were so exhausted after the very successful and eventful 2017 we needed to have a break; put our family and work life back into order. Some of us also had a role change on the committee. This involved myself, Cindy Spight and husband Michael taking on the role of Secretaries as Jo Borchers resigned from the committee due to personal and work commitments. On that note we thank Jo full heartedly for her fantastic job as secretary and her invaluable guidance on many other items the committee was involved in especially in the production of the 5 short mini documentaries (video interviews) shown at the Museum Opening. Though Jo has left the committee she is still keen to help where possible and we, the two new Secretaries will endeavour to get the newsletter out.

We also welcome to the Committee in their new role Sally Paulin as Chair and Tony Paulin as Treasurer.

Grab a drink and something to eat, settle yourself in a comfy chair and be prepared not to move for the next 30 minutes whilst you read this bumper issue.

2018 News to date

For the calendar

Read on to glean the information you have been waiting to hear about the 2 main events FODV are participating in this year. We can't wait to see you at these events and we are sure you will love to feel the warmth and community spirit these two events will bring.

May 19th

Australian Heritage Festival

**titled.... Of Men, Mill and Diamond T's
The Donnelly 1948 – 1978: My Culture,
My Story**



When:

Saturday, May 19th 2018, 2pm – 4pm

Where:

FODV Inc Museum

The Old School

Carey Road, Donnelly River Village

Entry: \$5.00

(all proceeds to the FODV Inc museum fund)

RSVP: chair@friendsofdonnellyvillage.org.au

or phone Sally Paulin on 0434 350 183

Map;

<https://goo.gl/maps/sqm5g6hU6uA2>

This will be a fantastic opportunity to listen to a group of men talk about their time at 'The Donnelly'. We thank John Tillman, John Britten, Phil Jenaway who have kindly agreed to be a part of this exciting event. Note it in your diary and come and join the conversation.

Accommodation for Donnelly River Village can be made with Sharon at Donnelly River Accommodation contact@donnellyriver.com or phone 9772 1244

For the calendar continued...

September 1st – 2018 Reunion 'Donnelly Milestones'

There are so many milestones this year it's a great reason why it's time to hold another reunion and reconnect with people from the community and celebrate together.

This year will be;

- **70 years – since the pegging of the site on 25th April 1948.**
- **60 years – since the Giant Elizabeth Karri was felled near Donnelly River Mill and transported to Kings Park in 1958.**
- **40 years – since the closure of the mill on the 30th June 1978.**

When: Saturday 1st September

Where: Donnelly River Village

The planning committee is still in the program planning phase for this historical event but here is a draft proposal so far....

Saturday:

- 9:30am FODV Museum open for viewing
- 11:00am Interview Documentaries of past Donnelly people playing in the TV room (Butcher Shop)
- 12:00 – 1:30pm Lunch BYO
- 1:30 – 2:00 Registration at the Club
- 2:30pm Commemorative Event
- 3:00 – 5:00pm Tennis?
- 6:00 – 7:30pm Evening meal in the Club
- 8:00 – 10:00pm Dancing in the Club. We are hoping to have dance caller Greg Fawell last Principal of the Donnelly School and post Donnelly, owner of the Donnelly River Educamps & Tours.
- 10:30pm Close

Sunday: Day of leisure.

We would love to hear your comments on the proposed program as well as ...

- how do you feel it would be fitting to celebrate the historical milestones on the Saturday at 2:30pm.?
- are you interested in a social game of tennis on the Saturday? (Roger & Serena won't be there)
- would you be prepared to stay and be a part of the dancing Saturday night?

Please contact Cindy to express your thoughts.

Contact; secretary@friendsofdonnelly.org.au or phone 9227 7026 mob 0439 614 067 (you can leave a message and I will get back to you)

Bonus: 10% discount on accommodation bookings for this weekend if made before 30th May 2018.

Mention the code word 2018 Reunion and book Monday – Friday with Sharon at Donnelly River Accommodation contact@donnellyriver.com or phone 9772 1244

We thank the Wheatley Board for the fantastic 10% discount on accommodation bookings and for holding off the general public bookings for the village for this weekend.

Please note bookings to the general public will reopen on the 1st June 2018 so get in quick.

General news to date continued....



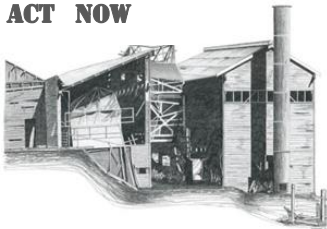
Photo courtesy of Trish Johnson and of Trish a FODV Committee member at Donnelly River Village.

