

Burnside Historical Society JOURNAL



2024

Front Cover

Corner of Portrush and Greenhill Roads 1956
Burnside Library Local History Collection

See article 70 YEARS: A LOOK BACK AT GREENHILL ROAD IN 1954 page 52

Front Inset

Corner of Portrush and Greenhill Roads 2024
Photographer Roger Bills

See article 70 YEARS: A LOOK BACK AT GREENHILL ROAD IN 1954 page 52

Back Cover

Aerial View of Portrush and Greenhill Roads and Burnside Council Chambers 1978
Burnside Library Local History Collection

See article 70 YEARS: A LOOK BACK AT GREENHILL ROAD IN 1954 page 52

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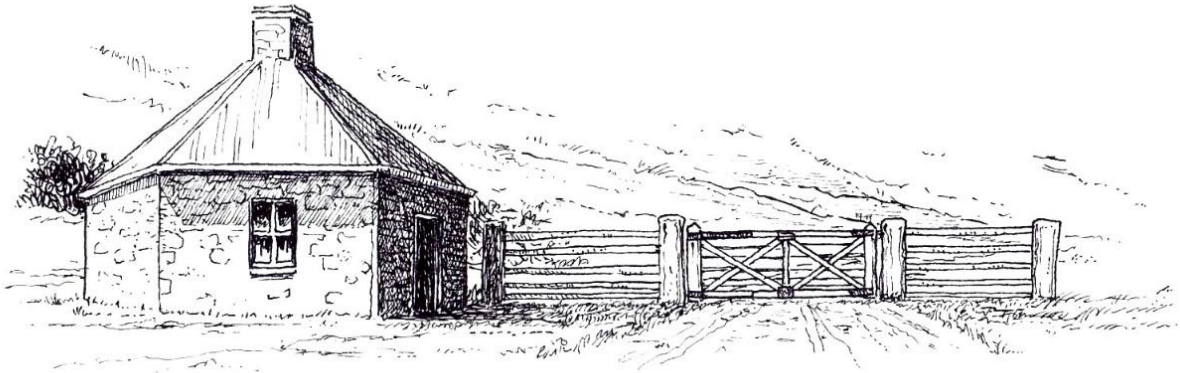
BURNSIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2024 JOURNAL

Generous support provided by the



**Edited by
Helen Bills, Roger Bills, Liz Silz and Bob Stace**

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Disclaimer

Any information or opinions expressed in the articles of the *Journal* are those of the authors, given in a personal and unofficial capacity, and do not necessarily represent official views or positions of the *Burnside Historical Society*.



INTRODUCING THE BURNSIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**A friendly, welcoming, local organisation
working to promote history and heritage in the Burnside community.**

The **BHS was founded in 1980** and has been an active and enthusiastic participant in the Burnside community throughout the ensuing 44 years.

Objectives

- To arouse interest in and to promote the study and discussion of Australian and South Australian history, and particularly the history of the City of Burnside.
- To promote the collection, recording, preservation and classification of works, source material and artefacts of all kinds relating to the City of Burnside.
- To assist in the protection and preservation of buildings, works, and sites of historical significance in the City of Burnside.
- To cooperate with similar societies and other bodies throughout Australia.

Membership

Membership of BHS is open to all persons or bodies who subscribe to the above objectives and who pay the prescribed annual subscription fee - \$30 for single members and \$45 for families or couples. Membership is currently 107.

Meetings

General meetings are held on the third Monday of the month (February to November inclusive), commencing at 7.30pm in the Coralie Soward Hall of the Burnside Community Centre, 401 Greenhill Road, Tasmore. Generally, the main feature at each meeting is an interesting guest speaker along with a brief component of Society business.

Details of meetings, the speaker programme, events, and activities can be found on our Website and Facebook page. Coming events can often be found in the *Burnside Focus Newsletter*.

Visitors are most welcome to attend our meetings.

FOREWORD

Anne Monceaux

Mayor, the City of Burnside

I congratulate the Burnside Historical Society on its 44th year of service and on producing its 4th Journal. History gives us a sense of place and time, of cultural identity and knowledge about social and environmental backgrounds. History helps us to understand about the past and how that past influences our present and potentially our future. I am always impressed by the efforts of the Burnside Historical Society to promote, protect and preserve local history. So, I thank you for your contribution to the City of Burnside and for your collaboration with the Council.

I have not been able to attend all the meetings but have really enjoyed learning about Chiverton House at the launch of the Journal at the end of last year, Sir Hubert Wilkins, Australian Aviators, the History of the Adelaide Zoo and the Police Historical Society this year. As I write this foreword, I am looking forward to hearing about Mistresses of Beaumont House, Theatre Life in Adelaide from 1836-56, Three Historic Burnside buildings, and the Canning Stock Route.

Other speakers included Stories of South Australian Institutes and Food at Rose Park Primary School in the early days. Tours also attracted members to Hans Heysen's 'The Cedars' at Hahndorf and to Cummins House at Novar Gardens. I congratulate the Committee for selecting such engaging presenters and for the opportunity for social interaction that takes place at each of these meetings and outings.

I am looking forward to reading more about A Look Back at Burnside in 1924 and Greenhill Road in 1954, the History of the Glenside Lions' Bookmart, Linden Park Scouts, a Pioneer of South Australian Quarries, the Life of Frederik Charles Krichauff and Tours and Trips with Glen Woodward, which I believe all tell about interesting events and places in Burnside and the local identities involved.

I would like to thank the Burnside Historical Society for its involvement in the Heritage Reference Group of the City of Burnside, for providing History Month activities, for your members' service to the Local History Room in the Library, Colin Harris for his work on Council Reserve signage and to the Society for its contribution to making the videos about Wheal Watkins and the Magill Stone Mine. for the *Our History* series.



Burnside Treasures cabinet in the Local History Room

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the fourth annual journal of the Burnside Historical Society which provides an illustrated report of the Society's activities for the past year. This record clearly demonstrates that we have once again been an active and enthusiastic partner in the Burnside community just as we have done for the past 44 years.

The reports of our monthly meetings, our outings to places of historical significance, our active participation in the State's History Festival, and our involvement in a number of history and heritage issues in the Burnside community, all indicate that we remain true to our objectives. These reports also show that our members have enjoyed their participation in these activities and have learnt much from the stories of Burnside and South Australian history. Some of these experiences have triggered personal memories of the past like visits to the Zoo as a child, or the food we ate at school all those years ago. We have become conscious of the many changes that we have witnessed and experienced during our lifetime. We have been part of what is now "history."

These changes are no more obvious than those depicted on the covers of this Journal. The main image on the front cover is closely connected to the reprinted article on page 52, *70 years: A look back at Greenhill Road 1954*. This photo of the intersection of Greenhill and Portrush Roads, which has become the heart of Burnside's commercial area, was taken nearly 70 years ago. Some of us will remember this intersection with its traffic round-about and the Tusmore Post Office and shops along Greenhill Road. Today we see further changes with major additions to the Burnside Village being built on this corner and the inset photo of construction on the site being out of date before you read this Journal. History and change are interconnected and seemingly inevitable.

We thank all those who have contributed to the production of this Journal, with special thanks to those members who provided reports on our meetings and the presentations given by our speakers. Special thanks to the writers of the General Articles which appear on pages 51-76 who have added so much to the stories of Burnside and its people. And finally, our thanks to the City of Burnside for providing the financial support to enable the publication of this Journal.



EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

L-R Bob Stace, Helen Bills, Liz Silz, and Roger Bills

BHS 2024/25 COMMITTEES & SUB-COMMITTEES

Successful organisations thrive when the load is shared. The BHS is no exception.

General Committee:

President: Roger Bills
Secretary: Chris Kelly
Treasurer: David Monceaux
Members: Helen Bills
Cathy Bransbury
Judy Fander
Liz Silz
Bob Stace



L-R: Roger, Chris, Cathy, Liz, Helen, Bob, Judy
Absent: Dave

Public Officer: Helen Bills

Programme Sub-committee:

Judy Fander
Neville Lawrence
Bob Stace
Liz Silz
Dianne Wilson

Marketing and Membership:

Publicity: Bob Stace
Derek Bransbury
Helen Bills
Website: Jeremy Carter
Helen Bills
Facebook: Margaret Ford OAM

Bulletin Sub-committee:

Editor: Bob Stace
Email Distribution: Roger Bills

BHS and History

Yearbook Compiler: Richard House OAM
Archivist: Cathy Bransbury

Monthly Meetings:

Hall Set Up: Ken Lawson
Jeff Thompson
Data Projector: Roger Bills
Sound System: Neville Lawrence
Supper: Liz Silz
Sharan Northcott
Gill Nield
Welcomers: Cathy Bransbury
Gill Nield
Wardens: Helen Bills
Roger Bills
Judy Fander
Liz Silz

Mines Sub-committee:

David Monceaux
Bob Stace
Bryan Harris

Journal Committee:

Helen Bills
Roger Bills
Liz Silz
Bob Stace

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PRESIDENT'S REFLECTIONS 2024

Celebrating 44 years of Community History

by Roger Bills

In April this year I was elected President of the Burnside Historical Society (BHS) thinking that presiding over such a well-run group would be a straightforward role. Little then did I realise the depth and breadth of the task!

Consequently, the support of the small group of diligent and exceptionally hard-working members of the committee and the various subcommittees has been critical to making my role manageable. So, I want to recognise our volunteers up front and centre to give them my very grateful thanks. Without all our dedicated and unpaid volunteers this society would simply cease to exist, and that consequence is virtually unbearable to consider.

You may well ask, “what has been accomplished this year?” The short answer is “plenty” and I am sure, as you read through this Journal, that you will be impressed by what has been achieved.

I am very aware that the Society has built on the legacy of earlier members and committees. Grateful thanks are due to Margaret Ford for stepping in as Acting President last April, and to Bob Stace who filled the breach when Margaret’s health took a downward turn.

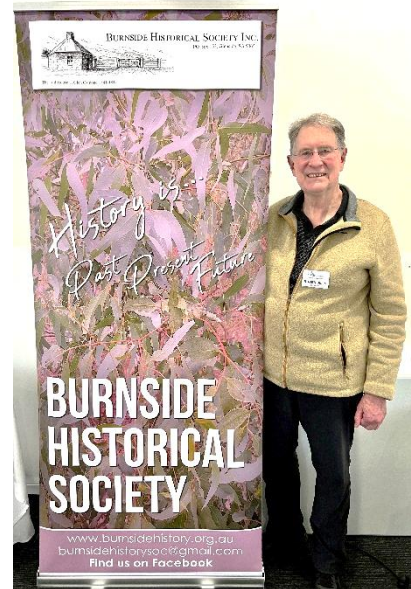
Our working relationship with the City of Burnside (CoB) has been a feature of our year. The BHS oral history tapes have been digitised and can be accessed on the Local History Room computer. Four of our committee members volunteer each week to assist Hannah or Michelle researching enquiries. The Mines Committee has worked hard with Council to take the first step to restore the Wheal Watkins adits.

Something we can be very pleased with is our website. Not only is it professionally managed but it is also extremely powerful. For instance, are you aware that all past bulletins, newsletters and journals can be accessed? And they are searchable! Little wonder that the Historical and Cultural Officers use it. Just log in to the BHS website www.burnsidehistory.org.au to see for yourself.

But I do have some concerns. Our membership is ageing and has remained virtually static, so we need to promote our society whenever possible. The Programme Committee works tirelessly to provide interesting speakers for meetings and outings; it is always gratifying for every presenter to have an active and interested audience.

I give heartfelt praise and sincere thanks to the myriad of our priceless BHS members, to the City of Burnside for the support from the Mayor and Historical Officers, and for the opportunity to hold our meetings in the Coralie Soward Hall.

History is not there for us to like or dislike. It is there for us to learn from. It’s not anyone’s to erase. It belongs to everyone. Our vision is simple – the BHS exists to **Preserve, Protect and Promote** Burnside’s history.



HERITAGE AND HISTORICAL ISSUES

City of Burnside Heritage Reference Group Report for 2024 by Derek Bransbury and Colin Harris

The City of Burnside Heritage Reference Group was established in 2020 to discuss and suggest strategies and projects that identify, promote, preserve and enhance our city's built and cultural heritage. The Reference Group provides advice and feedback to Council on developing, implementing and monitoring strategies and programs focused on conserving, enhancing and promoting the City's history and heritage. The members include the Mayor of Burnside, elected councillors, community representatives, the Historical and Cultural officers, Council administration and Colin Harris representing BHS. The group meets quarterly.

Topics the meetings covered this year included State and Council planning laws, the Council's historical publicity, heritage awards, signage and Council History activities.

The first meeting in **FEBRUARY** covered:

- Recruitment of a second part time Historical and Cultural officer. This appointment was completed by the May meeting and Hannah Shaw was welcomed. She shares the position with Michelle Toft. Heritage Budget bids for 2024 were discussed and finalised at the May meeting. Other items discussed included the need for appropriate signage at Attunga Gardens Park, care of the olive grove in Hazelwood Park, and celebration of the centenary in 2025 of the Regal Theatre in Kensington Park.
- The announcement that the members of the Burnside Military History research group received the Active Citizen of the year award. They spent hours researching the soldiers honoured in the Burnside Fallen Soldiers WW1 Memorial in Rose Park. This led to the information on the plaques along the Avenue being updated. The commemoration of the centenary of the bronze statue was planned and subsequently held on Anzac Day.



