

THE LIFE OF

Golden Bay

FROM PAST TO PRESENT



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INTRODUCTION

People have always been the strength at Golden Bay. The pioneers who brought many 'firsts' to the area have been supported by incoming residents who share the same values. This booklet captures a fraction of the rich community history.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to Peet Limited for their encouragement and the Department of Housing for their financial backing to make this project a reality.

Shirley Gwynne's recollections and research, contained in her History of Golden Bay, sparked interest in developing this snapshot of our community, and a number of other residents played a key role in providing information and reminiscences, in particular, our dedicated working group.

Additional information was sourced from websites and we also thank Wendy Durant, Curator at Rockingham Museum and Terry Trathen for his photographic assistance.

The cooperation received from the Golden Bay community has been invaluable. Without their help and support, the idea would still be on the drawing board.

THE EARLY HISTORY

Peelhurst



The Peel Region is well-known as a tourist area that stretches inland from Mandurah. The Peel name also holds great significance in Golden Bay, but its origins may not be widely known.

Thomas Peel (1793-1865) arrived on these shores in 1829, landing at Clarence in the south bay of Woodman Point. His wife, Mary, and three children – Julia, Thomas Jnr and Dorothy – followed him, arriving in 1834. Thomas Snr suffered a series of misfortunes throughout life and his bad luck appears to have rubbed off on his son.

After 15 years of hard work building up a 5,000-acre (over 2,000 hectares) farm in Serpentine, Thomas Jnr lost the lot when a carelessly discarded pipe started a fire that destroyed his excellent grain crop. With no capital to fall back on, the property was repossessed to pay off debts, and was purchased by John Wellard in 1859.

Thomas Peel Jnr moved to a part of the property known as 'Peelhurst' and lived in a cottage of the same name. He never married but lived there with his housekeeper, Mrs Spencer. He became disabled following a riding accident when a broken leg did not receive proper medical attention.

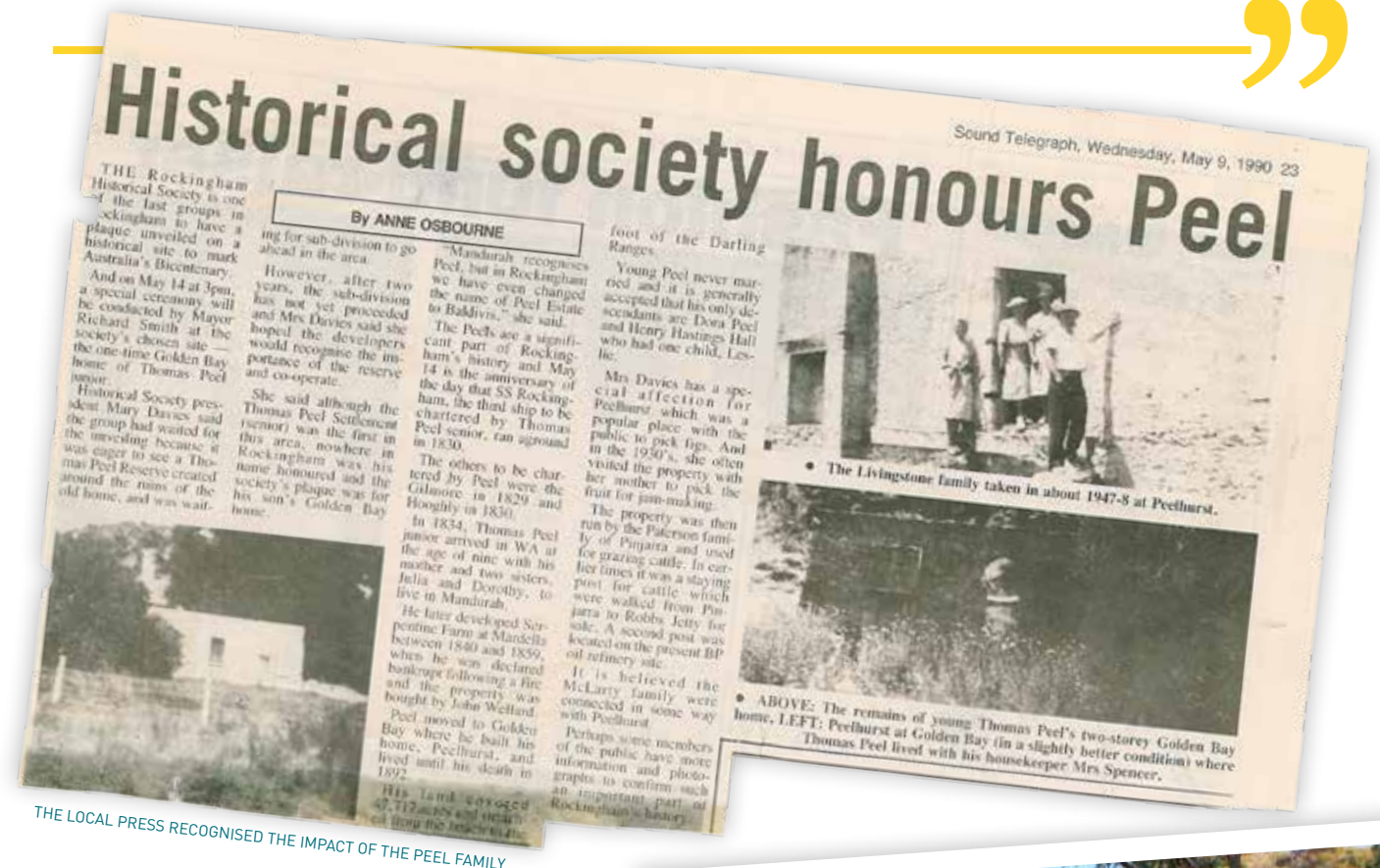
After Thomas junior's death in 1892, the house was used as a place of shelter by stockmen and others. His former home was acquired by the Patterson family of Pinjarra and used as a staying post for cattle and sheep. The practice continued until the early 1900s and little else is known apart from the fact that it was a favourite place to pick figs in the 1930s. Indeed, Figtree Lane is one of the streets leading off Dampier Drive.

