



Friends of
Donnelly Village Inc

Friends of Donnelly Village Newsletter

April 2020

Memoirs

Here's an interesting memoir from Phil Jenway. We'd love to receive and share more of these stories through the museum.

The Mill Fitter

1968 – 1991

Phil Jenaway

If the Mill whistle blew twice it was to let me know there was a breakdown and I was wanted.

My primary duty was to fix Mill breakdowns etc. whilst the Mill was operating

This included broken chains (to drive the rollers.)

- Mend Belts (Flat) Replace Vee Belts etc.
- Help clear blockages in the Sawdust and Fire Shute Conveyors
- Replace wood cleats on the Fire Shute Conveyor
- Weld any cracks in the piping in the Wood drying Kilns
- Any small repairs to Mill machinery
- Major works were undertaken by Bunnings Manjimup Engineering Workshop
- Replace wire ropes on landing Winch

• Also drill offside for Jim Davies when we were trying to find another water source to supplement the Dam Water, but everytime we got down around 30 feet depth we hit Rock stopping us dead.

- Look after the water Pumps that supplied the water to Houses and Mill.

These pumps were the old style Jack Pumps and you had to make sure the accumulator on top of the Pump outlet had air to cushion the Pump flow, or the resulting hammering at every stroke would transfer into all the houses in the Village.

When this happened people from the Village would go and play with the Pumps until it stopped hammering. Sometimes there would be 5 or 6 there at one time, all giving advice.

Saturdays were always maintenance days to do repairs

Our little Workshop was located in the centre of the Mill under the floor amongst all the Shafts and Pulleys, dangerous by today's standards.

My accommodation was a small Hut behind the Office on the Shop side of the drain, next to the Showers and Toilet.

A girl in a mini skirt used to walk past there two times every day, going to work and home again. Two years later she became my wife: **Margaret Killilea**

Vignette of your stories

FODV are looking at having more of the personal oral stories taken to date professionally made into either individual small videos and/or combined into vignettes, hopefully to be finished later in the year.

Cottage History Bites

We're gathering a short history of each cottage to fit in a small picture frame to display in relevant cottages. Again, we'd love to hear your stories

Plaque

This great looking plaque and stand is alongside the Milestone tree planted by John Tillman outside the General Store commemorating the FODV Milestones Event held on 1st September 2018.



The Milestone Event was celebrating;

- 70 years since the village was pegged in 1948.
- 60 years since the Elizabeth Karri was transported and placed in Kings Park as part of the National Tree week in 1958.
- 40 years since the Mill closed on the 30th June 1978.
- A big thanks to Eric Wester from Donnelly River Village for making the stand and installing the plaque.

Museum Updates

The museum is looking good after the donation of display cabinets from Jacqui Perry – a huge thank you to Jacqui for transporting the fixtures and helping with the new setup. And a video/computer display is almost complete. Again, a big thank you to Jacqui for this work.



In the museum is Phil Jenaway volunteer of museum and visitor Bob Main



Jack's Shack

FODV is looking to obtain a Lotterywest grant to fund a Conservation Management Plan (CMS), a key stage in the restoration of Jack's Shack..



Donation

Thank you to Marg Jenaway for the donation of her recorder from school days. It's called a Musette and made in Australia. And very good for playing Jingle Bells!



AMaaGA National Awards - Australian Museums and Galleries Australia

FODV have entered into two categories for these national awards:

- Interpretive signage – entered Donnelly River Heritage Trail
- Contribution by a community-based organisation – entered Friends of Donnelly Village

Winners will be announced in April 2020.

Museum Volunteers

In view of the COVID-19 crisis, the museum will be closed for the foreseeable future. But if you're interested in volunteering for that time when life gets back to normal please contact Marg Jenaway on 0428 150 548.

Our Contact Information

Chair – Michael Spight at chair@friendsofdonnelly.org.au ph 9227 7026

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