Olive Grove in Hazelwood Park

At the **MAY** meeting

- An overview of the State Government response to the review of the SA Planning System was presented. An information document together with attachments was to be prepared summarising the key next steps for the City of Burnside relating to the review.
- The 2024 Heritage Business Award was announced, Dulwitches of Linden Park being the winner.
- It was agreed that an article would be written for the Winter FOCUS magazine to celebrate 70 years of the Burnside Ballroom.
- A local History update included the latest news on the Heritage Plaques project, the Rose Park Memorial project and the History Festival events.



The State Heritage listed Burnside Ballroom, built in 1954

- The final 2024 Budget bids were advised being historic interpretive signage, resuming the Architectural Advisory Service for character homes and the Oral History project. Advice was received that the city-wide heritage review cost was likely to be in the 2025/26 Budget submissions while the Moorcroft Reserve Bridge restoration bid would be submitted then in full.

At the **AUGUST** meeting

- Our history videos were discussed. There are now 10 episodes which are on the Council website. These average 435 hits per episode, but the Kaurna History video received around 30,000 hits. Raising awareness of these through the Focus magazine was discussed. It was advised that the Heritage budget bids were rejected by the elected Councillors, but the approved on-going operating budget will enable the current Council Heritage activities including the Blue Heritage plaques, to continue.
- The History Festival events were reviewed, and it was noted that those where attendees were actively involved were the most popular.
- The Clark family generously donated a family heirloom, a mahogany table, that is now in the Mayor's parlour.
- Disappointment was expressed that the Councillors rejected the \$10,000 Council contribution towards replacement of the adit supports of the Wheal Watkins Mine. The BHS financial contribution of \$10,000 to enable this project to begin was appreciated.
- Colin Harris was thanked for his contribution to the Focus article on the 70 years of the Burnside Ballroom.



Jo Dey, a descendant of the Clark family, and the Mayor of Burnside, Anne Monceaux. The table, once belonged to Francis and Carolyn Clark, who migrated to Adelaide in 1850.

- An update on the Burnside District Memorial Statue was given and the Rotary Club of Burnside project involving the compilation of family histories and the scanning of old photos.
- Other discussion included Remembrance Day, the National Pleasure Resorts, the City-Wide Heritage review and the interest that the biodiversity team has in the work of early Burnside resident Fanny Elizabeth de Mole, who illustrated the first book of South Australian flora in 1861.



Facsimile copy of Fanny de Mole's *Wild Flowers of South Australia* in the Burnside Treasures display cabinet in the Local History Room



Michelle Toft, with the facsimile copy of *Wild Flowers of South Australia*



WHEAL WATKINS

BHS Mines Sub-committee Report

by Dave Monceaux

There is good news about the 1843 State Heritage Wheal Watkins silver/lead underground mine at Glen Osmond. The City of Burnside (CoB), owners of the mine and reserve, will commence some construction work this financial year, to conserve the entrances (adits) to the two mine tunnels.

The Burnside Historical Society has contributed \$10,000 in order to secure a dollar-for-dollar \$10,000 grant from Heritage SA. This will be enough to get the project started. But more funds will be required to complete the work in future years. Our contribution comes from a \$30,000 donation by the late John Clark, who was a keen supporter of Wheal Watkins, and a guide for the underground tours. John wanted the donation to be used to restart underground tours, but the owner, the Burnside Council, has not allowed underground tours since there was a small rock fall in 2005.

In the 1970s the Mines Department did some restoration work at the entrances to the two mine tunnels. They constructed 2 timber structures to protect viewers looking into the mine. They installed some timber props inside the tunnels. There has been no maintenance since then, and time, weather, erosion, and termites have caused deterioration. This project is to restore and improve the existing timber supporting structures so that visitors can safely get close to see into the mine. These structures will also support the rocky brow over the entrances that will otherwise eventually collapse and close the entrances.

Wheal Watkins is an historical underground silver/lead mine at Glen Osmond. Silver/lead ore was discovered in the hills at Glen Osmond in 1841 just 5 years after South Australia was first settled. There were three working mines - Wheal Gawler commenced in 1841, Glen Osmond Mine in 1842 and Wheal Watkins in 1843.

About 1,000 tonnes of 73% rich lead ore was won from Wheal Watkins and exported to Wales for smelting. The Cornish mining method was used. The mine closed in 1851. In the intervening 173 years, the area has been subdivided and built over with roads and houses. Fortunately, a Burnside Council Reserve was established around Wheal Watkins and so it has been saved and can be inspected above ground, by visitors.

The BHS Mines sub-committee worked with the Council to produce an excellent video, “Wheal Watkins Heritage Mine 1843” which tells the story of the Glen Osmond Mines. You can see it on the BHS website, <https://www.burnsidehistory.org.au>. There is a second video “Wheal Watkins Mine - History of Burnside” which can be viewed on the CoB website – search Wheal Watkins.

The BHS is appreciative of the support given by the CoB to this project over the past 12 months, and in particular, the Mayor, Anne Monceaux, the CEO Chris Cowley, and the Group Manager Environment and Infrastructure, James Brennan who is managing the project.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN THE LOCAL HISTORY ROOM?

by Hannah Shaw –Historical and Cultural Officer, City of Burnside

In February the City of Burnside welcomed Hannah Shaw to the role of Historical and Cultural Officer, sharing the role with Michelle Toft. Hannah and Michelle both work part time – two and three days per week respectively. Hannah has a Master of Museum and Heritage Studies from the Australian National University, and previously worked at the National Library of Australia and National Gallery of Australia in Canberra. She has returned home to Adelaide with her young family and is enjoying learning more about the history of Burnside, an area that played a large part in her childhood and school years.



Hannah & Michelle

We also welcomed a new volunteer, James, in April. A recent university graduate with an interest in history and collections, James has been assisting us with collection management. He has accessioned several recent donations, allowing them to be documented, safely housed, and made accessible to our visitors.

Local History Enquiry Hours

The Local History Enquiry Hours are held each Monday between 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm in the Library's Local History Room, staffed by the Historical and Cultural Officer and a volunteer. This service offers assistance in accessing history collection items or resources. It is an opportunity to connect with residents and uncover stories of the past, in turn growing our own knowledge of the area.

This year we have averaged between two and three local history enquiries per week. With the help of our wonderful local history volunteers, we have shared our knowledge and collection to inform residents and visitors about the history of our local area. Enquiries have ranged from property histories to the history of subdivisions in specific areas, the location of old businesses, family history and the significance of certain reserves.

One enquiry that resonated with staff and volunteers was the history of the Symons & Symons factory and playground on L'Estrange Street in Glenside. William Symons, a glass manufacturer of the company Symons & Symons, built the playground in the mid-1950s using the vacant block next to his house. The playground featured swings, seesaws, a slide, a climbing tower, a trapeze and a merry-go-round, providing a fun and enjoyable experience for the local children. Symons connected the playground's loudspeaker with his home radiogram, allowing children and their parents to listen to music while they were in the park. Our Local History volunteer Helen recounted her memories of spending time at this playground, a powerful reminder of the wealth of local knowledge that our volunteers provide.



Symons & Symons playground circa 1957.
Burnside Local History Collection.

Thank you to our volunteers Helen, Roger, Graham, Cathy, Bob and Anthea – your time, knowledge and generosity allows us to share our collections and history with others.

INTRODUCTION TO THE BURNSIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS 2024

Meetings are held at the Burnside Community Centre, in the Coralie Soward Hall, at 7.30pm on the third Monday of each month. These are widely advertised and are open to the public. Each meeting features a presentation from a guest speaker. A light supper follows where the hall is abuzz with chatter, shared recollections and memories as members and visitors alike connect.

Thanks to the Journal Committee and BHS members for writing these reports.



The July meeting was well attended despite the bitterly cold night

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November Meeting 2023

THE STORY OF *CHIVERTON* – PAST AND PRESENT & JOURNAL LAUNCH

by Bob Stace

Our November meeting was one of the highlight meetings of the year. Our speakers were **Anne Daniell**, longstanding archivist at St Peters Girls School and **Dr Geoffrey Bishop**. Anne, a well-known local historian, regaled us with the story of *Chiverton*, the stately 1880s two-storey bluestone home at Stonyfell which is now the centre piece of St Peters Girls School. She referred to Chiverton's relationship with Ferguson Park and to the School's Museum.



Geoffrey gave us the comprehensive story of Thomas Nankivell, merchant, who had the house built in 1880 and Anne followed this with details of the Ferguson family who lived there from 1896-1949.

We were reminded that historic buildings like *Chiverton* are more than stone and mortar but contain the intriguing stories of the families who lived there. The presentation ended with a video of the St Peters Girls School choir singing a beautiful rendition of "I Can Only Imagine".

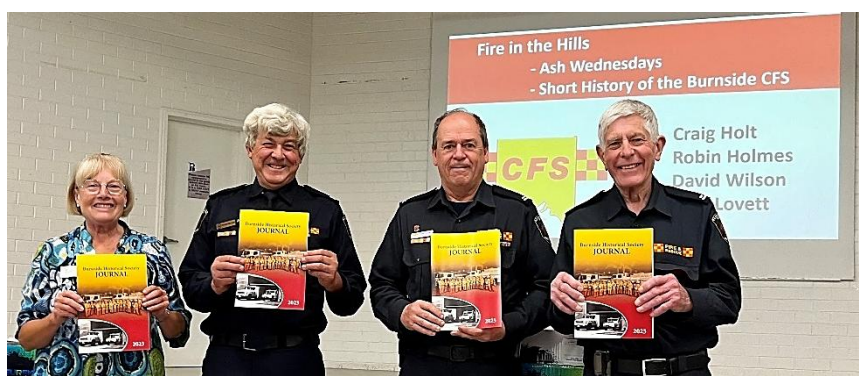


Miss Fergusson at *Chiverton* c.1910
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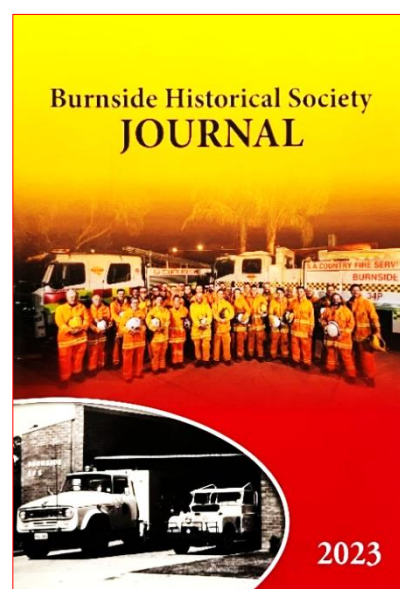


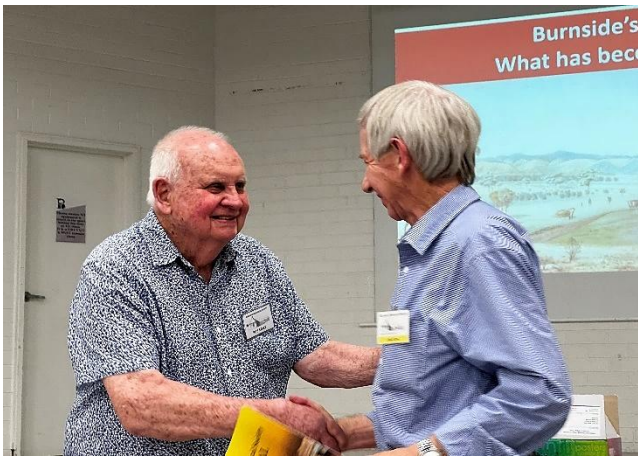
Chiverton 2022 after it had been renovated.

This was followed by the launch of the BHS Journal for 2023 which was led so well by Helen Bills who built the sense of anticipation in the room until a drum roll revealed the startling front cover featuring the Burnside CFS. Copies of the Journal were then given to the main contributors and then distributed to BHS members.



Julie Lovett, Robin Holmes, David Wilson, Craig Holt – Burnside CFS





L-R Bob Stace and Colin Harris



L-R Anne Both, Ally Preiss



L-R Meredith Ide, Anne Both



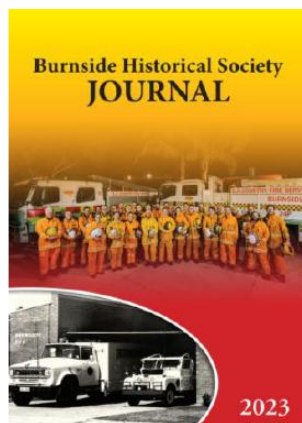
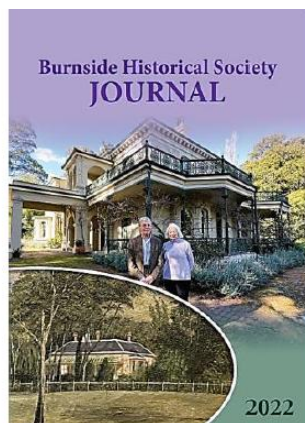
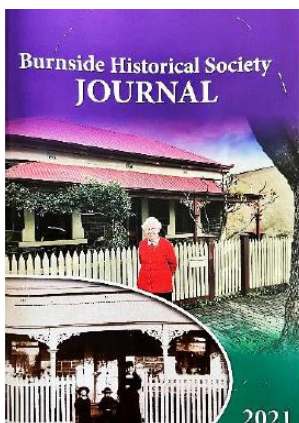
L-R Bob Stace, Michelle Sanders



L-R Karen Muller, Anne Both



The evening concluded with a very convivial supper to celebrate the Journal Launch and the completion of another successful and enjoyable year in the life of the Burnside Historical Society.