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We moved here because of the beautiful beach and crystal clear water. The waves are not too big but big enough for the kids to surf. Other reasons for moving here are all the different types of houses and the large blocks, the holiday feel and small and close community. I like that a lot of people don't know about this place and it's out of the way. It's not a drive-through suburb. But it's close to everything. I love the people here.

RACHEL ROBINSON | RESIDENT

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THE LOCAL PRESS RECOGNISED THE IMPACT OF THE PEEL FAMILY

The remains of Peelhurst Cottage deteriorated; following subdivision, its foundations became part of the Thomas Peel Reserve that was specifically planned around the ruins.

One hundred and seventy eight Dampier Drive is Golden Bay's only listed place in the WA Heritage Council State Register, and a plaque unveiled in 1990 by the then Mayor of Rockingham marks the site.

Nancy McClure and her husband, George, were the first permanent residents in the early 1960s and she instigated the name change from Peelhurst to Golden Bay in 1985. However, it took until 1987 for government authorities to officially adopt the new name.



PEELHURST BECOMES *Golden Bay*



NANCY AND GEORGE WERE MARRIED ON 9 MAY 1949

NANCY AND GEORGE MCCLURE HAD A MAJOR IMPACT ON GOLDEN BAY.

They were the only permanent residents for approximately three years in the early 1960s, when the suburb was known as Peelhurst and consisted of holiday shacks.

There have been different versions of how Golden Bay came to be named. Legend has it that the developer asked Nancy to suggest an appropriate name. As it was spring and the wattle was blooming, Nancy suggested 'Golden Bay'.

Another tale is that the development estate along the beach was named Golden Bay and Nancy was the instigator in having the whole area renamed.

Whatever is correct, the fact remains that Nancy was instrumental in the renaming of the suburb. However, it took until 1987 for the government authorities to officially adopt the change of name.

Early in 1966 the McClures built their home in Yanrey Street, and opened the first deli where the shopping centre now stands. It was just one small shop with a large water tank out the front.

In the 1960s, there was no electricity, no mail deliveries and only one telephone - at the shop. Ice boxes and gas refrigerators were used to keep drinks and food cool.

Kerosene lamps were used for lighting, with hand pumps or petrol pumps used to pump water.

Daily essentials were obtained by placing an order at the shop before 8.00am, when Mr McClure would go to Mandurah (he was Acting Principal at Mandurah Primary School for a time). A charge of 3 pence per item was made for this service.



GOLDEN BAY IN THE 1960S. PAINTING BY NANCY MCCLURE



THE MCCLURES SHOP WAS SITUATED WHERE THE SHOPPING CENTRE NOW STANDS

“ I love Golden Bay, hearing the waves crash from my house, the strong community feel and the larger blocks in the older areas make living here easy for a family. ”

DEB KATNICH | RESIDENT

As the shop served only semi-permanent residents at that time, profits were minimal. At that time, there would have been about six beach shacks in the area.

