

Mattie's house moves at last!

And so it is done!

Mattie Furphy House now stands in the Allen Park Heritage Precinct, a stone's throw from Tom Collins House. Admittedly it all looks a little uncertain on its (new) stumps and jacks— rather like an overgrown Tardis that has plumped down out of who knows what orbit. And there is about a metre gap between the two pieces. And the verandah lies in a heap to one side. And And.... the list goes on. None of this alters the fact, however. Mattie's house has arrived in its future setting.



Watching the two pieces process down North and Kirkwood Streets was like watching Dorothy's house in *The Wizard of Oz*. Not that it whirled through space. Its progression was more stately and measured. But there was an eeriness in this tall tattered roof and leaning walls that staggered around the corners, often in a stop-start-stop sequence as the contractors manoeuvred around obstacles. The taller front section still wears its fringe of Norfolk pine branches gathered along the way.

All praise to those contractors, though. They're a family team, with father directing, son driving or crawling under stationary jinkers with ex-son-in-law, wife and daughter-in-law driving the accompanying trucks, while young grandson lorded it in the truck cab, a seven year old apprentice. And, as one of the house owners said, they are artists. At times only inches separated truck and electric light pole.

Neighbours, cyclists, early morning walkers, all turned out for the entertainment. (The move began at 7am on Anzac Day morning.) Among the onlookers were friends of Clem Furphy, a descendant of Joseph's brother John, in Shepparton. They had come especially, after the article in the *Subiaco Post*. A family gathering of Allens, descendants of the Allen Park Allen, was picnicking on the oval and visited TCH. Shirley Crellin, whose childhood home used to stand just west of TCH, was there, as were a smattering of our members. It all took on a carnival atmosphere at times. Except, that is, for the men who were cajoled into digging out tree stumps left in the ground after the 3 small trees had been removed. Works supervisor Ken Miller was joined by Nedlands Councillor Stephen Lipple and conservation consultant Greg Manzie wielding an array of spades and axes. And, yes, we did get photos.

So, after two weeks of hard preparatory work, the house has moved, and the real work begins. Thank you to everyone who has supported us this far, whether by donations, your presence or simply your encouraging thoughts and words. We could not have done it without you.

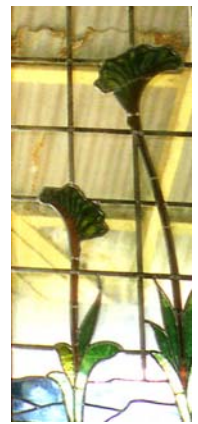
Thanks too to Dr Robyn Taylor, who put in many hours on the Interim Conservation Plan, to archaeologist Shane Burke who sifted through rubble, crawled under the house, and even discovered part of a 1918 *West Australian* broadsheet, to local resident Rod Griffiths who provided so much

sensible advice and needed support —and then missed the excitement because of previously organised travel plans.

More thanks to Greg Manzie, the four cultural heritage students who spent hours measuring and photographing the building, to architect Murray Slavin and offsidiers for their advice, to art historian Dr Dorothy Erickson who will come on board to complete the Conservation Plan.

Last but not least thanks to our sponsors — the WA Government through the Department for Housing and Works and UWA, both of whom contributed \$30,000 for the relocation costs. (Yes, the figures in the *Subi Post* were a tad off the mark. Moving cost \$60,000 —plus \$6,000 GST, still unfunded— with a possible \$190,000 for restoration works.) We are waiting for official confirmation that lotterywest will grant the FAWWA a sum to complete external work on weatherproofing, security and restoring the heritage fabric. And the hunt is on for other possible sources of funding. Do let us know if you hear of anyone interested in giving away their money! And do come by and see this new addition for yourself. Nestling among the trees it doesn't look as imposing as it once did. In fact, it really looks quite at home.

Trisha Kotaj-Ewers, Project Manager



With thanks for your valued and much needed support!

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Heritage Matters

At the suggestion of heritage architect Mr. Murray Slavin, the Fellowship has been nominated for the Heritage Council's recognition as a Heritage Ambassador.

One of the requirements for this award is that the individual or organisation should have shown a commitment to heritage 'beyond the everyday commercial and practical considerations.'

A team of writers caring for the heritage of a small weatherboard cottage for the 57 years from 1948, when 'heritage' was not exactly an 'in' topic, until 2005, seemed to fit that requirement, as did rescuing not one, but two houses from demolition —even if it did mean moving them both.

So, we shall see.

