

August 2024

## THIS MONTH'S MEETING:

**Monday 19 August at 7.30pm**

The speaker at our August meeting is Sandy Whitelaw who has been the curator of the Costume Collection for the National Trust of South Australia for the past seven years. Sandy's topic is "**Mistresses of Beaumont House – Pioneer Women in South Australia**". Full details of the meeting can be found in the meeting flyer on page 4 of this Bulletin.



Beaumont House c1880

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



### Cummins House Visit

Firstly, my thanks to Bob Stace (in Covid Recovery isolation at the time) and Liz Silz for their organising of the successful and interesting Cummins House tour. Excursions like this remind us of the incredible efforts of our early settlers in establishing our City and State.

### Wheal Watkins project impacted by cuts to the City of Burnside Budget

As the owner of the Wheal Watkins, the City of Burnside (CoB) applied for and was successful in recently obtaining a \$10,000 State Heritage Grant which will be matched dollar for dollar with \$10,000 from the BHS Mines Account (this \$10,000 is part of the \$35,000 the BHS holds as a result of John Clark's donation in 2008) This \$20,000 will be used to commence Stage 1 of the Project which is to undertake construction work to rehabilitate and repair the entrances to the two mine adits (entrances). Unfortunately due to cuts made to the City of Burnside (CoB) budget for 2024/25 by the members of Council, a foreshadowed and requested allocation for the Wheal Watkins rehabilitation project was completely removed. This now means that the \$10,000 Grant and the BHS \$10,000 will need to finance Stage 1 of the construction without the financial support of the Council. Whilst we have so far been very appreciative of the support from the CoB in working with us to develop this project, this is a disappointing outcome. It is our hope that the Council members will find sufficient funds in the next Budget to provide supportive funding for this Heritage listed, Council owned, mine which is of both State and National historical significance.

Disappointingly there were also other cuts to history/heritage related projects in the CoB Budget.

### What can we do as members of BHS?

We believe that Burnside has a wonderful history which we must keep alive and active. The history of Burnside is worth protecting and must not be allowed to lapse through financial neglect.

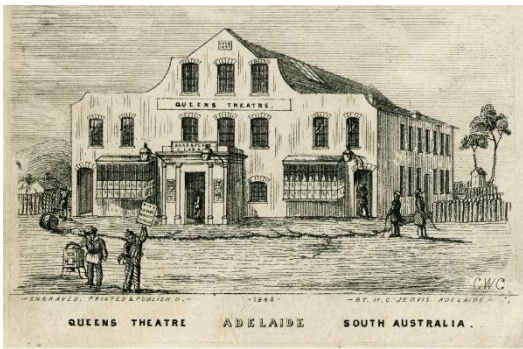
**Our role is to Preserve, Protect, and Promote our history.**

We must always remind our local Councillors that our heritage matters!

Roger Bills

President - Burnside Historical Society

## EARLY THEATRES OF COLONIAL ADELAIDE 1836-1856



Queen's Theatre 1842, SLSA B4502

Our **September meeting on Monday 16<sup>th</sup>** will feature Ian Sellick as our speaker and he will detail the history of the first thirteen theatres opened in South Australia between 1836 and 1856 with colourful information on the proprietors and actors. Ian's talk will also be interwoven with stories of crime and daily life in colonial Adelaide during this time that impinged on the entertainment of the theatre goers.

Ian is a retired electrical contractor who has now published three books covering the colonial period in Adelaide.

## ARRESTING STORY OF THE SA POLICE

(Meeting report based on information from Dianne Wilson)

The speaker at our July meeting Dr Barry Blundell gave a very informative presentation on the history of SAPOL, and the histories and functions of the Police Historical Society, the Police Museum, and the Thebarton Police Barracks. Barry is a retired Police Officer and Detective and is Secretary of The South Australian Police Historical Society.



Members of the SA Police Historical Society have a passion for History. Its mission is to collect and preserve historical and cultural material and to display this information for the education and enjoyment of the public. Much research is carried out by members; they have monthly meetings, publish a Quarterly Magazine, attend field trips and visit other museums.

The collection of The SA Police Historical Society is regarded as significant. The extensive list of items includes vehicles, uniforms, photographs, press clippings, movies/videos, badges, awards, medals, and artefacts, such as batons. In the Archive Collection are gazettes, manuals, files, annual reports, and Police Operations material. Vehicles in the collection include 14 cars, 11 motorcycles, a boat, a black Maria, and several pushbikes. The badge collection is the largest in Australia.

Sadly, the site of The Thebarton Barracks is now required for a new building for The Women's and Children's Hospital. The SA Police Historical Society is on the move to 361 King William Street, Adelaide where it is scheduled to open in late 2024/early 2025. The police horses and the dog squad are also on the move with both relocating to a site at Gepps Cross.