February Meeting

THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF SIR HUBERT WILKINS 1888 - 1958

by Bob Stace

This was a great start for our 2024 monthly meetings with 66 in attendance (49 members and 17 visitors) to hear our guest speaker Carolyn Spooner's enthralling presentation on the life of Sir Hubert Wilkins. If Carolyn's fluently presented talk had not been backed up by over 150 well-chosen images of Sir Hubert's life it would have been difficult to believe that so much could be achieved in one single lifetime. That the thirteenth child of a pioneering farming family, born and raised on the wrong side of Goyder's Line at Mt Bryan East in South Australia, could be commemorated as an adventurer, polar explorer, aviator, sub-mariner, photographer, geographer, and war hero is quite remarkable.



Carolyn Spooner (L) with
Liz Silz



The restored Wilkins farmhouse at Mt Bryan East

Until his Knighthood in 1928 Sir Hubert was known by his first name George. Experiences during his formative 16 years at Mt Bryan East helped shape George's life. He walked 9 kms to school, developed a thirst for reading and knowledge, gained resilience and self-sufficiency from life in the bush and the hard life of the farm, and developed an interest in the spiritual world through

his experiences with the local indigenous Ngadjuri people. By the age of 12, after experiencing the impact of ongoing severe drought, George had decided to spend his life trying to understand the weather. George's connection with the Burnside area occurred when at 16, he and the Wilkins family moved to Adelaide and lived in Parkside.

Engineering and music studies at university and developing his photographic and cinematography skills took up his late teen years in Adelaide before he embarked on his first adventure, aged 20, by stowing away on a ship to Sydney where there was a lively silent film industry. George was soon offered a newsreel reporter's job in London which led to a position as a war correspondent and photographer during the First Balkans War of 1912 during which he became the first official war photographer to shoot actual combat footage, mostly on horseback while dodging bullets. George was the first person to fly over a frontline in an aeroplane and was nearly executed by firing squad after being arrested as a spy.

In the short time before WW1, George learnt to fly and took part in his first visit to the Arctic as second in command of a Canadian Arctic expedition where he gained a reputation as a "man able to adapt himself to anything". But the outbreak of war interrupted this experience. He returned home to Australia, enlisted, and was commissioned in the Australian Flying Corps, but was soon reassigned as an official photographer with the Australian War Records on the Western Front. His exploits in

this role, his bravery under fire and his resourcefulness, led to his promotion to Captain, the award of the Military Cross and Bar, and being referred to by General Monash as “the bravest and most useful man in the AIF”.

By this time in Carolyn’s story of George’s life, this writer was almost exhausted by his exploits, adventures, and achievements in the first 30 years of his life. But there was much more to come! Participation, albeit unsuccessfully, in the great air race to Australia in 1919 was followed immediately by two expeditions to the Antarctic, the latter as the naturalist and chief of the scientific staff on Shackleton’s *Quest* expedition. This was followed in 1923

when he led a two-year British Museum sponsored expedition to the northern parts of Australia to document Australia’s disappearing wildlife. He collected more than 5000 plants, birds, insects, fish, minerals, and fossils. Many of these species had never been seen before.



Lieutenant George Wilkins filming on the Western Front

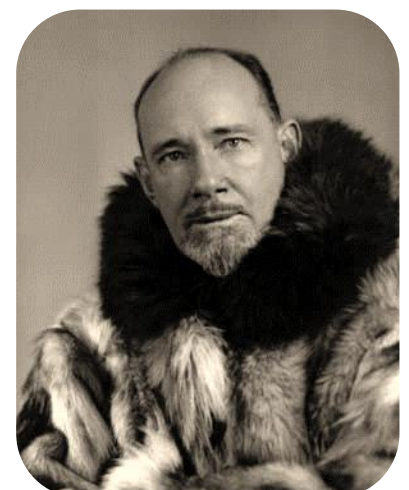
George’s attention then returned to the Arctic when he and Ben Eielson (at left with George on the right) were the first to successfully fly across the North Pole on a flight of 3,500km taking 20 hours which was described as “a feat in navigation which can be confidently declared unparalleled in the history of flying”. A knighthood, a prestigious medal from the Royal Geographical Society in London, and marriage to actress Suzanne Evans followed.



Sir Hubert Wilkins’ adventures continued. During a 22 day around the world trip aboard the *Graf Zeppelin* as an invited guest, he conceived the plan to reach the North Pole by taking a submarine under the pack ice. His reconditioned WW1 submarine, aptly named *Nautilus*, was unfortunately not up to the task, but the attempt captured the world’s attention. In 1936, and by now a very famous person, Sir Hubert and his wife were guests on the maiden flight of the airship *Hindenburg* to America.

In 1938 Sir Hubert and Lady Wilkins returned to Australia and the scenes of his youth around Burra, Hallet and Mt Bryan East. War interrupted his life again, and at the age of 51 he unsuccessfully offered his services to the British and Australian armed services. However, the Americans were more than happy to use his vast experience and contacts in a number of important intelligence and consultancy activities.

Sir Hubert lived out his post war years and his “retirement” keeping busy on his farm in Pennsylvania and visiting the Arctic every year. He died in 1958 and fittingly his ashes were scattered at the North Pole by the USS submarine *Skate*. A remarkable and extraordinary life indeed and portrayed so vividly by our speaker Carolyn Spooner.



March Meeting

A WEB OF STORIES FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S INSTITUTES

by Helen Bills

It was after she retired as Senior Lecturer in Literacy Education at Flinders University that **Joelie Hancock** came across Michael Talbot's book that gave her the history of the Institutes Movement in South Australia. She was shocked to realise that she had no knowledge that all the libraries around the State up to the 1960s were institute libraries. Joelie, and her husband Ken, undertook to find and document all 352! How fortunate were we that Joelie agreed to share her knowledge and findings with the large gathering of BHS members and visitors at the March Meeting.



Joelie divided her talk into three parts: firstly, where the idea for institutes came from, then details of the eleven of the institutes in the eastern suburbs and she finished by telling us why and how she and Ken ended up putting the information they had gathered onto a website.

The first settlers in South Australia came from the United Kingdom and they knew about institutes. These settlers came to the colony to better themselves, so it is not surprising that by 1856 – 20 years after the colony was proclaimed – there were already 13 institutes across the State.

The SA government was persuaded to support the institutes and other scientific and cultural



South Australian Institute c. 1875 [SLSA B10391]

organisations and in 1856 passed The South Australian Institute Act whereby “*means of lectures, classes and assistance to promote the general study and civilization of ... art, science and philosophy*” with “*every legitimate encouragement and assistance*”.

Between 1860 – 1945 institute buildings sprang up throughout South Australia. These played an important role in their communities as educational, and cultural centres. In 1861 the Institute Building in North Terrace was opened.

It housed the Art Gallery, Public Library, Museum and the School of Art and Design.

Joelie then concentrated her presentation on eleven of the institutes in the east of Adelaide – there were plenty more! Each institute has its own story to tell - but there are many similarities. Eight of these institute buildings are still in use in 2024. One of the very early institutes in the State was at **Glen Osmond**. In 1854, Arthur Hardy, a pastoralist, barrister, and bluestone quarry owner, built a room at the entrance to the quarry for his quarry workers - a mechanics' institute. In his words ‘*to avoid the inducement [for his workers] to pass their evenings in the public house.*’ See photo next page.

Early institutes formed east of Adelaide

- 1854 - Glen Osmond
- 1855 - Norwood & Stepney
- 1856 - East Torrens
- 1857 - Magill
- 1861 - Uraidla
- 1872 - Kensington & Norwood
- 1873 - Payneham

Later institutes formed east of Adelaide

- 1885 - Summertown
- 1895 - St Peters
- 1900 - Parkside & Eastwood
- 1928 - Eastern District (St Morris)



1854 – X designates the room



1877 - Cnr Portrush and Glebe Road



1965 –Institute’s new library

The **Magill Institute** began in 1857 and had its own building the following year on the School Reserve. It began strongly with a library, lectures, and soirées. After three years it had over 1,000 books. That building was demolished, along with the Primary School, in 1882: but a new institute building was erected in 1901.



1858 Institute, drawn by a 12 year old



Magill Institute built in 1901



1928 addition to Magill Institute



Kensington and Norwood Institute
Built 1875-83



Eastern District Institute (St Morris)
1920

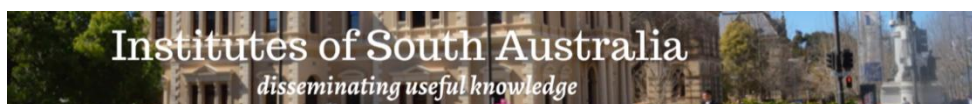


Parkside and Eastwood Institute –
1903¹

It took three years before Joelle and Ken were confident that they had found all 352 institutes affiliated with the central Institute. Then they gathered information about and photos of them all. Then, the questions they asked were, Who would want this information? and What did they need to provide? Well, the answers were researchers of town histories, travellers interested in institutes and the curious.

They realised there was far too much information for a book (cost would be enormous). So, they decided a website was the way forward, as they could continue to add information and photos and make corrections. The website is very comprehensive with a range of resources – check it out!

[Institutes Of South Australia – disseminating useful knowledge \(institutesa.com\)](http://institutesa.com)



¹ Parkside & Eastwood, folder of statistical returns, SRSA GRG58/1/17

Joelle kindly provided her text which has been drawn on extensively to write this report. The photos from her PowerPoint have also be used with her permission

April Meeting

REMEMBERING SIGNIFICANT AUSTRALIAN AVIATORS ESPECIALLY ROSE PARK RESIDENT JOHN DOWNING

Report by Liz Silz

As has been a BHS tradition, our April meeting took on a military theme. We welcomed Gary Petts, military aviation history researcher and Wing Commander John Downing (retired) DFC, DFC (US), a local Rose Park resident.



L-R Gary Petts and John Downing

Gary spoke about some significant, almost forgotten aviators of WW2, namely Wing Commander “Noel” Constantine and Warrant Officer “Mac” McRostie.

Below: Article from a Sydney newspaper, published on 4 March 1960.



Gary then introduced Wing Commander John Downing (retired), who outlined his amazing career in the RAAF. John, who is now 90 years of age, joined the Air Training Corps at 13 and began training at the RAAF College at Pt. Cook, Victoria at 16 years of age. In March 1960, as a Flight Lieutenant, he and his navigator, Pilot Officer Greg Sweeting, successfully flew through the eye of a cyclone off the Queensland coast in a Canberra A84-210 to take photographs.

Following many promotions and experiences John, as a Wing Commander, took over No. 2 Squadron at US Air Force Air Base Phan Rang in Vietnam in November 1970.



Right: Greg Sweeting (left) and John Downing (right) drawing a diagram of the cyclonic 'eye' and 'hub' after returning to Amberley.

On 9 February 1971 John, and Squadron Leader B.A. Johnson, distinguished themselves by “exposing themselves on five successive deliveries to intense ground fire” to support some friendly ground forces.

They sustained serious battle damage to their aircraft. They both received a DFC (US), for their “*selfless courage and..... demonstration of the most single example of true professionalism.*” (Larry D Bruce Capt. US Airforce).



On Sunday 14 March 1971, on his 100th and last mission with No. 2 Squadron in Vietnam, John and Flight Lieutenant Allan Pinches, his navigator, were hit by a surface-to-air missile and both were forced to eject. Despite suffering some injuries, they were successfully extracted and flown to a US Surgical Hospital. In December 1971, John Downing received notification of being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for “outstanding command ability, professionalism and devotion to duty.”



RAAF Magpie A84-228 Takes a Fatal Hit - painted by aviation artist David Marshall.

We were privileged to hear of John’s exploits firsthand and also those of W.C “Noel” Constantine and W.O “Mac” McRostie, thanks to Gary Petts. We were reminded of those who bravely served our nation in conflicts. This was a fitting event for our meeting in the month of Anzac Day.

The BHS thanks Gary Petts and WC John Downing (retired) for their presentations and for access to their research and photographs used in this report.

The Virtual War Memorial Australia honours all those who have served the nation in times of conflict.

<https://vwma.org.au>



Australian War Memorial Director 2012 – 2019, Dr Brendan Nelson AO with John Downing and Brad Pinches (son of Allan Pinches) unveiling *RAAF Magpie A84-228 Takes a Fatal Hit*. Donated to the Australian War Memorial by Barry Carpenter.

May Meeting FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD AT ROSE PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL AND ITS LOCAL COMMUNITY FROM 1893

by Dianne Wilson



The May meeting was a History Festival event, and the speaker was **Dr Kerrie Davies**. Her late husband and sons attended Rose Park Primary School (RPPS) and her husband restored the school bell. Kerrie has volunteered at the school since the 1980's, she co-ordinates the archiving group and is the President of the Old Scholars' Association.

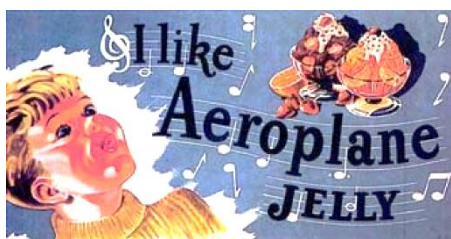
Kerrie's talk began with a sepia photograph taken in 1897 of Rose Park Primary School surrounded by paddocks. This set the scene for a most interesting journey through the decades between 1893 to the present, hearing about changes to types of food eaten, the role of the school canteen and domestic food preparation. The changes were presented in the context of local and societal changes.