Mains electricity reached Golden Bay in the early 1970s and there were about 48 houses by then.

After using kerosene lamps for so many years, there was a celebratory party with a sign placed out the front declaring that ice creams could now be purchased!

Nancy was a founding member of the Golden Bay Progress Association. She was very artistic and designed the Association's logo in 1972. Over 40 years later, it is still in use. One of her paintings, showing Golden Bay in the late 1960s, hangs in the Hall.

Long-term residents have described Nancy as a lady with a wonderful sense of humour and "eccentric in the nicest possible way".

If George was needed at the shop, Nancy would attach a note to the collar of their Labrador, Goldie, and say, "go home and get George" and within minutes, her husband would appear!

Their other pet was a lamb! It was not uncommon to see George walking it to and from the beach for its daily exercise!

George died in 1989 and Nancy passed away three years later. However, their legacy remains a vital part of the Golden Bay history.

THE Beach House Story



THE PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS ON THESE PAGES WERE KINDLY SUPPLIED BY THE WEAVER FAMILY

In the 1960s, Peelhurst consisted of many vacant blocks and modest beach houses scattered around. There was no electricity, no gas, no scheme water and one small shop.

In early 1969, the State Electricity Commission promised to bring electricity to the area if 30-50 more houses were built.

Selling agents, H G Seymour & Co, released blocks at Golden Bay Beach Estates where the average land cost was \$4,500 with a rebate of 50% of the purchase price given to buyers who built within 12 months.

This attractive offer appealed to the Deluis, Kilmurray and Weaver families who decided to build a shared holiday home. John Weaver was third in the queue and they secured their land at Lot 684 Ivanhoe Street with a 10 per cent deposit of \$430.00 on 30 March 1969. His share of the repayments was \$25 a month or \$300 a year.

John drew up plans that were acceptable to Council (rules were not as strict in those days) and work got underway. Plumbing, carpentry, bricklaying, trucking and every other skill imaginable were provided by families and friends.

Water was an urgent requirement, so the first step was to sink a bore at the front of the block. At a depth of about 10 metres, clean water was found, causing much clinking of glasses filled with Starwine - the upmarket drink of the era!

