

KWINANA HERITAGE GROUP

Preserving and Promoting Kwinana's Unique Heritage



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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 2024-2025 Committee:

November 2024 to July 2025:

President	Greg Wilson
Vice President:	Vodek Keller
Secretary:	Mike Rice
Treasurer:	John Wightman
Curator:	Diane Newton
Historian:	Kaylene Heard
Maintenance Co-ordinator:	Alan Reay
Catering Co-ordinator:	Yvonne Richardson
Committee Members:	Christine Scambler Cheryl Wilson

August 2024 to October 2024:

President:	Jo-Anne Trent
Vice President:	Greg Wilson
Secretary:	Jo-Anne Trent
Treasurer:	Mike Rice/John Wightman

President's Report

We have had a good year with completing jobs around the grounds, keeping up with the gardens and maintaining exhibits around the site.

The workshop is being re-arranged to make it a safe and spacious place to work on projects. Thanks to our team who plan and discuss the best way to make it work. We have had a termite problem in some of the workshop which has been dealt with without any main structural damage. We have now found termites in the area behind the kitchen. We don't know the full extent yet.

We have been lucky to have volunteers from Centrelink (work for the dole) and people preparing to go back to work. Their experience in different areas is an asset to our group.

We were nominated for the City of Kwinana Group of the Year award and have been given the award. Congratulations to our group. This is something to be proud of and shows the dedication to what we do.

We applied for a \$15,000 grant through the State Government Department of Communities and have the money in the bank. Thanks to Roger Cook, his staff (for assisting with the application) and the State Government. We are waiting on the City to get back to us with the approval for the cover to house our farm machinery. The structure will be at the back corner where the tar cart is.

During the year we visited the Army Museum in Fremantle and the Ship Wreck Museum. At the Army Museum we were allowed to have a look behind the scenes to get some knowledge on ways to restore and maintain clothing and machinery.

After the last Peel Chapter Australian Museum and Galleries Association we went to The Old Serpentine Bridge School in Serpentine. Worth a look to see how some of us did our schooling.

Also, during the year we hosted a Peel Chapter meeting, had a wedding reception, a renewal of vows, visits from a couple of retirement villages and a couple of school groups. We hosted the NewGen Community Free Feed which is run by The Frank Konecny Community Centre.

We have been fortunate with raising money this year and able to support things that the City of Kwinana funds don't cover. We will need to come up with some ways to raise money for the extras like morning tea, tools to make life a bit easier for our volunteers.

I always look forward to coming to Smirks and being part of the group. I thank you all for your teamwork and comradery.

Greg
Wilson

President 2024-2025

Volunteer Highlights



The caterers

An army marches on its stomach and the KHG volunteers eagerly await their morning tea after a hard morning out in the gardens. Cheryl, Mitch and Maria spend their mornings preparing delicious spreads to keep the volunteers' spirits up. When they are not on duty the able pair of Karen Maguire and veteran Yvonne Richardson fulfil catering duties for the hungry workers.

Kwinana Group of the Year Award

Our members and volunteers are very proud to have received the Kwinana Group of the Year Award for 2024-25.

From the City of Kwinana web site:

“Congratulations to the Kwinana Heritage Group - proud winners of Kwinana Group of the Year at the City of Kwinana Community Awards!

This passionate group is dedicated to preserving our local history through their ongoing care and conservation of Smirk’s Cottage — a treasured heritage site regularly visited by school groups, community organisations and the public.

Thank you for keeping Kwinana’s stories alive for generations to come.”



Some of our members after receiving the Kwinana Community Group award for 2024/25

Curator's Report

A lot has been achieved in the past year thanks to the Heritage Group members who are working as a team to maintain the whole Heritage site.

Keeping the collection clean and presentable for open days is a continuous job that has been improving over the past years. The weather conditions this year have not helped with dust and leaves continually covering our tool and machinery collections.

The stocktaking and additional research of our collection of over 16,000 heritage items is a large job requiring the assistance of most of our members. Many thanks go to our Historian who is dedicated to researching and recording details of the many items we already have in our collection, as well as promoting the Heritage site on "facebook".

I am continuing to upgrade the displays throughout the Heritage site and have had extra display cupboards added to the "Tool Museum" and "the Museum of Kwinana" areas to protect more historic items.

The Smirks Cottage displays will be upgraded when the mould problems in the building have been solved.

The group is looking forward to an additional building to store and display our many farm machinery items currently needing protection from the elements.