Students of Rose Park Primary School in the late 19th century were mainly from the local area and they walked home for lunch. Most mothers were at home and food would be available from the home-grown vegetables and hens kept in the back garden. Cooking was done on wood burning stoves. Kerosene lamps were used and there was no running water. Milk and bread were delivered by horse and cart, as was ice, as homes did not have fridges. Popular foods included corned beef, mutton, bread and dripping, pickles and jams, and peanut paste. Pie floaters were invented in Pt Pirie in 1890. For those well off, Balfours had opened in 1857.

floaters were invented in Pt Pirie in 1890. For those well off, Balfours had opened in 1857.

By the early 20th century, Rose Park Primary School had developed a good academic reputation. Students were now coming from further afield, made easier by the arrival of electric trams. Two new wings were added to the original school building and benches were constructed. More children were now staying at school for lunch and needed somewhere to sit. A corner shop sold sweets at lunch time including cough sticks with opium extracts! Rabbit was a popular food in the home and lamingtons, Sao biscuits, Peter's Ice-cream and fish and chips in newspaper, could be purchased. Violet Crumble appeared and in 1915, Haigh's Chocolates opened their doors. Fruit cakes were being shipped to soldiers fighting in World War One.



From the 1920's, the suburbs around the school expanded. Research indicates that children's sandwiches were wrapped in vine leaves. Lunch could be ordered from the corner shop. The Depression years meant more mutton was consumed, but there were new delights such as fairy bread, frog cakes, Cherry Ripes and Aeroplane Jelly. Canned vegetables were also popular.



Milk distribution in 1945 to kindergarten children at RPPS

In the 1930's, free milk was provided to school children. Homes had electric stoves, fridges and running water.

From 1940 Domestic Arts for girls and Woodwork for boys was provided at the school. With rationing in the 1940's, more vegetables were grown in backyards. Sandwiches were wrapped in grease-proof paper and put in a paper bag. The mix master was invented in 1948. Post war saw the introduction of super-

markets and the end of home deliveries. Migrants introduced European foods such as spaghetti bolognese and goulash. Convenience foods such as Kentucky Fried Chicken and Pizza shops appeared. Microwave ovens were invented.



Opening of Domestic Arts Centre at RPPS 1940

Free school milk was discontinued by 1970. Poultry and pork were now affordable and Asian food was becoming popular. More mothers were now working outside the home. With concerns about healthy eating, children were no longer allowed to visit the corner shop. Fast food, chocolate and soft drinks were banned from lunch orders. Concerns about healthy food and lifestyle have persisted from the 1990's to the present and Kerrie expressed her concerns for the future because of climate change, energy shortages, population pressures and international politics.

The Burnside Historical Society thanks Dr Kerrie Davies for taking her audience down memory lane. On a chilly night there was much warmth in the room, as over supper, members and visitors were abuzz with stories of their own school days.

June Meeting THE STORY OF THE ADELAIDE ZOO: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

by Derek Bransbury



The speaker at the June meeting was **Elaine Bensted**, Chief Executive of Zoos SA. Elaine migrated from Scotland with her parents and she and her siblings grew up exploring the Adelaide foothills. She wanted to become a veterinarian, but her aversion to blood led her to work in banking. She completed an MBA in business administration and moved into the public sector. In 2012 Zoos SA appointed Elaine as Chief Executive Officer, the first female to hold this post since the Zoo started in 1883. Elaine considers a good zoo as “one that has a really strong focus on animal welfare, on conservation and on engagement and education.”



Zoo Entrance SLSA [B 68970] c.1910

Elaine explained that Zoos SA is a non-government, not-for-profit conservation charity, funded by over 52,000 members. It owns and operates Adelaide Zoo and Monarto Safari Park and in the past year has had over 660,000 visitors.



Rotunda SLSA [B 43079] c.1884

Originally named the Adelaide Zoological Gardens, they were opened by the Governor of South Australia on 23 May 1883 on 13 acres of the Botanic Park. The public were admitted the following day and entrance fees were six pence for adults and three pence for children with Monday a free day for admission. In 1884 a rotunda funded by Sir Thomas Elder was erected in the centre of the gardens. A grotto and pond were constructed in 1885 for the waterfowl and a Flamingo paddock was created for 10 flamingos. In 1898 additional animals included a pair of Kiwis and a pair of Tasmanian tigers. Queen Victoria gifted a European white swan in 1889. In 1901, an elephant yard was erected, and a house constructed for a hippopotamus.

In 1904 an elephant named “Mary Ann” was purchased by public subscription. The zoo’s rhinoceros called an Indian rhino, died and was preserved in the South Australian Museum. It was correctly identified in 1948 as the last Javan rhino in captivity. In 1913 the monkey house was built; it is now the Fig Tree café. With the Society's Diamond Jubilee in 1937, King George VI granted royal patronage and the society became "The Royal Zoological Society of South Australia".



SLSA [B 35168] c.1900

The first director of the zoo, from 1882 to 1893, was R. E. Minchin. He was succeeded by his son A. C. Minchin from 1893 to 1934 and grandson R. R. L. Minchin from 1935 to 1940. Two orangutans arrived in 1950 with George living to 1979. Lillian the popular elephant was euthanased in 1956, but later Samorn arrived and gave children rides in a cart.



SLSA [B 22965] c.1867



In 1970 the South Australian government purchased 16,000 hectares of land at Monarto for a city that never eventuated. A Monarto Zoological Park steering committee was established and it appointed consultants in 1981 to advise the Minister of Environment and Planning on the feasibility of an open range zoo at Monarto. In 1983 an area was transferred by the SA Government to the Zoos SA and stock was gradually moved from Adelaide Zoo. A maximum of 200 visitors with booked tours was allowed initially, but in 1995 the zoo opened full-time. Since then, enclosures for rhinoceros, lions, chimpanzees and other animals have been developed.

At Adelaide Zoo in 2009, the Giant Panda area opened with two pandas. Unfortunately, the Covid 19 epidemic in 2020 resulted in the Zoo being shut to visitors for the year for the first time in its history. Despite these challenges, staff continued to attend every day to care for the animals. In 2015 a 20-year master plan was developed. Since then, despite the Adelaide Zoo and Monarto Zoo Covid 19 shutdown, both have seen increased visitors and further development. This includes improvements for the welfare of animals, better visitor facilities and an increased focus on conservation. The increasing world-renowned conservation by Zoos SA is focused on endangered fauna from both Australia and other places in the world.

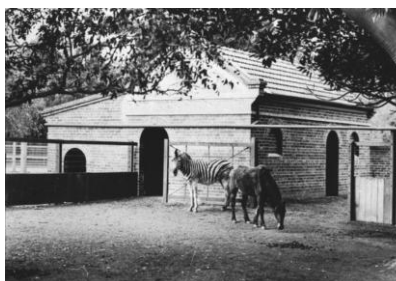


Wang Wang SLSA [B 71908]

After the presentation, the interest in the Zoo was reflected in the many questions asked of Elaine and discussions over supper. The Burnside Historical Society thanks Elaine for the very topical and interesting talk.



Goats at Adelaide Zoo [B 61616] c. 1915



Zebra enclosure [B 61611] c. 1915



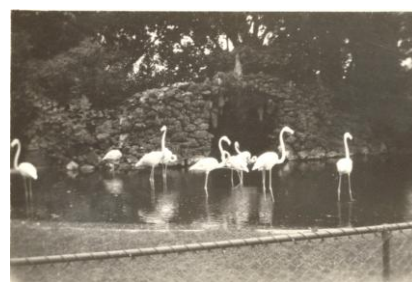
Elephant ride SLSA [B 55834] c. 1930



Outside the Zoo [B 68969] c.1910



Head Keeper's House [B 10343] 1938



Flamingos [B 37243] c. 1910

Historic photos sourced from the State Library of South Australia (SLSA) collection

July Meeting

HISTORY OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN POLICE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, THE POLICE MUSEUM, THE THEBARTON BARRACKS AND THEIR RELOCATION

by Dianne Wilson



The speaker for our July meeting, was **Dr Barry Blundell APM**. He is a retired Police Officer and Detective and is Secretary of the South Australian Police Historical Society.



The talk was about the South Australian Police (SAPOL) and in particular – the history and function of the Historical Society, the Police Museum and the Thebarton Police Barracks.

South Australia Police began on 28 April 1838. By 1853, detectives were in the Force and by 1915, women were being recruited. In 1977, the South Australian Police Historical Society was established. It consists of the Executive Committee, (includes Police Officers) and volunteers and currently has 400 members. The Police Commissioner is Patron of the Society and the Deputy Commissioner of Police is the Vice Patron.



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. These vehicles are often loaned for community events. Tapes of Police Club luncheons, show people in attendance, such as Sir Mark Oliphant and former Premier Don Dunstan. The badge collection is the largest in Australia. Police Operations material informs the public about events such as the

Wharf Strike of 1928, the Battle of Enfield in 1930 and Royal visits. We can also learn about Anzac Police Day, Foundation Day and National Police Remembrance Day.

The Police Museum opened in 1988 and operated at the Old Mounted Police Barracks behind the South Australian Museum in North Terrace. In 1996, the museum and the SA Police Historical Society re-located to the Thebarton Barracks. These barracks had been taken on by SA Police on 1 March 1917. This facility has included a Training College, an Armoury, a Road Safety School as well as facilities for the mounted police and the dog squad.

Sadly, the site of the Thebarton Barracks is required for a new building for the Women's and Children's Hospital. The SA Police Historical Society is now moving to 361 King William Street, Adelaide. Its opening should be late 2024/early 2025. Horses and dogs will be housed at Gepps Cross and the Road Safety School is possibly moving to Henley Beach. With less space and fewer buildings, it has been a huge task for members to reduce and pack material for

this move. Much of this effort has been to digitise information and this will be on-going. Many members will need to become familiar with this technology.



members to reduce and pack material for this move. Much of this effort has been to digitise information and this will be on-going. Many members will need to become familiar with this technology.



We thank Dr Barry Blundell for this most interesting and informative presentation and wish the Society all the best for its future endeavours. This future will include a more modern presentation of material and Barry hopes to engage universities. A visit to the new site should be a “must” for us all. More volunteers are needed, so perhaps members of our Burnside Historical Society, could take up the challenge.



Photos from Barry's PowerPoint, used with permission.

August Meeting MISTRESSES OF BEAUMONT HOUSE by Liz Silz



Our August meeting had a Burnside focus as we welcomed our speaker **Sandy Whitelaw** and her assistant Rosie. Sandy's topic was "Mistresses of Beaumont House – Pioneer Women of South Australia 1851-1967". Sandy is the curator of the Costume Collection for the National Trust of SA. She has held this position for 7 years and is responsible for overseeing more than 4,500 items. This is thought to be the largest collection of costume in Australia.

We were delighted to meet the four Chatelaines or Mistresses of Beaumont House via their costumes worn by Sandy, Rosie or featured on dressmakers' mannequins.



Sandy explained that unlike their famous husbands, who have been well documented in SA history, their wives, although significant in their own right, were relatively unknown.

Beaumont House,
Samuel Davenport
SLSA [B 13333]

Millicent Short, wife of Augustus Short the first Anglican Bishop of Adelaide, was the first mistress of Beaumont House. Initially the house, originally known as Claremont was small, but during her residency from 1851-1856 it was extended. She gave birth to 10 children in total although not all survived nor were they all born at Claremont. She and her children would have been quite isolated as her husband was often absent on church duties. Although they sought to escape the heat of the plains in Beaumont it was suggested that the house was quite hot during summer. In 1856 the family moved to Bishop's Court in North Adelaide.



Millicent Clara Short
SLSA [B 10240] 17482]



Margaret Fraser Davenport [B 17482]

Lady Margaret Davenport, the second mistress of Beaumont House was the wife of Sir Samuel Davenport.

He purchased the property from the Shorts in 1856. As Lady Davenport had no children, she was free to engage in community pursuits. She developed the reputation as a philanthropist taking a great interest in benevolent activities particularly the servants' home and the State Children's Department. She was a suffragette and worked with Catherine Helen Spence to assist in the removal of children from the Destitute Asylum. She was born in Scotland in 1818 and died in 1902 at Beaumont House.

In 1907 the third mistress, **Emily Vincent**, arrived with her husband. She had six children from a previous marriage when, as a well-to-do widow, she married Major Vincent. Emily was a socialite and liked to entertain. Most of the changes to the house occurred during their brief residency. The front of the house was extended, the verandah added, a well was sunk, and the gardens improved. Many private balls were held during this period. In 1911 the family moved to North Adelaide.

Mrs Lillian Bennett / Brock was the longest serving mistress of Beaumont House residing there from 1911-1967. As Mrs Bennett she took possession, with her husband RW Bennett, in 1911. He died in 1929 and later she married Kenneth Brock. Lillian kept dogs, horses, koalas, drove cars and a Harley Davidson motor bike. When she died aged 80 years of age she bequeathed the house to the National Trust. In 1972 a committee was established to oversee the restoration of Beaumont House and its grounds.

It is fitting that the National Trust Costume Collection is now housed there after its removal from Ayers House. I am sure that the four mistresses would approve.

We thank Sandy and her assistant Rosie for sharing the story of these pioneering women.

September Meeting

THEATRE LIFE IN COLONIAL ADELAIDE 1836 - 1856

by Judy Fander



Ian Sellick gave us a tantalisingly brief insight into theatre life in Adelaide's early years, a time when the only street lighting was provided by lanterns outside hotels. Some patrons came straight from the hotel to the theatre. Walking the streets at night to attend the theatre was not for the faint-hearted. Dusty in broiling summer, the unpaved city streets turned to mud when it rained. And once you arrived, the theatregoer faced other obstacles: the rowdy behaviour of troublemakers, drunks and prostitutes in the pits. The gentlefolk of the town generally occupied the gallery or boxes above. In these early years, a policeman was often required to keep order. By the end of the period, however, patrons had begun to exhibit more decorum.