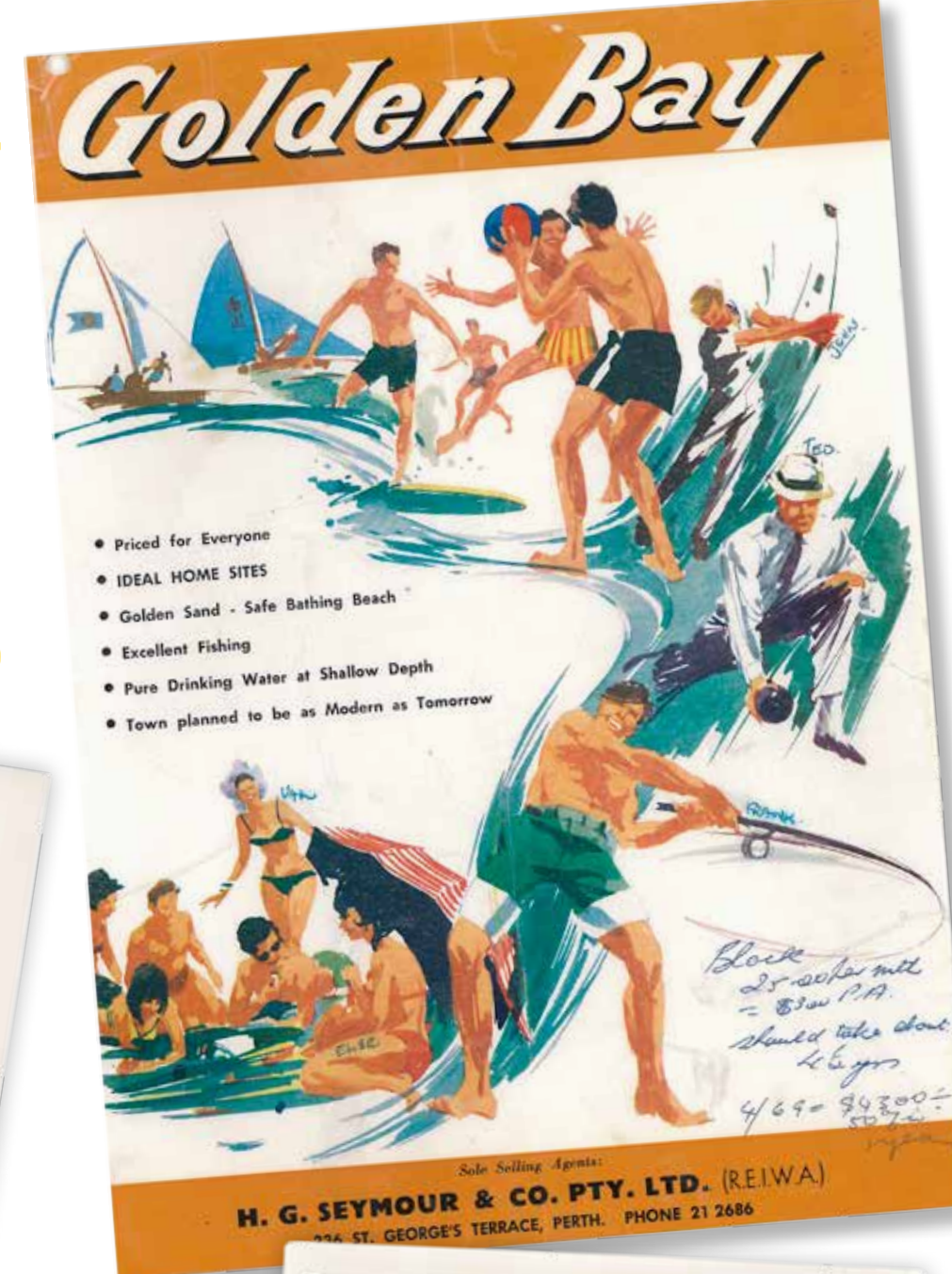
Scheme water had reached Rockingham so the trio bought a Rockingham resident's 1,000 gallon (3,800 litres approximately) galvanised tank, complete with iron stand and concrete footings.

“There is a beautiful community feel about the area and we love being close to the ocean. I love the quirky feeling that you get driving/strolling through the streets; each house has its own personality and story to tell...”