January

- **FODV Committee Planning meeting.**
Objective to plan events / activities for 2018 and achievable;
 - May - Participation in Australian Heritage Festival.
 - Sept - Reunion of past resident & workers to celebrate some key milestones.
 - Oct approx. - implementation of FODV Heritage Signage Project.
 - SDM2018 Inc – Save Donnelly Mill 2018 Inc project. To ramp it up with Govt and key stakeholders, the final attempt.

- **Donnelly Mill**

ACT NOW



SAVE DONNELLY MILL 2018 INC

A small steering committee has been formed as a last attempt to save the mill before it falls down through neglect. This is a new group with the task of identifying and co-ordinating key public stakeholders with the mills owners, the WA State Government to try and get action happening on the mill; not an easy task given the current economics. FODV are a member of this steering committee.

“SAVE DONNELLY MILL 2018 Inc”

The steering committee are currently applying for registration as a not for profit organisation.

To help move this project forward, the steering committee invite anyone interested in joining the current committee and willing to take on a key role to get in touch asap.

The committee is especially looking for people who can contribute to any of the following:

- understanding and dealing with Government Departments
- high level management
- contract administration
- approaching philanthropists and the like for high level sponsorship
- networking abilities
- DGR (Deductible Gift Recipient) application

If you have time and would like to be a part of this last earnest attempt to save the mill please contact Sally Paulin at ...

chair@friendsofdonnelly.org.au or phone 0434 350 183 to discuss further.

Once established, SDM2018 Inc will set up web pages etc and regular newsletters. If you are interested in supporting this venture, please get in touch with Sally (details above).

FODV will continue to keep everyone informed on the mill's progress through this newsletter or the grapevine.

February

Heritage Walk Trail Signage

- project documentation sent off to tender for cost quotes on design, construction & installation of signs.
- met with Lotterywest regarding application for a grant to help finance the project.
- Established a Memorandum of Understanding between the owners Wheatley Village Pty Ltd and FODV on the project.

March

- the newsletter is finally out-Yippee!

2017 Summary

A summary of our eventful year.

- **Jan** - FODV committee kick started the year with a planning meeting to ascertain where our energy was to be focused for the year.
- **May** – FODV participated in the Australian Heritage Festival titled *Milltown Days – Women at the Donnelly 1948 – 1978*. With an audience of approximately 35 visitors facilitated by Sally Paulin (FODV Committee member) to hear stories and yarns from Mrs Grace O’Neill, daughter Carole Steele, and friends from childhood; Jacqui Perry (nee Morfitt) and Margaret Jenaway (nee Kililea).
- **Aug – FODV Historical Signage Project**
Facilitated by Tony and Sally Paulin initial concept prepared and presented to the Wheatley Board for approval to create and have installed a heritage signage trail around the townsite of Wheatley.
- **Sept** - Official Opening of the FODV Museum located in a classroom at the Donnelly River School, Carey Road Donnelly River.
Another successful event with attendance of approximately 130 people comprising personnel from the Shires of Nannup, Bridgetown and Manjimup, State and Local politicians, local residents, Wheatley Owners and Management as well as past residents & workers of the mill and village. We were also honoured to have Mrs Jenny Mills (daughter of Charles Bunning) and her family attend with Jenny delivering an Opening Speech as well as unveiling the plaque. A huge thank you to Michael & Cindy Spight for creating the museum and to committee for facilitating the event.
- **Nov** – AGM held with new committee voted in;
Chair – Sally Paulin
Secretaries – Michael & Cindy Spight
Treasurer – Tony Paulin
Returning Committee – Trish Johnson, Aaron Felton, Jacqui Morfitt (Perry)
New Committee members – Jacqui Deering and Tom Deering representing the Wheatley Board. A huge welcome to the Deerings for joining and supporting FODV.
- **Dec** – Meeting with Govt personnel regarding the mill. More on this further on in the newsletter.
- **Research** – researching, cataloguing and documenting the history of “The Donnelly” is an ongoing exercise and we thank Jacqui Morfitt for her huge contribution in this area.
- **Business Documentation** - this is an area that is often not acknowledged but just has to be done otherwise the business would not be operating or events run. We thank Sally Paulin for her huge contribution in this area as she is the one that makes sure insurances are in place and covered to hold an event, registers the FODV as a not for profit organisation (NFP), organised the FODV ABN, Induction notes for new Committee Members and a myriad of other paperwork that makes FODV a professionally and smoothly run organisation.
- **Photos** – Tony Paulin has kindly taken on this task and to date has scanned over 700 photos that have been kindly lent or donated to the Friends. If you are interested in donating or having your photos scanned for the FODV records please contact us. Contact Tony Paulin at treasurer@friendsofdonnelly.org.au



Museum Opening

- **Interviews** – Yes, we are still interested to get your interview, please be patient. You may also like to write your own memoir and send it to us. Also, thank you to Kathleen Larsen (nee Pond) for assistance in transcribing.