Right from the start, a succession of actors, promoters, managers and entrepreneurs were convinced there must be money to be made in the theatre business in Adelaide despite evidence to the contrary. The Theatre Royal on Franklin Street in 1838 is the first known theatre building in Adelaide, and like many of the theatres that followed, it had a short lifespan. In this case, three performances only! It was part of The Tavern, a substantial stone building situated on Town Acre 251, just east of West Tce.

On 30 May 1840, the *South Australian Register* reported that *Mr Solomon, of Currie Street, is about to make an important addition to the quarter of the Gilles Arcade, by the erection of a spacious and handsome edifice which he intends to fit up as a theatre.* The Queen's Theatre was built by the merchants Vaiben and Emanuel Solomon. They put in some of their own money and raised more from the public.



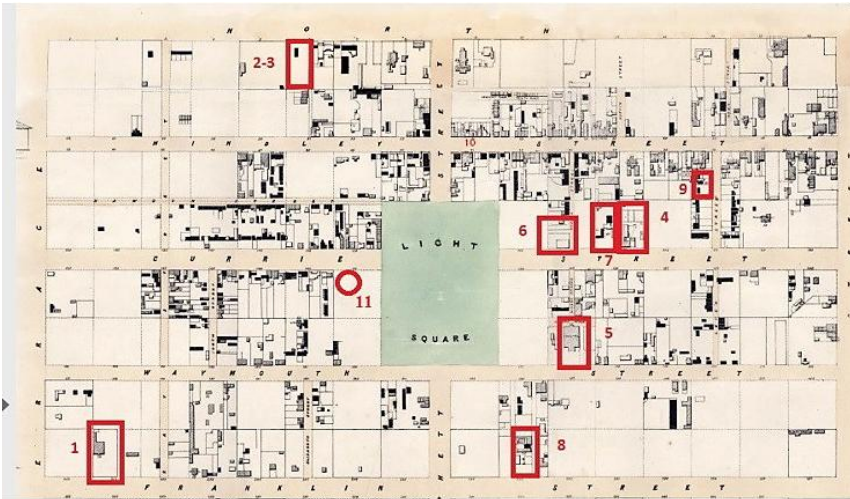
Lithographed sketch of Queen's Theatre, 1842 SLSA [B 4502]

It opened in January 1841 with a performance of *Othello*, starring John Lazar, who was at the time, also the manager. The theatre was soon in trouble, becoming the Law Courts in 1843. Its successor built next door, the New Queen's Theatre, opened in 1846. It could accommodate 200 patrons in the Dress Boxes and 500 persons in the Pits. The New Queen's Theatre closed in April 1850.



By then, the adjacent courts had been vacated so Coppin and Lazar could remodel and enlarge the old Queen's Theatre building to form the Royal Victoria Theatre, which opened on 23 December 1850. George Coppin was one of nineteenth-century Australia's most prominent actors and theatrical entrepreneurs. The rest of this important theatre's story can be found elsewhere and lies outside the scope of the talk.

Victoria Theatre, Gilles Arcade, 1859 SLSA [B 25105]



SLSA. B1414879...1842 George Kingston Map

1, Theatre Royal 2, Royal Victoria 3, Adelphi 4, Argyle 5, Queens 6, Olympic 7, Pavilion 8, Royal Adelaide 9, Dramatic Hall 10, Tasmanian Hotel, 11 Circus Royal.

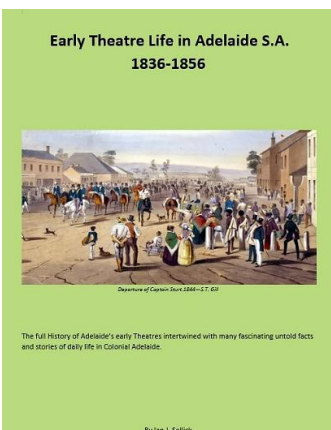
Ian identified fourteen theatres from the first twenty years. His book, *Early Theatre Life in Adelaide S.A. 1836-1856*, includes a map of their location in the city of Adelaide. Many were close to Light Square.

He gave an interesting account of a short-lived circus venue and performances at a site adjacent to the Billy Barlow Hotel in Light Square near Currie Street 1850-51.

Outside the city, one theatre was built for George Coppin in Port Adelaide on the corner of St Vincent St and Commercial Road. It operated until 1866 under a variety of managers. The Port Theatre opened in the White Horse Cellar building in 1851 and is the third oldest theatre building in Australia, after the Theatre Royal in Hobart (1837) and the Queen's Theatre in Adelaide (1840). It operated until 1866 under a variety of different managers. Part of the old building still stands.



Foundation Stone of the
PORT ADELAIDE THEATRE,
 Was laid by
Captain D. McGRATH,
 of the
Benjamin Elkin.
 Anno 14, Vic. R., I.
 October 14th, 1850.
 Melancholy is the nurse of frenzy,
 Therefore they thought it good you hear a play,
 And frame your mind to mirth and merriment,
 Which bars a thousand harms and lengthens life.
Shakespeare.
 Architect—William Weir.
 Builder—A. Smith.



The story of early theatre life in Adelaide shows how willing people, predominantly men, were to take huge financial risks. Insolvency was common. Some ran away, others took advantage of The Insolvent Debtors Act to protect them from their creditors.

Further information can be found in Ian Sellick's book, *Early Theatre Life in Adelaide S.A. 1836-1856*.

October Meeting
STORIES OF THREE HISTORIC BURNSIDE BUILDINGS:
ONE GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN AND TWO REMAINING
by Liz Silz, Bob Stace and Dianne Wilson

BHS members **Liz Silz, Dianne Wilson** and **Bob Stace** joined forces to present the *Stories of three historic Burnside buildings: one gone but not forgotten (Fernilee) and two remaining (Clifton and Ivymeade)*. The three homes chosen to showcase are/were all located within a kilometre of each other; not far from the heart of the old village of Burnside and close to Second Creek.



Liz, Dianne and Bob

Liz Silz commenced with the story of *Clifton*, sometimes referred to as Clifton Hall or Clifton Manor.



It was built between 1850-1852 on 80 acres of land, on Section 904 near Second Creek. A grand home, constructed of local stone and slate with red brick quoins, designed to resemble an English hunting lodge. Amongst its many residents were the Sismeys, the Bonneys, the Knoxes and the Schneiders, many of whom were prominent members of the early colony.

Throughout its 174 years, the property has been sub-divided, but fortunately the house has continued to be a well-maintained family home. The legacy it provides is the wonderful Michael Perry Botanic Reserve, beautifully maintained by the City of Burnside and showcasing not only many examples of native flora but some of the well-established exotic plants dating back to the original grounds of this grand home.

Dianne Wilson continued the presentation with the story of *Ivymeade*. In November 1850, Section 320 in the Village of Burnside, was purchased by Joseph Somerset Nias. This section was bordered by Hallett Road, High Street and Second Creek. Joseph built a four-roomed cottage. He left for the goldfields in 1856 and sold the land and dwelling to John Baptist Austin. In 1857, Edward Laughton became the new owner. He named the property *Bracklyn* after a town in Ireland.



The Laughton family lived at *Bracklyn* for almost 40 years. They added extensively to the original dwelling – external features included an Italianate arcaded verandah and a small tower over the front door. Paintings of flowers, on folding doors between the ballroom and billiard room, were done by Edward's daughter Annie - a well-known artist. High Street in Burnside was once called Laughton's Road.

Bracklyn was sold again in 1896 and only two years later, in 1898, the property was bought by Henry Richard Hancock who was known as ‘Captain Hancock’. He was the retired superintendent of the Moonta Mines and overseer of many Cornish miners. He renamed the property *Ivymeade*. One of his daughters, Annie Ellen, was married in the gardens. Fairs and fetes were held on the lawns under the gum trees. In 1930, another mining captain, William Bolitha White, took ownership. By the 1960’s the land had been reduced and building blocks replaced the horse paddock. The coach house, hayloft and stables, which had become derelict, were purchased by John Dallwitz, an Adelaide sculptor. He and his wife converted the building into a modern residence. It was last sold in 2017.

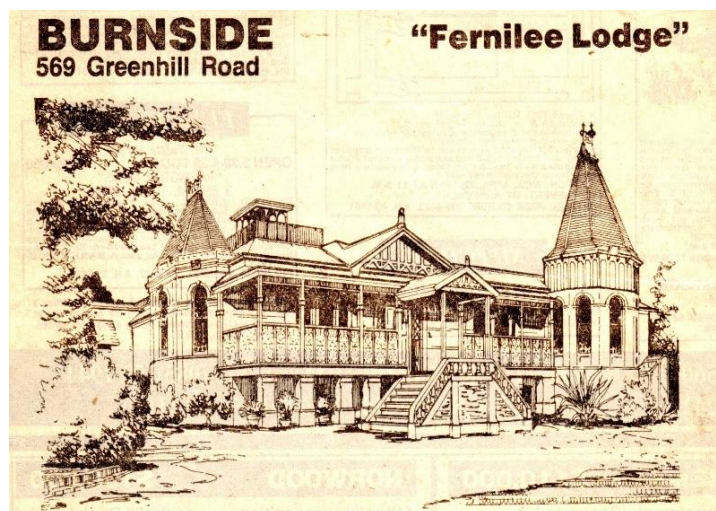
Between 1969 and 2017, *Ivymeade* has been on the market several times. Its grand interior and beautiful grounds have featured in many advertisements. It is pleasing to know that this historic, gracious home, still stands proudly and is well maintained by its current owners.

Bob Stace completed the presentation with the story of *Fernilee* which was built in the late 1870s by Dennison Clarke, a local builder and contractor, as his family home. It was a solid eight roomed home with large underground rooms. *Fernilee* was sold to James Gartrell in 1881, and he and his family lived there for the next 45 years. He turned it into a gracious and substantial family home of 20 rooms with 4 acres of fine gardens. James Gartrell was a very generous philanthropist and in 1914 provided the funds to build a Methodist church in Rose Park, known as the James Gartrell Memorial Church.



From 1926-1957 Stanley Cooper of the Cooper brewing family owned and lived in *Fernilee*. When his widow died in 1957 the property was sold to Harold (Hal) Morgan. He and his wife repurposed *Fernilee* into an entertainment/reception centre and it became widely known as *Fernilee Lodge*. Bob outlined some of the menu choices for wedding receptions which brought back memories for some of us who held family celebrations there during its time as a reception centre.

In early 2003 *Fernilee Lodge* was sold to developers and despite strong opposition from the public it was demolished in August 2003 and eventually replaced by the current housing estate. To rub salt into the wounds, the 2 developers were charged with, and found guilty of, breaches of Federal Law in relation to *Fernilee’s* purchase and demolition, with one being imprisoned for 12 months.



Fernilee, gone physically, but still alive in the memories of all those who celebrated there during its time as a reception centre.

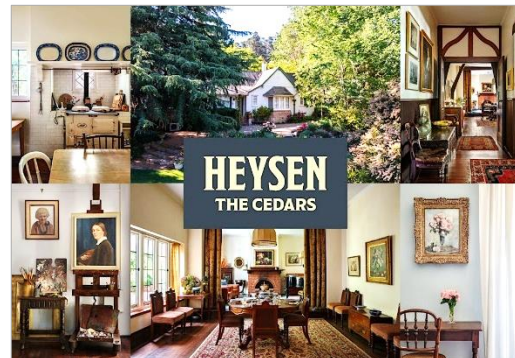
BURNSIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OUTINGS

This year the Programme Committee organised a beginning of the year luncheon get-together and three outings which were of great interest to BHS members and their guests. All these events were appreciated and well attended.

The outings involved travelling some distance to see an historic home and to hear about who lived in it. The famous early forefathers Hans Heysen and John Morphett, and the early Scottish pioneers of Strathalbyn all left a legacy to South Australia. After each outing a pub lunch was enjoyed by those who could stay.

Thanks to Judy Fander, Neville Lawrence, Bob Stace, Liz Silz and Dianne Wilson for the valuable contribution you have made to the vibrancy of the BHS through the Outings Programme.

DATE	OUTING	PAGE
1 Wednesday 17 January	LUNCH AT THE KENSINGTON HOTEL	35
2 Wednesday 3 April	VISIT TO HAHNDORF	36
3 Tuesday 9 July	VISIT TO <i>CUMMINS HOUSE</i>	38
4 Wednesday 25 September	A DAY IN HISTORIC STRATHALBYN	40



LUNCH AT THE KENSINGTON HOTEL

by Bob Stace

Twenty-eight members and friends made a most enjoyable start to their BHS year by attending the lunch at the Kensington Hotel on Wednesday 17 January. It was a very sociable lunch as we got back together for the first time since the November meeting.



There was much chat, and new friendships were formed. We were well looked after by the staff of the “Kensi” with the food and service being excellent.

Bob Stace added to our knowledge of the history of the village of Kensington and the “Kensi” itself.

We learnt that the Kensi was the earliest hotel established in this area in 1840 and that there have been three incarnations of the hotel on this

site since 1840. It hasn’t always been known as the Kensington Hotel as initially in 1840 it was known as the Kensington Arms. In 1846 it became the Robin Hood until 1849, when it became the Globe until 1958, and finally the Kensington Hotel; so, the current name is comparatively new.