TARA WALSH | RESIDENT



A FLYER AND EVOCATIVE IMAGES, PERSONALISED BY JOHN WEAVER, CAPTURE THE PERIOD



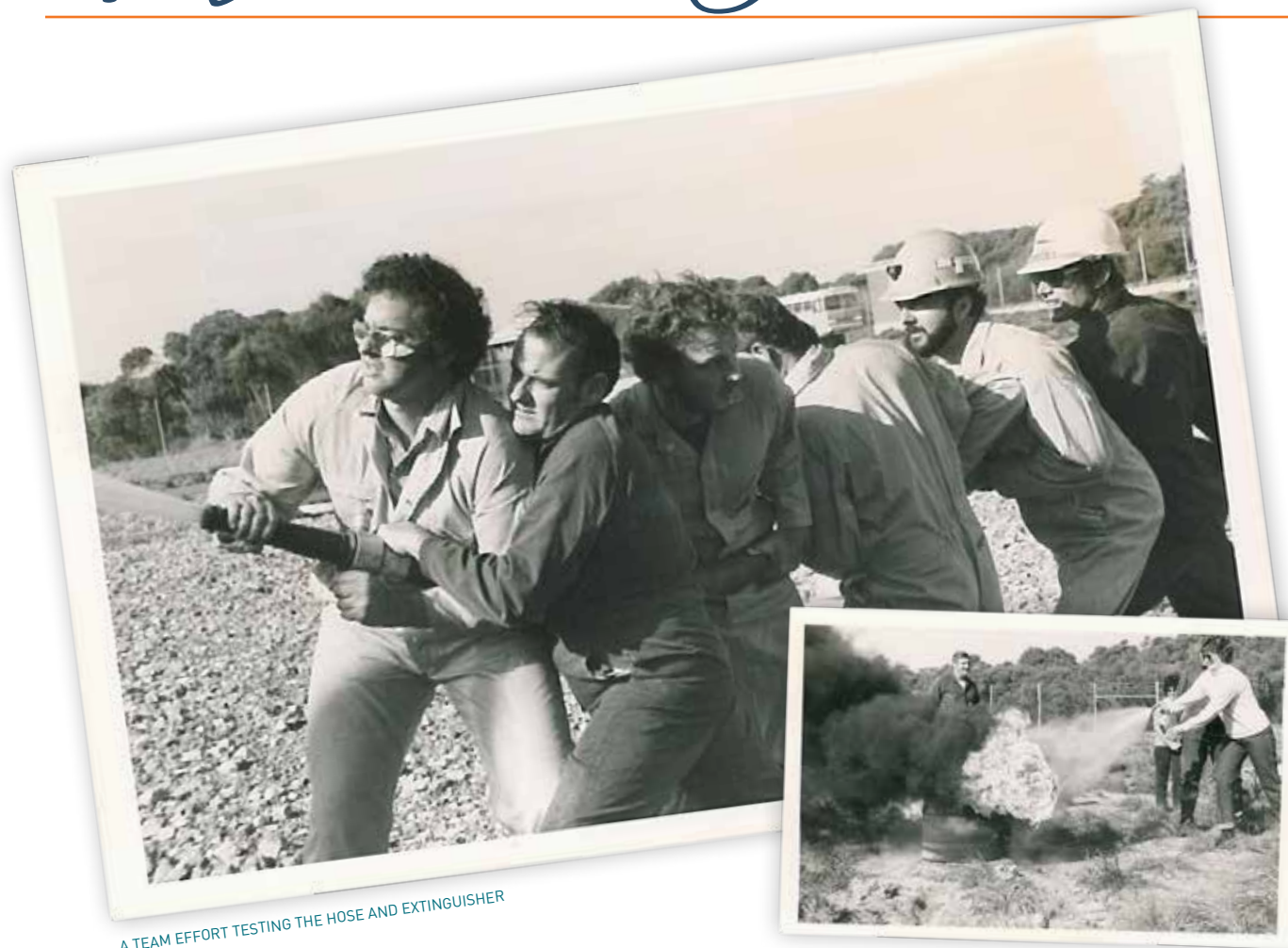
Finally, within the 12-month period, all was completed! In early 1970, Val Weaver and Elsie Kilmurray received a Certificate of Occupancy from the building inspector at Rockingham Council (as it was back then). A few more bottles of Starwine were cracked open that day!

The first weekend spent at the beach house was memorable. It was one of the modern homes in its day; however, since then, modifications and improvements have been made so the property can continue to be enjoyed by the families and their descendants.

It is highly likely that there are other families with similar tales to tell. To the Deluis, Kilmurrays and Weavers, their beach house will always represent an era of friendship, enjoyment and family compatibility that is unsurpassed and ongoing.



IT'S PEOPLE WHO *Make the Place*



A TEAM EFFORT TESTING THE HOSE AND EXTINGUISHER



A handful of residents met over 40 years ago and decided to form what is now known as the Golden Bay Progress Association. This important community group has become the strong heartbeat of the district, responsible for countless initiatives that have enhanced the area and residents' lives.

Trevor Foster played an important role in the life of the Progress Association. He arrived in Golden Bay (Peelhurst at that time) five months earlier and the first meeting took place in his home on 18 July 1972. George McClure was the inaugural President.

With approximately 25 families living permanently in the area, one of the first decisions was to organise a children's Christmas party that became an annual event.

Unfortunately, initial interest subsided and the Association was recessed *sine die* (without fixing a date for future action or meeting) in 1973. However, it was revived, four years later,

following a local newspaper report that an abattoir - possibly two - would be built in the Baldivis area, which would change the zoning from 'rural' to 'industrial' and impact on Golden Bay, causing traffic congestion and pollution.

Trevor was instrumental in starting a petition and he presented 239 signatures (from approximately 90 per cent of residents) to the Shire Clerk in July 1977, which resulted in the plan being quashed.

Since then, there have been numerous causes, reams of correspondence and determination from committed residents that have brought many positive results for the local community.



RESIDENTS BUILT PLAY EQUIPMENT AND PLANTED TREES



THE HONOUR BOARD IN TUE COASTAL COMMUNITY CENTRE

I like the coastal location, the great group of like-minded community members and lots of young families. My favourite memory so far would be the focus on young families with the playgroup and Golden Bay Christmas Fair.

CONNI PIHO | RESIDENT

A lack of firefighting equipment was another issue in the early days. After several requests to the Shire, a siren was erected on the side of the deli and a mobile water tank was brought in, followed by the arrival of a fire trailer and knapsacks. Persistence saw the Singleton Ward Fire Brigade officially recognised in 1980.