Diane Newton
Curator

Volunteer Highlights



Kaylene Heard and Diane Newton

Our Historian and Curator work as a team to keep on top of the burgeoning 16000 items on display and bringing to light more of Kwinana's past through active research. Maintenance of the Mosaic database is a challenge, requiring input from other members of the group. They also organise external visits to other organisations and liaise with other groups, to share information and research methodologies.

Historian's Report

Accessions

The accessioning of objects from the Tool Shed has continued with the intermittent adjustments to previous entries 2001 to 2024, and the delay caused by the changeover of material from one computer to another with the removal of duplication of photos.

Recent Donations

The year brought in various items relevant to the history of the area. This has included a vintage hair dryer used at Sculptures Hair Studio, Medina, and the medallioned uniform of a member of the 'Kwinana Flares'/'Medina Telstars' marching girls from the 1960's. These, and others, remain to be accessioned when time permits.



Facebook

The Open Day posts (once a month) reach over 100,000 people on twelve or more sites. Further posts are made on the Kwinana Heritage Facebook page each week on various topics from social history (past and present) to artefacts and spring flowers.

Heritage Research Visit

In July 2025 members attended the Australian Army Museum of Western Australia, Fremantle, for a professional curatorial visit which included a briefing with the Curator and department heads plus tours of the museum displays, discussion of metal preservation (pros. & cons.) in the outside area, the historical archives, and fabric conservation area where we were shown examples of the various types of equipment and material used to maintain the collection.





Future & Existing Projects

Accessioning the existing items in the Tool & Engine Museum for an official opening. Also, to prepare the agricultural machinery with the removal of rust and painting to both preserve them and to move them to the purpose-built shed (hopefully, before winter 2026).



Concerns

The three-year delay in fixing the mould and other internal problems in Smirk's Cottage has created the prospect of closing the building for health and safety reasons.

Kaylene Heard
Historian

Finance Report

Kwinana Heritage Group Inc.

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

July 1 2024 to June 30 2025

1. INTRODUCTION:

Our 2024-25 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 surplus of \$1205.49, thanks mainly to the Kwinana Heritage Group City Council award of \$1850 in June.

2. CITY OF KWINANA OPERATING SUBSIDY:

The full subsidy of \$10 000 was received by the end of the financial year, in two off payments of \$5000.

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	22,188.03
Business Account (card)	490.60
Term deposit 157810425	5,576.16
Term deposit 158234419	16,900.91
Total balance:	<u>45,155.70</u>

4. SURPLUS & DEFICIT:

Our Profit and Loss report for the year shows an income of \$19,979.72 and expenses of \$18,774.23, resulting in a surplus of \$1205.49.

Our main income was \$10,000 from the City of Kwinana's Operating Subsidy, \$4,879.75 in donations, \$1019.56 in interest income and \$335 in memberships.

Our main expenses were \$3,044 for new computer costs, \$1,079 for gardening, \$3457.80 for general maintenance, \$1,507 insurance, \$1,581.55 site visit catering and \$948.50 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. A grant from the W.A. Labour Government, of \$15,000 has been promised.

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 our adhering to the KPIs listed by the City of Kwinana, 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.

Yours sincerely,

John Wightman

Treasurer

Kwinana Heritage Group Inc.

11th August 2025

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 2025.

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 2025 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,



Adam Peacock
Principal

15 July 2025



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.

Other activities included:

July	Visits from: Little Rascals Day Care, Paranormal Group, Bethanie Care, Visits to: Serpentine Tractor Museum, Peel Chapter meeting.
September	A wedding on site, Orelia Primary School visit, Paranormal Group visit.
November	Rotary Fair.
December	Thank a Volunteer event, Christmas lunch.
February	Greg and Cheryl Golden Wedding, Alzheimers WA visit x 2.
March	Peel Chapter Meeting at Smirks, Peter Carnley (75 children visit).
May	Coffee van and cake (thank you from the City), Wedding Reception, New Gen lunch and tour of Smirks.
June	Medina Residents Assoc walk starting from Smirks, visit to WA Army Museum, Conflict Resolution Workshop, Amana Living visit.

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.
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More of our Volunteers



President Greg



Mike



Vice President Vodek

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

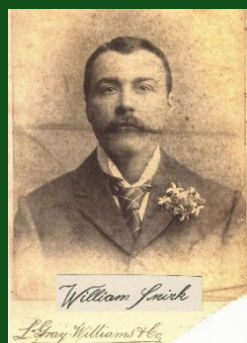
Open Days:

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.



William Smirk



Tar cart



Old fuel bowser



A function at Smirks Heritage Site