Bob also recounted the story from 1841 when the Licensee and his wife were held up,



Alexander Tolmer c. 1860
SLSA B 6851

assaulted, tied up and robbed by four masked men, who after shouting themselves to a beer in the bar, headed for the sanctuary of the Tiers (the Adelaide Hills). That intrepid policeman Alexander Tolmer (later of the Gold Escort fame) and his troopers followed in pursuit, tracked them down and with drawn sword, arrested the “rough cut-throat looking rascals”.

The January lunch looks like establishing itself as a permanent fixture on the BHS annual programme.



VISIT TO HAHNDORF

by Helen Bills

On 3 April, thirteen members of BHS made the trip to Hahndorf to enjoy a guided tour of the home of Hans Heysen, *The Cedars*, and afterwards lunch at the historic Hahndorf Old Mill Hotel.



John, our guide, gave us a comprehensive tour as well as a potted history of *The Cedars*, Hans Heysen the artist and family man, his daughter Nora Heysen and both of their studios.



The Cedars was purchased by Hans Heysen in 1912 and he lived there with his wife Sallie, and their family of eight children. As the family grew, he added to the home. Hans also designed and established the extensive garden that changes with the seasons. A section of the garden, known as the Artist's Walk, was a favoured painting site.



Dame Nellie Melba, a contemporary of Heysen, visited the Cedars when performing in Adelaide. Anna Pavlova also visited the Cedars and admired the painting *Zinnias & Autumn Fruits*, which Hans had painted for Sallie to hang above the fireplace. It was not for sale, so he painted another, but the vase holding the flowers was not to Anna's liking, so she returned the painting!

Heysen is classified as an impressionist artist and some 200 original works of art can be seen in changing displays in the studios and the house. Hans died in 1968. The family sold many of Heysen's art acquisitions, including Rembrandt sketches, to pay the death duties. The home has changed very little since that time. The rooms are filled with the furniture, textiles, objects and personal items belonging to the Heysen family. Photography was not permitted in the house.



Hans built a studio in the garden. He carefully positioned the window to face south which provided natural light. Electricity was not initially connected. It was spacious and had a high ceiling which enabled him to paint his very large canvases.





Nora, the fourth daughter of Hans and Sallie, was a significant artist in her own right. She was the first woman to win the prestigious Archibald Prize in 1938 for portraiture and the first Australian woman appointed as an official war artist. Her studio is in the oldest building at *The Cedars*. It was Hans' studio until his purpose-built studio on the hillside was completed.

Lunch at the historic Hahndorf Old Mill Hotel beckoned.



While we waited for our food to arrive, Bob Stace told us about the hotel which is steeped in history. It operated as a steam mill from 1854 processing flour for over 60 years producing many brands such as the 'Pride of the Hills'. Bob also gave us some tips about what else there is to see in Hahndorf so we could take ourselves on a self-guided walk after lunch.

Marie Brazier added some fascinating information about the Wendish migrants from Prussia who settled in Hahndorf and left their mark on the early community.

All in all, a wonderful day in Hahndorf. Thanks go to Dianne Wilson and Bob Stace for organising the event.



PHOTOS obtained from Helen Bills, Bob Stace, *The Cedars* website, and the internet.

VISIT TO CUMMINS HOUSE

by Liz Silz

Fortuitously a sunny winter's day shone on our visit to Cummins House in July. Twenty-one members



Waiting for the last few BHS members and guests to arrive

and friends enjoyed the hospitality of The Cummins Society and its expert guides. We were warmly welcomed and enjoyed a delicious Devonshire morning tea prior to viewing the property.



Cummins House, in Novar Gardens, the home of Sir John Morphett, his wife Elizabeth and five generations of their family, was named after his mother's family farm in

Devon. Built in 1842 and originally consisting of four rooms, it was constructed of bricks using clay from the property and extended in 1854.



Sir John Morphett
SLSA [B 61206] c. 1851

John Morphett arrived in Adelaide on the *Cygnets*, before the *Buffalo* and was SA's first Land Agent. He initiated the Royal Horticultural Society and became president of the Legislative Council. The family was heavily involved in the SA racing industry. John Morphett was the first President of the SA Jockey Club and his brother-in-law, Hurtle Fisher trained the horse Lantern, the winner of the 1864 Melbourne Cup.

It is fortunate that when the property was sold by the Morphett family in 1977, it was purchased by the Dunstan Government for \$210,000 for the house and contents. This has meant that this beautiful piece of our history has been retained.



Cummins House, SLSA [B 3210] c. 1900



Cummins House 2024

The beautifully maintained house of the Morphett family, with its lovely garden, is certainly one of the most elegant and historically authentic homes remaining in SA. It contains many original pieces of furniture and wall papers and curtains dating from the 1854 renovations.



Drawing Room SLSA [B 17398] c.1900



Recent photo sourced from the internet



Dining Room SLSA [B 60963] 1973



Recent photo sourced from the internet



SLSA [B 17533/1] c.1900



Current



Following our very interesting morning many members and friends travelled to the Highway Hotel for an excellent lunch.

The Programme Committee thanks our BHS members for supporting this well-received event.

Photos – Roger Bills

A DAY IN HISTORIC STRATHALBYN

by Liz Silz



Strathalbyn was settled by Scottish pioneers in 1839 on both sides of the Angas River. On Wednesday 25 September, 20 BHS members and friends met at *Glenbarr*, one of the earliest farmhouses in the area, to begin a tour of Strathalbyn and environs.

We were met by tour guide Vicki Rankine, a member of the Rankine family, who were the original owners. After a delicious and generous Devonshire tea served in the original



stables, we entered the homestead. The house dates back to 1842, built of sandstone and slate by William Rankine, one of the earliest European settlers in the region.

The home and grazing property remained in the family for 4 generations until it was acquired in the

mid-1930s by Mrs Margaret Bowman and her daughter Daphne. They ran it as a Girl Guide training camp. Kathleen Bateman joined Daphne in later years, and they ran the property together as a camp for youth, and as a Conference Centre. Both ladies received an OAM for their philanthropic work.

The property was gifted by Daphne in 1975 and became a not-for-profit organisation; The Glenbarr Bowman Bateman Foundation. It is run by volunteers. It contains the extensive collections of the two ladies and is of interest to those wishing to take a tour and look back on the lifestyles of earlier residents. The property is also used for functions and special events. It contains a lovely garden, some accommodation in outbuildings, and a non-denominational Chapel suitable for weddings.





After a very pleasant lunch at the historic Victoria Hotel, we proceeded to the National Trust Museum of Strathalbyn, housed in the former Police Station and Court House, which dates from the 1850s. This property is also run by a small team of hard-working volunteers.



Our guides John and Terry welcomed us and invited us to explore the vast collection of memorabilia dating from the early days of Scottish settlement. Our members delighted in the collections of kitchenalia, costumes, farm machinery, buggies, the former gaol cells and photographic equipment from the past. Our member, Henry Krichauff, enjoyed seeing his great uncle Frederik's camera. (See Henry's article page 69)



Some members then ventured to the oldest part of town, High St, to visit Gilbert's Motor Museum or indulge in tea/coffee/cake at the delightful café "Flo and Ada".

We thank our hosts at *Glenbarr* and the Strathalbyn Museum and appreciate the devoted volunteers who continue to help preserve the history of our State and Nation.



HISTORY FESTIVAL EVENTS IN BURNSIDE



South Australia's History Festival is an annual state-wide event exploring South Australia's history. Held throughout May each year, the History Festival explores the state's places and spaces, stories, collections and ideas that make us who we are.

One of South Australia's largest open-access community events, the History Festival program features hundreds of events ranging from talks to tours, walks to workshops and exhibitions to special events.

Events happen anywhere: urban and rural, towns, cities and suburbs; in museums and libraries; in boats, trains and buses and mysterious buildings; on the street, by the beach and in nature¹

The BHS Programme Committee planned and organised 4 events this year, all led by BHS members, and the May Meeting was also listed as a History Festival Event. There was huge interest from the general public as well as from the BHS members in all the events and the three walks booked out quickly. The City of Burnside and the Burnside Library offered thirteen events which were also well supported.

Interest in the history of Burnside is growing and thriving which is the very best reason possible to preserve, protect and promote whatever we can and whenever we can so the historical legacy remains for future generations to learn from and enjoy.

ORGANISER	EVENT	PAGE
Burnside Historical Society MAY HISTORY FESTIVAL EVENTS	1. Burnside's Bald Hills: What Has Become of Them? Talk in the Burnside Library – Colin Harris	43
	2. Guided Walk of Dulwich: The Secrets of Dulwich - Polly Dundon	44
	3. Guided Walk of Eastwood: Eastwood: Burnside's Smallest Suburb, Yesterday and Today – Ally Preiss	46
	4. Talk and Walk: Wheal Watkins: Glen Osmond's Historic Silver and Lead Mine - Ross Both and Dave Monceaux	48
	5. Food Glorious Food: Rose Park Primary School and its Local Community from 1893 at the BHS monthly meeting – Monday 20 May – Dr Kerrie Davies	22
City of Burnside MAY HISTORY FESTIVAL EVENTS	The City of Burnside and the Burnside Library hosted 13 events The Local History Enquiry Hours were registered as an event	49

¹ About - South Australia's History Festival

BURNSIDE'S BALD HILLS: WHAT HAS BECOME OF THEM?

by Helen Bills

Colin Harris, an active life member of BHS, wrote a wonderful article with the same title for the 2023 BHS Journal¹. As part of History Festival 2024, BHS and the Burnside Library collaborated to enable Colin to present his findings to a much wider audience in the Burnside Library. His thoroughly researched presentation was well received with a flood of questions at the end indicating just how little many of us knew about the early history of the Adelaide environment.



Colin began by using images of significant art works currently in the Art Gallery of South Australia collection. These were painted in the early years of the colony and clearly illustrated that the hills were bald

when the colony was first established in 1836.

They were bare due to a range of factors including the impact of geology, soil, Kaurna firing and in later years European livestock grazing. All these factors suppressed the woody growth and allowed grassland to flourish. The tussock forming summer grass, kangaroo grass, was especially abundant.

When grazing ceased on the hills face zone in 1972 the landscape began to change. Sheoak, hopbush, olives, Aleppo pines, hawthorn and woody growth took over. These are highly flammable which created a summer fire hazard. Winter grasses, which replaced Kangaroo grass, dried off in the summer which added fuel to the fire!

Colin's final slide, a triptych of the same scene over time, clearly illustrated the transition from bald to wooded.

Thanks Colin, for such an informative and thought-provoking presentation.

Views looking northwest down the valley of Waterfall Gully showing a dramatic change from once open grassy woodland. Most of the recent growth on the western spurs consists of the introduced European olive and hawthorn.

- c.1842 image from Angas, GF 1846: *South Australia Illustrated*, Thos. McLean, London.
- c.1900 image from Vivienne, M 1909: *Sunny South Australia*, Hussey & Gillingham, Adelaide
- 2000 image by Colin Harris.



¹ BHS JOURNAL 2023, *BURNSIDE'S BALD HILLS, what has become of them?* page 60

SECRETS OF DULWICH

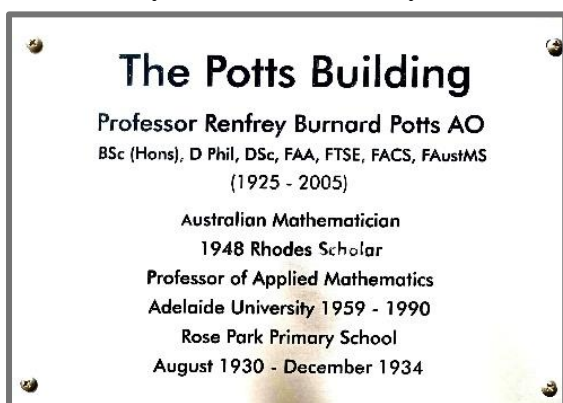
by Liz Silz

A beautiful autumn day in May was the ideal setting for our BHS History Festival Walk entitled The Secrets of Dulwich. The 20 fortunate participants, who had booked early, were treated to an informative and extremely interesting walk led by BHS member Polly Dundon and assisted by her husband Ray. Polly's great knowledge and enthusiasm for her suburb is infectious.



Dulwich is a small suburb on land originally allocated in 1838 to absentee owner Captain Daniel Pring (British Navy). Surprisingly a large number of former residents had influential connections with S.A and indeed the world.

Polly walked us past Wilkins General Store, which was operated by the brother of Sir George Hubert Wilkins (see the February meeting notes 2024) and past the home of the Potts family. Professor Renfrey Potts was a

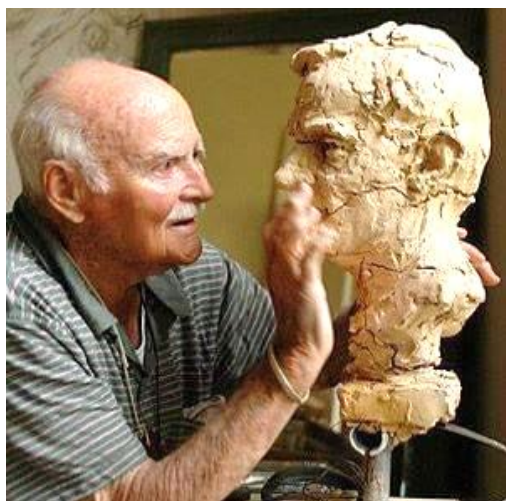


Rhodes Scholar and husband of Dr. Barbara Kidman (granddaughter of Sir Sidney Kidman), the first woman to be awarded a PhD in Physics from The University of Adelaide. Both these residences are in Gurney Rd.