After much lobbying, a public telephone was installed in Dampier Drive, outside the deli. This was another win for the community but it did not go down too well with the shop-owner at the time. He would be losing out, as his phone had always been used by the community and he would add on a small fee for the service!

In 1979, the first mailbox was placed at the shopping centre on Dampier Drive and from August of that year there were mail collections and deliveries three times a week.

The 1980s brought many changes. The Foreshore Reserve was improved beyond recognition when barbecues, playground equipment and seating were installed by volunteer residents.

On the environmental front, families planted trees and helped preserve the dunes, leading to vehicles being prohibited from driving along the sand.

Amenities that are nowadays taken for granted were hard-won battles in years gone by. Better school bus transport, street lighting, beach footpaths, road upgrades, mail delivery to homes and much more are due to local residents' efforts.

Fast forward to the present day and it is the enduring camaraderie and community spirit that continues to hold great appeal for the newer residents of Golden Bay.

THE GLUE THAT BONDS

The Community



HOW THE GOLDEN BAY PROGRESS ASSOCIATION LOGO DEVELOPED

In the early days, the only community venue for residents was a small hall for meetings and social gatherings. With the population increasing, it became clear that another facility would be needed in the not too distant future.

In the early 1990s, the Progress Association approached the City of Rockingham and the local Member of Parliament, enlisting their support for a submission to build a larger community centre.

After a great deal of discussion and numerous meetings, the go-ahead was given, paving the way for a new community amenity. The new venue would have meeting rooms and a hall large enough to satisfy local sporting groups.

Raising the \$645,000 was not easy. With assistance from the City of Rockingham, the Association was successful in obtaining grants from the federal and state governments.

The Lotteries Commission (now Lotterywest) granted \$295,000, which the Council matched dollar for dollar, and Council later extended its contribution to \$340,000 when costs increased.

Work began in 1992 and was completed, in an incomplete kind of way, by September 1993.

The building was literally a shell with plumbing and electrical installations, and the Council had installed the hall floor. As had become the norm, the Golden Bay community set to work, giving time, money and effort to paint, carpet the meeting rooms and hallway, and install the jarrah floor in the playroom.



THE BADMINTON GROUP HAVE A REGULAR BOOKING AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

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I've lived in Golden Bay since 2002. I love living near the beach and I love the peacefulness of Golden Bay. The Playgroup mural was a combined effort. We raised the funds for the background colour, and a shop donated a lot of sample paint pots and tints for the characters on top. As we're by the Ocean, we decided it would be a great idea to bring some of its inhabitants into the room!

BREE ZIKMUNDOVSKY | RESIDENT

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MUM AND ARTIST BREE ZIKMUNDOVSKY BESIDE PART OF THE MUCH-LOVED PLAYROOM MURAL

The Association applied for further grants to cover the cost of sporting equipment and playroom and meeting room furniture and a committee of representatives from all interested groups who would use the centre was formed.

In an act of amazing generosity, the three local ladies who cleaned the centre donated their pay back to the committee for the first 18 months.

The Coastal Community Centre in Tangadee Road was officially opened on 6 March 1994. It was a great day for the community, not only in Golden Bay but also in Singleton, Secret Harbour and Madora Bay.

By this time, a charter had been set up for the committee – a set of rules that is still in place – and there have been many renovations and improvements over time.

Three artistic mums created a playroom mural depicting life underwater, which is universally admired. It is interesting to note that this room is also the voting room for Golden Bay.

Many activities have come, and some have gone, over the past 20 years. However, regular users since 1994 have been the Comet Bay Sports Club (for netball and basketball training), the Badminton Group and the Comet Bay Baptist Church. Sports clubs in Rockingham and Mandurah are also given access, subject to availability.

THE 'GOLD' IN *Golden Bay*



A number of residents have been dedicated to the life of Golden Bay and have given years and decades of community service. The Golden Bay community were asked to nominate some of the people who have 'made' the place.



Paula Silla and her late husband, Sam, came to Peelhurst (as it was then known) in 1971. Paula is distinguished as the longest-standing resident in Golden Bay, having lived in the same house in Marillana Drive for 43 years, and her home is filled with many memories.

Prior to there being any hall facilities in the area, the Golden Bay Progress Association, the Volunteer Fire Brigade, the Country Women's Association, children's school holiday activities, ladies' painting classes and bingo sessions

were all held in Paula's garage! Her family room became a temporary classroom for a time when parents withdrew their children from school due to unsafe bus transport, and she fondly recalls her daughter, Marie, acting as Santa's Helper at a Christmas party in the early 1980s.