- **Grants / Donations – Museum Opening**
 - FODV applied for and were successful in receiving a \$1000 grant from the Shire of Nannup.
 - Wheatley Village Pty Ltd \$584 donation.
 - Mrs P Abbott \$200 donation.
 - The Architecture Group (TAG Architects) \$500 donation.
 - Woolworths \$80 donation of sausages.
 - Donation of approximately \$660 from sale of Michael Spights Donnelly charcoal & pencil sketches. Originals and prints still available for sale with new drawings to come. Please contact Michael or Cindy Spight if interested secretary@friendsofdonnelly.org.au

CAN YOU HELP?

Seeking Volunteers

We would like to open our museum on a more regular basis and this is a call for volunteers who can commit two to three hours per month to open the museum and share stories etc with visitors on weekends. Depending on numbers of volunteers, we will make up a roster.

If you are interested then please contact Cindy Spight on 9227 7026 or via email secretary@friendsofdonnelly.org.au

Mill Workers

It became apparent at the museum opening that there are still a lot of people throughout the south-west that have a connection to the Donnelly that we have yet to meet. We had the pleasure of meeting some former mill workers that commuted to work daily on the bus from surrounding districts. We'd really appreciate some help in finding as many past mill workers as possible and kindly ask that you forward your details and perhaps a copy of this newsletter onto anyone that you are still in contact with. We'd love to be able to extend invitations far and wide for the 2018 reunion, the more the merrier.

Post-War European Refugees

Jacqui Perry (nee Morfitt) is currently undertaking research into post-war European refugees that settled at the Donnelly and would appreciate any information. You can contact Jacqui by phone on: 0417 186 475 or by email on: perry.trucking@bigpond.com

Locomotives & Associated Transport

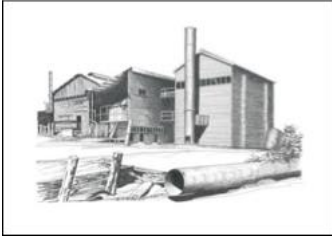
Please contact either Aaron Felton on: 0428 414 252 or vk6tnt@hotmail.com or Jacqui Perry (contact info above) if you have photographs, stories or information on any of the rolling stock that was in service at the mill during its operation.

Looking for a special gift idea or a memory of the Donnelly?

Michael Spight a committee member has used charcoal & pencil to draw these amazing pictures some of you may have seen them at the museum opening last year. Mike has generously offered the originals plus a limited run of signed prints for sale with all proceeds going to the Friends of Donnelly Village Inc.

These extra funds will enable us to continue our research and produce more displays for the museum.

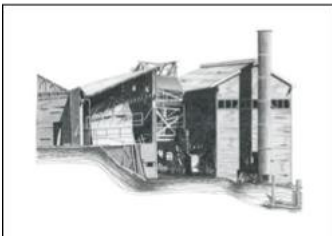
SKETCHES FOR SALE



1. Mill with Stack



2. Mill North-east



3. Mill East Side



4. Forestry Hut



5. Tank Stand A



6. Tank Stand B

Pricing;

- **Original Framed \$180.00 plus postage** (maybe able to arrange personal delivery)
- **Limited Edition Unframed \$140.00 plus postage** (maybe able to arrange personal delivery)

Payment;

Please contact Mike Spight
email secretary@friendsofdonnelly.org.au or
phone 9227 7026 (please leave a message and I will get back to you).

THANKS AGAIN

To all our members and to all of you thinking about becoming a member and becoming more involved with the Friends of Donnelly Village Inc please click on this link for our membership form

[Membership forms](#)

OUR CONTACT INFORMATION ...

Chair: Sally Paulin

email: chair@friendsofdonnelly.org.au

phone: 0434 350 183

Secretaries: Michael & Cindy Spight

email: secretaries@friendsofdonnelly.org.au

ph: 9227 7026 or Cindy 0439 614 067

Treasurer: Tony Paulin

email: treasurer@friendsofdonnelly.org.au

Or drop us a line at:

Friends of Donnelly Village (FODV)

c/- 18A Venn Street

North Perth WA 6006

USEFUL LINKS:

[Website – www.friendsofdonnelly.org.au](http://www.friendsofdonnelly.org.au)

[Donnelly River Holiday Village - Info & Bookings
http://www.donnellyriver.com.au/](http://www.donnellyriver.com.au)