Also in Gurney Rd. is the former home of Carl August Wittber and his family. He was the first Head Teacher at Rose Park Primary School (opening in 1893) and introduced phonetic reading to schools. His son Carl Wilhelm (Bill) built the first aircraft in SA in the backyard and is credited with the first aircraft flight in SA in March 1910.



First aeroplane built and flown in South Australia by C.W. Wittber at Dulwich. SLSA [B 21368]



Another Gurney Rd. dwelling was the family home of S.A sculptor and artist John Dowie, famous for his "Three Rivers Fountain" in Victoria Square.

Dr. Richard Harris, of the more recent Thai cave rescue fame, lived in Cleland Ave. and the former British P.M Tony Blair lived in Ormond Grove as a child when his father was a lecturer at the University of Adelaide.

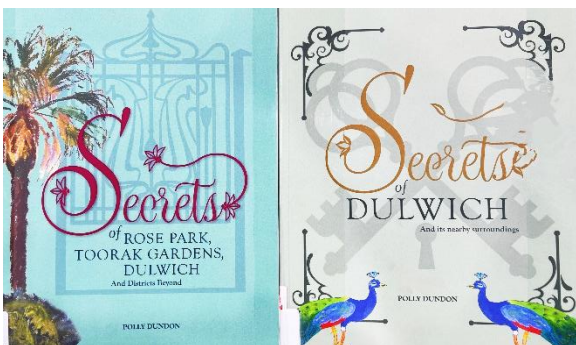
The beautiful *Dulwich House*, located in Stuart Road was constructed in 1880 by Robert Huckson, the builder of *Martindale Hall*. Some other significant homes, namely *Ormonde Lodge* and *Edgbaston* have been demolished but fortunately the 1890s home *Elford* now houses the Dulwich Family Practice. Photo on the right.



We learned about The Melba Theatre, the location of the former tram lines, the infamous “bone mill”, the 1920s billiard hall, the funeral home and the garden nursery: all sites of interest.

We completed our walk at the newly refurbished Dulwich Community Centre in Union Street.

We thank Polly for an intriguing snapshot of a most important corner of Burnside.



Polly’s detailed research of Dulwich, Rose Park and Toorak Gardens can be further explored by referring to her beautifully illustrated books “*Secrets of Dulwich and its nearby surroundings*” and “*Secrets of Rose Park, Toorak Gardens, Dulwich and districts beyond*”.

Copies can be viewed in the Burnside Library Local History Room.

Photos courtesy of Polly Dundon and Bob Stace

EASTWOOD: BURNSIDE'S SMALLEST SUBURB, YESTERDAY AND TODAY

by Bob Stace and Ally Preiss

On the morning of Tuesday 7 May twenty participants met in the gardens of the Eastwood Community Centre to commence a guided walk of Eastwood led by BHS member Ally Preiss (on the left in the photo). The Community Centre proved to be typical of many buildings in Eastwood which have changed their role over time. It commenced as the Eastwood Bible Christian Church in 1880 until closure in 1960, then took on a number of business and community roles until purchased by the City of Burnside and opened as a Community Centre in 1978.



It commenced as the Eastwood Bible Christian Church in 1880 until closure in 1960, then took on a number of business and community roles until purchased by the City of Burnside and opened as a Community Centre in 1978.

For our first stop we walked a short distance down Glen Osmond Road towards the city to its junction with Kenilworth and Young Streets which was the site of the original commercial centre of the village. Even in 1911 it was a busy scene. On the South side was the site of the Police Station (1901 – 1969) which was then demolished. The vacant land was incorporated into the Parkside Primary School which had been established in Robsart St in 1886. A chemist had run for 80 years in the two-storey building on the corner which still has an art deco makeover from the 1930s. Further up was the Parkside and Eastwood Institute (1903) which was built on land donated by Edwin T. Smith, brewer, philanthropist, and politician. On the northern side and now demolished were the Star Theatre and the Parkside Post and Telegraph Office. A bakery has been on the site of the current Jenny's Bakery since the 1880s and would have had horse stables out the back for the delivery carts and vans which supplied bread to neighbouring areas.



1911 – Busy scene on Glen Osmond Road
SLSA [PRG280/11/144]

We then moved to the much quieter narrow streets and lanes of triangular shaped Eastwood where much of the street scape has changed little over time. The back lanes, which were used by the night carts, were still there and reminded us that Eastwood was the first area in Burnside to have sewerage connected in 1889.



In the narrow streets we saw attached dwellings, a few Cornish and single fronted cottages, a number of villas and 1920's bungalows. On several streets we discovered buildings which once had been corner stores and sold all kinds of household goods like the one at left which was owned and run by Matilda Dixon. Most of these have now been converted to dwellings. Another feature of the street scape was the bluestone kerbing and guttering which retained the authenticity of the early years.

Well-kept front gardens added to the neatness of this secluded inner-city suburb.

We then found ourselves on Fullarton Rd on the eastern boundary of Eastwood where we looked across to see the significant and disappointing changes which have taken place on the old Parkside Lunatic Asylum/Glenside Hospital site. From here it was north to Greenhill Road where turning left we found the streetscape has changed dramatically over time. Overlooking the Victoria Park Racecourse and the Parklands, this road was once lined with the large homes and mansions of wealthy families, merchants, and government officials. Very little of this remains as it is now home to office blocks, hospital accommodation, high rise apartments, a television studio, and several coffee shops.

However, Ally was able to recreate some of the original "grandness" of this street by showing us images of some of the now demolished mansions like *Hauteville*, a stately two storeyed home. This building was demolished in the early 1960's to make way for the ETSA building, now Air Apartments. We walked to the corner of Greenhill Road and Glen Osmond Rd where once stood the Turf Hotel (1849) which later became the Parkside



Hauteville, c. 1910 on Greenhill Rd
Photo from the Local History Room in the Burnside Library

Hotel and was popular with the horse racing fraternity and industry in Eastwood. It is now a KFC outlet. Then up through some more quiet lanes, past the Grove Kindergarten, and finally back to the Community Centre.

It had been a walk of contrasts. Major building changes and the hustle and bustle on the main roads which surround the Eastwood village, contrasting with the quiet environment of the inner village with its heritage homes set in narrow streets and lanes, where "today" looks and feels very much like "yesterday." Thanks Ally, for giving us such a wonderful insight into Burnside's smallest suburb.

Walk photos – Bob Stace

WHEAL WATKINS: GLEN OSMOND'S HISTORIC SILVER AND LEAD MINE

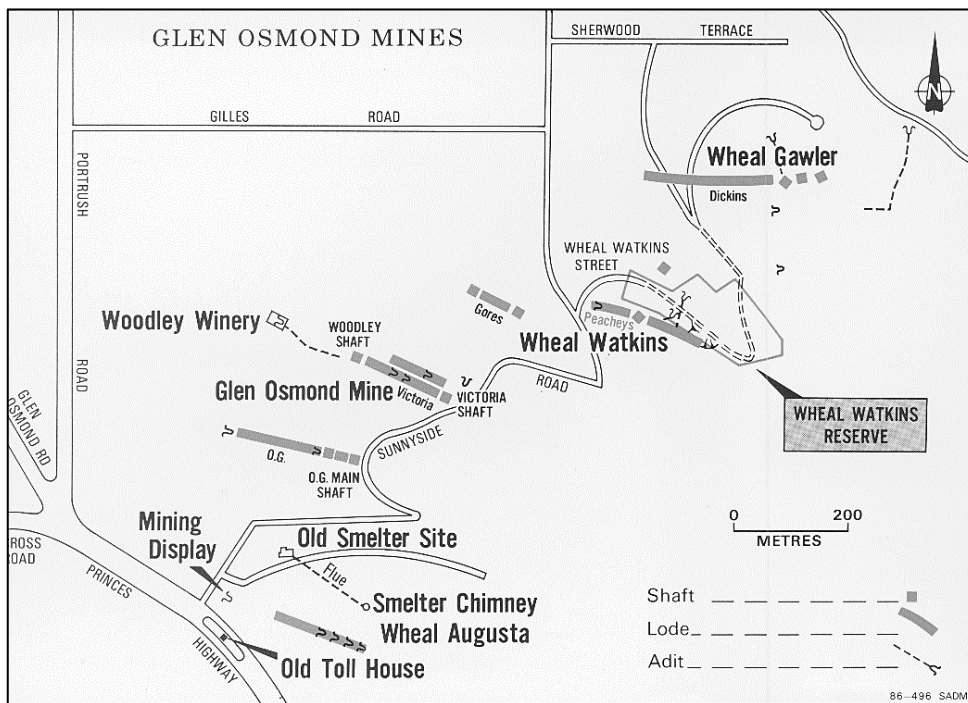
by Bob Stace with information from Ross Both and Dave Monceaux

This event on the morning of Monday 13 May was in two parts. The first part, which covered the story of the Glen Osmond mines, was held in the meeting room of the Burnside Library and was the prelude to the on-site guided walk of Wheal Watkins which followed.

BHS member **Dr Ross Both** provided a well-researched story of the mines with his illustrated presentation entitled *Glen Osmond silver-lead mines: the catalyst to Australia's first mining boom.*



Silver and lead ore was first discovered in 1838 on the property of Osmond Gilles at Glen Osmond but it wasn't until early 1841 that the first commercial mining got under way at Wheal Gawler. Soon after the first shipments of ore to England occurred in May of that year, this being the first export of metalliferous ore from Australia.



It wasn't long before mining operations commenced at the Glen Osmond Mine on Osmond Gilles' property in September 1842, and this was followed by Wheal Watkins in 1843.

The three mines were all independent of each other and run by different mining companies each of which experienced a range of management,

legal, and personality issues during the short initial productive life of the mines. By 1849/50 the mines had ceased production and whilst there were attempts to reopen both Wheal Watkins and the Glen Osmond Mine in the late 1880s these new ventures lasted only a few years.

Despite the short-term nature of these mining enterprises, the Glen Osmond mines were of considerable significance to the story of early South Australia. Discovery of the ore came at a time of economic difficulty and was the first indication of the importance of mining to the South Australian economy. It attracted Cornish miners to South Australia and was a prelude to the copper mining boom of the mid 1840s at firstly Kapunda and then at Burra.

Ross concluded his presentation with images of Cornish mining techniques like the “hammer and tap” method of drilling. (at right)



A.K. Jenkins, *The Cornish Miner*, David & Charles Reprints, 1972, p.96.

His presentation was followed by the recently produced You Tube video of “Wheal Watkins 1843 Heritage Mine” which acted as a good summary of his talk and a smooth introduction to the guided surface tour of the mine which followed.

On arrival at the Wheal Watkins mine site participants were met by their guide, BHS member **Dave Monceaux** who supplied them with a Mines Department brochure of the “Glen Osmond Mines.” In it was a map of the Glen Osmond mines, a cross-section of the extensive workings at Wheal Watkins, a description of the three historical mines in the area, and the mining method.

The visitors were first shown the lower adit, where with torches they could look about 40 metres into the tunnel to see the cramped and dark space in which the miners worked. They could also feel the draft of fresh air as the mine self-ventilated. Dave explained that all the mining was handwork. The miners were paid as piecework and had to provide their own tools, candles, and black powder for blasting. The Cornish miners brought their mining method and expertise from Cornwall in England, where it had been developed over centuries.



The group then walked up the steps to the upper adit where, because the entrance is fenced off, it was not possible to get close enough for a view inside. However, there is a panoramic view of Adelaide from this level. Some visitors then walked up the track to the top of the 128m deep shaft, where the winding head for a horse to winch up the ore and spoil was located. The shaft top is now buried and located in the bitumen turning circle of the Wheal Gawler Street cul-de-sac. Everyone was impressed by how much mining was done by a small group of Cornishmen in just 9 years from 1841 to 1850.

As a result of this event, the 25 participants (one couple came from Naracoorte) left with a better understanding of the story of the Glen Osmond mines and the historical and heritage significance of Wheal Watkins.

Photos: Bob Stace and Roger Bills

HISTORY FESTIVAL IN THE CITY OF BURNSIDE

by Hannah Shaw – Historical and Cultural Officer, City of Burnside

South Australia's History Festival is a state-wide event held annually in May. The theme of the 2024 History Festival was 'Power' – the power in people, the power in storytelling, the power in industry.

City of Burnside hosted 13 events as part of History Festival this year, the majority of which were sold out well in advance.

- Historical Weather Folios Inform our Science Future
- Getting Started with Photo Organising
- Burnside's Bald Hills, what has become of them
- Discover History Through Trees of Hazelwood Park
- Discover the Burnside District Fallen Soldiers' Memorial
- Discover the Historic Garden at Michael Perry Reserve
- Local History Enquiry Hours
- Burnside Council History Tour
- Researching Family History
- Researching Military History
- Researching House History
- Cultural Awareness Training
- Band Favourites: Old and New

There was particular interest in the walking tours and workshops. A total of 203 people attended City of Burnside events.

The Discover the Historic Garden at Michael Perry Reserve walk event returned in 2024 and was especially popular. On this walk, Botanist Dr Mark Ellis led participants through the reserve to learn its history and remark upon its exotic and indigenous flora.

The Military History, House History and Family History Research workshops were all well attended and garnered positive feedback from participants. Attendees gained new skills and shared tips and insights between themselves.

This year's program also saw the inaugural Council History Tour event – which gave attendees a 'behind-the-scenes' glimpse at some of Council's historic buildings and rooms, including the Mayor's Parlour, Ballroom and notable artworks in the Council's collection.