Paula is a past President and past Secretary of the Progress Association and was awarded Life Membership in 1987. She has two children and four grandchildren.



A keen fisherman, **Trevor Foster** loves the Peelhurst coastline. He moved to Golden Bay on 24 February 1972 with his wife, Rosemary, in the days when Thomas Peel's cottage still had two storeys and Trevor is nostalgic that more was not done to preserve the building.

Trevor's enthusiasm for the area rubbed off on his brother and, later, his son, both of whom live nearby. Extending the historic family links, his late father, George, (no relation to the Councillor with a reserve named after him) was the first Father Christmas at the children's annual parties.

Trevor was actively involved in the Progress Association for many years and was Vice-President for a time in the 1990s. He has many interesting recollections of the early days in Golden Bay, including the days when there were no kerbs, drainage or mail delivery, and the closest doctor was in Rockingham.

Having retired more than 20 years ago, Trevor is busy renovating his property and making sure he's not left behind with technology. He also plays lawn bowls, which has become his sport of choice at Singleton.



Shirley Gwynne and her husband, Colin, have lived in Golden Bay since 1987. She very soon became part of the Progress Association, serving as Secretary for a time. The fishing game at the children's Christmas party was her 'thing' for a long time, and she door-knocked over many years on behalf of the Association and the charities it has supported. Recognising Shirley's contribution, she was awarded life membership in 2008.

More than 20 years ago, Shirley visited libraries in Perth, Mandurah and Rockingham for her personal pleasure, to find out more about Thomas Peel Jnr. She talked to many different

people and her findings formed the basis of her booklet, A History of Golden Bay, which also details how streets were named after pastoral stations in Western Australia.

The environment is very special to Shirley and she has played a great part in the Coastcare management of the coastal dunes. She has also planted numerous trees along Dampier Drive – three times, in fact – sometimes volunteering her two granddaughters to lend a hand.

Now retired, Shirley is still a very committed member of the Association and takes an interest in the future of Golden Bay.



A warm welcome and friendly faces are the overriding memories of **Jean Webb's** early days in Golden Bay. She and her husband, Bill, arrived in early 1994 and she attended her first Progress Association meeting soon afterwards. At the AGM later that year, Jean was nominated as Secretary and held the position for the next five years.

It was a baptism by fire and Jean immediately became involved in the children's Christmas party, Carols by Candlelight and organising the Comet Bay Fair that was taking place in January 1995. During these preparations, there was an issue with the water supply in Golden Bay and a public meeting took place to discuss having scheme water installed.

Jean also became Booking Officer for the Community Centre Management Committee in 1995 and combined that job with the roles of Treasurer and Secretary – positions she still holds, to this day! She is extremely passionate about the community centre being looked after by the local community.

Highlighting the essence of community, Jean recalls the Christmas card that arrived in her letterbox addressed to 'Jean and Bill at Golden Bay'. The postie knew where it had to be delivered!

Jean was awarded Life Membership of the Progress Association in 2000. She describes Golden Bay as "our own slice of heaven".



Gordon Murdoch and his family are second generation Golden Bay residents. They arrived in 1994, though his wife, Jane, grew up in the neighbourhood in the 1980s and her mum lives 500 metres from them. Gordon also has childhood links with Golden Bay and camped as a teenager in the sandhills of the then Crystaluna Beach and fished for whiting with his dad and his uncle.

Now Principal at Warnboro Primary School, Gordon loves the small hamlet, connected-community feel of Golden Bay and strongly believes that it takes a village to raise a child.

He has done his share of helping to raise children, becoming involved with the Comet Bay Sports Club and starting a hugely successful

basketball club that is the second largest in the Mandurah Basketball Association. Gordon estimates he has coached nearly 200 kids over the years and said, "They call me by my first name, chat to me down the street and provide a protective circle for my children. I've made good friendships with their parents, I care about their kids and they do about mine. It's what it's all about for me – community."

During lulls in the fortunes of the basketball club, the Comet Bay Netball Club has been a mainstay, led by Jo Hawes. No further information has been received but Gordon describes her as "the glue that has held things together during everyone's comings and goings" and the club as "huge and greatly successful."