## THE SUN SHONE ON OUR VISIT TO CUMMINS HOUSE

(Report based on information supplied by Liz Silz)



Fortuitously a sunny winter's day shone brightly on our visit to Cummins House in July when twenty-one members and friends enjoyed the hospitality of The Cummins Society and its expert guides. We were warmly welcomed and enjoyed a delicious Devonshire tea prior to viewing the property. This historic home of John Morphett and his family was originally built in 1842 and extended in 1854, and it is one of a very few examples of an early Colonial home which remains authentic today. We marvelled that it still contains original pieces of Morphett family furniture and wall papers, and curtains dating back to the renovations of 1854. Following our very interesting and informative morning, many members and friends travelled to the nearby Highway Hotel for an excellent lunch. The Programme Subcommittee thanks our members for supporting this well-received event.

## DAY VISIT TO HISTORICAL AND PICTURESQUE STRATHALBYN



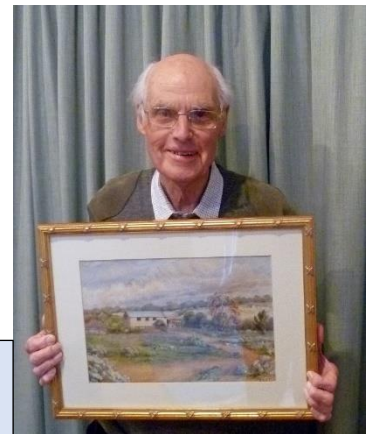
This is preliminary information about our next outing which is a day visit to Strathalbyn on **Wednesday 25 September**. The day will include a morning visit to the historic Glenbarr homestead, lunch at the Victoria Hotel with its resident ghost, an early afternoon visit to the Strathalbyn and District Heritage Centre Museum, to be followed by some optional activities including exploring antique shops and leisurely walks in historic and picturesque Strathalbyn. Full details of the programme, costs, and arrangements for the day will be included in a flyer which will be emailed to all members before our August meeting.

Bookings and payments can be made at our August and September meetings. Reserve this day in your diary now for a delightful spring day in Strathalbyn.

## VALE GEOFFREY TRELOAR

BHS Foundation member Geoff Treloar passed away on 24 July aged 90 whilst he was visiting family in Mackay. Geoff, with his wife Geraldine, were both active members of our Society and they particularly enjoyed the BHS Tours organised by Richard House and Colin Harris. Geoff was also an enthusiastic member of the Plaques subcommittee. Geoff's family has advised that a memorial service will be held in Adelaide later this year. Members will be notified of arrangements via this Bulletin in due course.

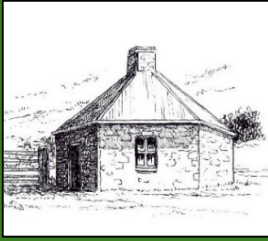
Geoff holding a watercolour by Burnside artist Aly Gee  
Photo courtesy of Judy Fander



**YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND**  
**the 16<sup>th</sup> Eastern Region History Seminar 2024**  
**on Saturday 21 September, 10.30am – 2.30pm**  
**at Lochend House, Campbelltown**

BHS has been well represented at the past two Regional History Seminars which were held at Marble Hill and organised by the East Torrens Historical Society. This year's Seminar will be held at another great venue *Lochend* and it will be convened by the Campbelltown Historical Society. The Seminar will showcase the activities of historical societies in the eastern area of Adelaide during the past year. Make the commitment now to represent BHS on what promises to be an enjoyable and interesting day.

Copies of the Seminar Programme and Registration Form will be available from the Welcoming Desk at our August meeting. Registrations with payment are due by 6 September.



# Burnside Historical Society

Active in the Burnside Community for 44 years

## August Meeting

### *Mistresses of Beaumont House – Pioneer Women in South Australia*

**Speaker: Sandy Whitelaw**

**Monday 19 August & 7.30pm**

**Burnside Community Centre Hall adjacent to Burnside Library  
401 Greenhill Road, Tasmore. Enter off Fisher St**

#### **The Topic:**

Between the period 1851 – 1967, four women held the position of Chatelaine of Beaumont House. These four women stood beside their husbands and were interesting in their own right. **Millicent Short** was the woman behind a man of the cloth, **Lady Davenport** was a philanthropist, **Emily Vincent** a socialite and finally **Lillian Brock**, nee Bennett, who ultimately donated Beaumont House to the National Trust. Each woman made changes to the House to suit the needs of their family, each held a place in a rapidly growing state.



Beaumont House C1880



Sandy Whitelaw

**The Speaker:** Sandy Whitelaw has been the curator of the Costume Collection for the National Trust of South Australia for the past seven years. She is responsible for over four and a half thousand items within the collection. The Collection is thought to be the largest collection of Costume in Australia. She is responsible for assessing donations, cataloguing, establishing provenance, restoration, storage, presentation of exhibits, floor talks and providing an advisory service to the public.

**Visitors Welcome – a \$2 donation is appreciated**