



mudlark

December 2021

South of the River Potters' Club Newsletter

COMING EVENTS:

- Monthly meeting – Wednesday
January 12th 10..00



Link to Club website

MCAA new website:
melvillearts.com.au

HISTORY OF ATWELL HOUSE

Elizabeth Miocevich-Turner has provided a fascinating recollection from John McDonald who, as a boy, worked at what was then the Atwell Dairy farm, now the site of Atwell House, Atwell Gallery and Karlup-Atwell ceramics studio. I have added some material from the official historical records of the Heritage Council of Australia:

Ownership of Lena Blacker's Alfred Cove property was transferred to Walter David Atwell on 15th June 1926.

Born in Fremantle in 1872, Walter David Atwell was the son of former convict turned prominent Fremantle landowner and businessman, Henry Atwell. Married to Edith Stewart in 1902, Walter Atwells own career focussed around his passion for horses. Post Office Directory records indicate that Atwell operated a livery stable in Fremantle, mainly from a property off South Terrace, throughout the 1900s. He was also reportedly one of the first huntsmen of the Fremantle Hunt Club and, by c. 1912, was Master of the Hounds of the West Australian Hunt Club.

Although Walter Atwell was registered as the proprietor of the 22 acres of Swan Location 74 in 1926, there is some question as to the exact date when the Atwell family actually began to live at Alfred Cove. This appears to be associated with reports of an earlier timber house on the property which house was said to have been destroyed by fire and Atwell House was erected as its replacement in c. 1935.

South of the River Potters' Club

Atwell House 586 Canning Highway Alfred Cove WA 6154 9330 2800

Postal Address: PO Box 27 Applecross WA 6953

BSB:306-070 A/C 4187263 ABN 42 626 130 408

sorpotters@hotmail.com **Instagram:** southoftheriverpottersclub

Facebook: southriverpotters

Website: <http://sorpottersclub.com>

President – Jenny Rygiel 0451 119 242

Secretary – Chris Rogers 9453 1401

Treasurer – Peggy Stacy 9331 2507

Oral History Interviews with David (Walter Atwell's second son), his wife Connie and their daughter Dianne in 1998 provide a detailed description of the house, its furnishings and the lifestyle of the family. From the interviews, it is clear that Atwell House was designed to show the prominence of its owners, being a substantial brick and tile residence for the time with an elaborate veranda, bay windows and leadlight window and door features.



Photo 1976 City of Melville

Here is John McDonald's recollection of Atwell House:

“As a 12 or 13 year old, in 1945, I got a job with Atwell's Dairy at 586 Canning Highway Melville (now known as Alfred Cove). On Friday nights I would ride my bike from Walter Street, East Fremantle, to the dairy. At 4.00am Mrs Atwell would wake me and her two sons David and Clive. We would have breakfast and then head for the dairy where my job was to wash the teats of the cows before applying the milking harness.

After milking I would saddle a Shetland pony and herd the cows towards the track and across Canning Highway and up Wireless Hill before turning west across North Lake Road. I would then continue west until almost Rome Road, then back across Canning highway into the bush and up to Santa Maria College. I would then turn the corner and they would graze whilst slowly going back the way we came to the dairy. There were very few houses along that route in those days and maize was grown as stockfeed along the banks of the Swan River.

After the afternoon milking we would return to the house for dinner and repeat everything on Sunday. After returning the cows on Sunday I would ride home to Walter Street. My wage was two bob (2 shillings) which was a lot of money in those days.

It is of interest that the house had a name – “Great Applause” – which was the name of the horse owned by Walter Atwell which won the Perth Cup in 1925.

CLUB CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

Our Christmas lunch on the verandah was a huge success in many ways – a great turnout of members including many of our newer members – and a huge banquet of delicious goodies contributed by all who came along.







HANDY HINT

I spotted this idea in a Facebook post and it shows that there are more creative uses for wax resist than just keeping the bottoms of your pots free of glaze.

The potter is Lulu Pottery in Montana (lulupottery.com).



Next Meeting:

- **Wednesday January 12th at 10am**