THE DRESS CIRCLE OF *Seaside Subdivisions*

This description draws a parallel with excellent seats in a theatre and was used in the 1970s by selling agents, H G Seymour & Co. The phrase is still appropriate as new residents arrive to share the values of this established community and create the next chapter in the history of Golden Bay.



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“I came to look at Golden Bay one Sunday afternoon on a whim, just to see how far away it was. I was quite impressed with the size of the block I could get, the location of the property, not only being so close to the beach but also for the future developments, shops, school etc.

“I have a brick and tile roof cottage-style home in Talisker Bend, in the new development of Golden Bay. This is my first home; I love coming home and I love where I live.”

PHIL REILLY MOVED FROM YANGEBUP IN MID-2013 WITH HIS DAUGHTER AND HER MOTHER

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“We moved here for the coastal lifestyle and beautiful beaches; friendly community and the feeling of a sea change without being too ‘remote’. My family LOVE Golden Bay! Whenever we have a visitor, they always comment on our street, how the kids play outside and the big blocks. I think it is beautiful, clean and laid-back, with committed community members looking to preserve what we have here.”

KYLIE FLANNERY MOVED FROM KELMSCOTT WITH HER HUSBAND AND FAMILY IN 2006

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“The quiet, community-orientated feel of Golden Bay, along with its wonderful beach, was the major drawcard for me. The government’s ‘Opening Doors’ initiative also made our home in such a great suburb a reality.

“We live in Talisker Bend, in the first stage of the new development. We have got to know our neighbours in the nearby streets as well as locals who come to the park to play. We also have got to know some families through our involvement in Auskick, played at the local Rhonda Scarrott Oval. We love the outdoors and enjoy spending time at the beach, camping, cycling and playing lots of sports.”

WENDY GORE HAS BEEN IN GOLDEN BAY WITH HER SON, ZACH, AND THEIR DOG SINCE LATE 2012

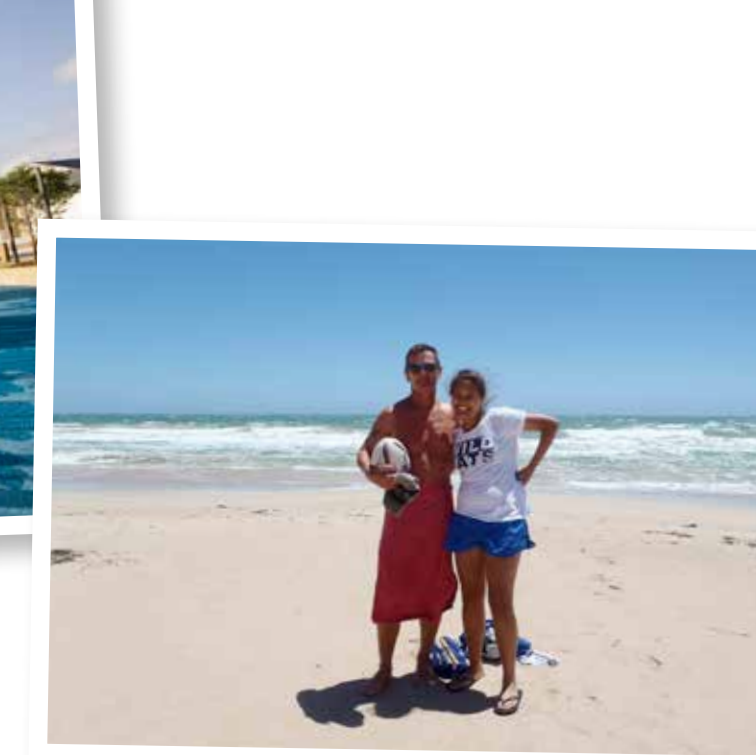
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“We moved to Golden Bay in 2009 to be by the sea and to be closer to family and we’ve also found a great community - added bonus! We loved our time being involved with the Playgroup and found it a great meeting place.”

NEL AND JOHN STORY

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“The beautiful beach attracted me to Golden Bay. I used to live in White Gum Valley and I moved here, to my home in Tamala Court, towards the end of 2012. I have one fantastic daughter and a gorgeous grand-daughter and my hobbies include keeping fit and dragon boat paddling. I know everyone in my street.”

GORDON WAYCOTT

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THE HERE AND NOW

Golden Bay Today





THE LIFE OF

Golden Bay

Glimpse life then and now in the close-knit community of Golden Bay.

This booklet shines a light on the wonderful spirit that has prevailed over many decades, and which will continue in the years to come.