The Local History Enquiry Hours were also registered as an event, as in previous years. The advertising of these sessions saw an increase in enquiries, particularly in-person enquiries.

The History Festival continues to be an excellent way to promote Burnside's Local History Collection and reach new audiences, and we look forward to another exciting program of events in 2025.



Australian Army Band performs "Band Favourites: Old and New" in the Ballroom on 26 May 2024.

INTRODUCTION to the GENERAL ARTICLES

There are seven general articles this year in the Journal. The first six tell the story of a wide range of people, places and events connected to the Burnside area. The final article tells of a lifetime sharing the history of Adelaide with the wider community.

The Journal Committee is grateful to all seven contributors who wrote articles this year. Your research and passion is clearly evident and hopefully others will be encouraged and inspired to consider offering an article for the Journal in future years.

The history of Burnside must be preserved, protected and promoted and the Journal articles this year do this in an interesting way with the images bringing life to the stories.

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Henry Krichauff has written an excellent article entitled *The Life of my Great Uncle Frederik Charles Krichauff (1861 – 1954)* which can be found on page 69.

On Wednesday 25 September, BHS members enjoyed a day at Strathalbyn - report on page 40. After lunch the group visited the National Trust Museum of Strathalbyn, where we were given a guided tour.

Henry was thrilled to see Frederik’s camera on display.



70 YEARS: A LOOK BACK AT GREENHILL ROAD 1954

A reprint of an article written by Judith Millman
BHS NEWSLETTER - December 2013 Volume 33, No 4

In about the middle of 1954 my parents, Rosa and Royle Foreman, bought a small business on Greenhill Road. Travelling west from Portrush Road, there was the Glenside Post Office on the corner. Next there was a block of six shops – Adcock’s Real Estate, a hairdresser, Monreith Lending Library, **our shop** a butcher, and a grocer.



Greenhill Road c.1954, Courtesy Local History Collection



James Bentley set up his grocery store on Greenhill Road, Glenside (then Knoxville), calling it Bentley's Stores. James retired in 1952 and his son-in-law, John Rogers took over the business with a Mr. Macklin, renaming the business Macklin and Rogers. SLSA c. 1940, B77825

Then there was a vacant block followed by the Demasius store. I do not remember a bakery, but I do remember the doctor's house. On one occasion I went there to play with his daughter. She had a doll's house we could walk into, and I believe it had running water and electricity – quite amazing to this then 10 year old.

There was a roundabout on the corner of Portrush Road and Greenhill Road. It was built inside a concrete circle about 30 cm high, and a number of vehicles collided with it, especially late on Saturday

nights or very early Sunday mornings. My brothers witnessed a sedan losing control, mounting the roundabout, and finishing in the middle of it. My mother rang the ambulance on many occasions. The accidents were particularly bad when the vehicle in question was a motor bike. Some years later I had a nasty fright when a vehicle in which I was passenger turned right from Greenhill Road into Portrush Road, taking the roundabout anticlockwise!

Our shop sold cards, ice-creams and cool drinks, chocolates and lollies, cigarettes and tobacco, and books for adults and children. In addition, we were a sub-agency for the newsagent, and sold newspapers, comics, Australian magazines, and English magazines, quite a number of which were pre-ordered. We had a large pigeonhole system for the pre-ordered magazines, and sometimes I was sent to Gordon and Gotch in Currie Street to pick up the parcel of overseas magazines. I also went to G and R Wills in Gawler Place (near David Jones) to pick up items for the shop. Mum took a lot of care with her choice of cards, choosing ones with meaningful words. If she thought they were a little unappealing on the front, she used glue and glitter to improve their appearance. Word spread, and people came from some distance to buy her cards.

On August 10th, 1954, our family moved to two flats behind the shop. The first flat opened from the shop. It had a small kitchen and a large dining room and blocked off passage, both of which were used as stores. It also had a small sitting room (lounge), a bedroom, bathroom, and laundry. The back door led to a small, paved yard, a garden, the other flat, which also had a small garden, and a sleep-out. The yard had a second entrance, which ran alongside the grocer's shop and through a gate. The sleep-out was attached to a shed which the grocer used as a store and was my bedroom for a while. The yards of both flats finished with a fence that ran along the back lane that came off Portrush Road in between the back of the Post Office and the block of shops pictured in the article. My brothers slept in the kitchen of the second flat, and eventually the bedroom of that flat became my bedroom.

We lived there for approximately 5 years. During that time, my brothers and I played on the large empty block between the back of our properties, and Cator Street. There was a creek at the far side, but it didn't often have water. It was more of a drain, and disappointing to children who had come from Clapham where we had played in a permanent creek at Lynton. We also built a rudimentary tree house in one of the two almond trees in the back yards – more a case of planks across some branches than a tree house, but a lot of fun. At some stage in those five years the National Bank placed a transportable building on the vacant block between the grocery and Demasius businesses.

My brothers also became newspaper boys and sold papers after school on the corner of Portrush Road and Greenhill Road, in front of the Council Chambers. I looked after the shop while Dad had his tea, as it wasn't regarded at the time as seemly for a girl to be selling papers on the street corner. The shop stayed open on Burnside Town Hall dance nights to serve ice creams and cool drinks to the interval crowd, and as I got older, I was allowed to stay up to help. One of my brothers remembers being woken by an angry dance crowd on our first Saturday at the shop, demanding their usual refreshments, as Dad hadn't realised the shop usually stayed open.

This reprinted article describing 1954 illustrates the changing nature of the intersection of Portrush and Greenhill Roads. Today another monumental shopping development is underway. The back and front covers of the Journal show the intersection over a 70-year period.

100 YEARS: A LOOK BACK AT BURNSIDE IN 1924

by Michelle Toft – City of Burnside, Cultural and Historical Officer

In 1924, amidst the aftermath of the Great War and the Spanish flu pandemic, Australia was in a phase of recovery and renewal. The population of Australia stood at 5.6 million (26.01 million today). The year marked the release of the children's book 'Chucklebud and Wunkydoo' by May Gibbs, compulsory voting was introduced at federal elections and the first Woolworths opened for business as 'Woolworths Stupendous Bargain Basement' in Sydney.

In the local arena, the population of the District Council of Burnside in 1924 was 7,604 (47,444 today). J.A. Harper was serving as Chairman and Council meetings were held at the Glynburn Road chambers. The Council addressed various topics, including complaints about cattle damaging roads, the need for more public transport shelters, cautioning a 13-year-old boy for riding on the footpath, and debating a bylaw to prohibit Sunday trading.

When did Burnside make headlines in 1924?



Various events and incidents in Burnside made the news. There were frequent parties, dances and fundraisers held at Rivoli Hall in Knightsbridge. William Humphrey Harvey MLC, a Member of the Legislative Council, was voted the winner of the Ugly Man Competition, as part of a fundraiser held by Burnside School. The impending subdivision of Knightsbridge and its impact on the view of the paddocks and hills was also a topic of discussion.

Winner of the Ugly Man Competition 1924 Burnside School, William Humphrey Harvey MLC. SLSA [B4536] c. 1925

Memorial Statue at the Burnside District Fallen Soldiers' Memorial Unveiled

On Sunday, 14 December 1924, the Governor of South Australia, Lieutenant General Sir Tom Bridges KCB KCMG DSO, unveiled a bronze statue at the junction of Alexandra Avenue and Prescott Terrace, Rose Park. The statue was added to the Alexandra Avenue and Prescott Memorial plantation (known as the Avenues of Honour), which was planted in 1919. The Burnside Memorial Committee raised funds for the monument as a further tribute to the fallen. The statue, sculpted by Australian artist Charles Web Gilbert, depicts a soldier climbing over the top of a trench and turning back to offer a helping hand to his comrade. The figure, cast by the Ferdinand Barbedienne Foundry in France, is mounted on a granite plinth with bronze plaques bearing the names of fallen soldiers of the Burnside District.

During the unveiling ceremony, the Chairman of the Memorial Committee, Fred Johns praised the statue: "How true to life, how realistic, the bronze figure was! It showed the Australian attitude that was witnessed countless times in the field. The names of the 88 of those who made the supreme sacrifice were inscribed in bronze, representing about 10 per cent of those who enlisted from the Burnside district." (The Register, 15 Dec 1924, page 10)



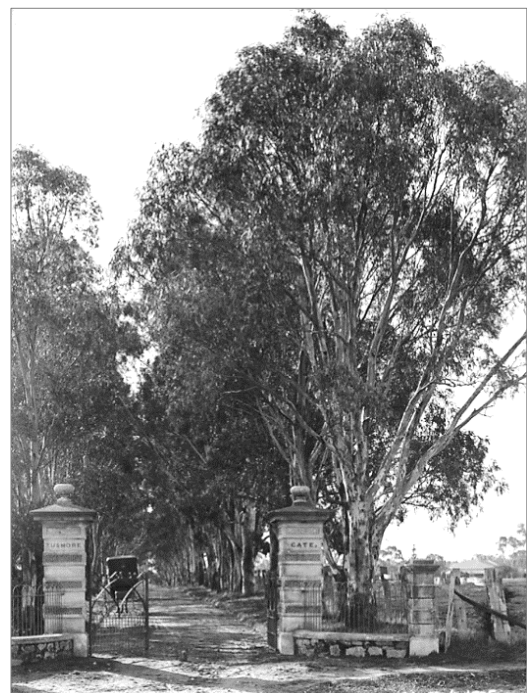
*Unveiling Ceremony at Burnside District Fallen Soldiers Memorial, 14 December 1924.
Courtesy of City of Burnside Local History Collection.*

Tusmore Farm Subdivided

In 1924, Tusmore Farm was subdivided and Tusmore House was demolished.

Tusmore Farm was established in 1838, when William and Ann Rogers leased Sections 290 and 291 from the South Australian Company. They named the property after their hometown in Oxfordshire, England. The farm at one point had 800 sheep, 50 cattle and over a hundred acres cropped for wheat and other cereals. In 1889, the South Australian Company granted the lease to dairyman Edward Treacy.

In 1924, the land was subdivided; part of it continued to be used for farming, some was for residential housing, and the District Council of Burnside purchased some of the land for a park (now Tusmore Park) and for constructing new Council Chambers and a Town Hall at the corner of Portrush and Greenhill Roads. Remnants of Tusmore Farm include the original gates, which were once on Greenhill Road, now relocated to the entrance of Tusmore Park from Stirling Street. Additionally, the gum trees that once lined the driveway to Tusmore House, can still be seen at the rear of the properties that front Tusmore Avenue. Originally 17 pairs, the trees were planted by William Rogers during the 1850s.



Entrance to Tusmore Farm from Greenhill Road, c. 1898. Courtesy of City of Burnside Local History Collection.

Rose Park Aviator

Bill Smith (1889-1962) was a pioneering aviator who resided at 8 Watson Avenue, Rose Park. He stored his Avro bi-plane Skylark in a hangar at this property. Smith learned to fly with the Royal Air Force in England during World War I. In 1924, he gained fame for his tourist joy flights and daring stunts. In January of that year, he participated in a race against three hydroplanes at Henley Beach. Smith won the race easily, making the boats appear as if they were standing still to spectators as he flew within 20 feet (6.09 metres) of the ground. However, after the race, during the final joy ride from the shore, Smith's plane nosedived into the water. Coming out of the water unscathed, he explained that while taxiing, the crowd had rushed to the plane, and to avoid spectators, he steered towards the ocean.

Dulwich Plant Nursery Closed



Grant's Nursery, c.1908. Courtesy of City of Burnside Local History Collection

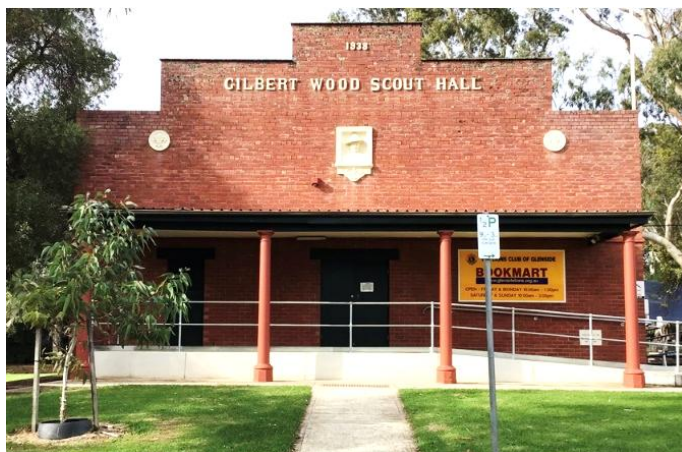
The Dulwich Plant Nursery, also known as 'Grant's Nursery' to locals, was located on the corner of Cleland Avenue and Mellington Street in Dulwich. John Grant purchased the land in 1857 and established the nursery in the same year. His son, Stephen Garforth Grant, continued the business until 1924. The nursery specialised in vegetables and flower seedlings and is believed to be the first nursery in the area. The house and nursery have since been demolished.

Reflecting on life a century ago reveals a time that seems quite different from today yet is also similar in many ways. We still enjoy parties and fundraisers, the District Council of Burnside continues to have discussions about transport shelters, and every year we commemorate our fallen at the bronze statue in the Burnside District Fallen Soldiers' Memorial. While it is important to learn about our past, we must look ahead. I wonder what Burnside will look like in another hundred years.

HISTORY OF THE GLENSIDE LIONS BOOKMART

by John Standingford, Immediate Past President, Lions Club of Glenside

You probably know it. Perhaps you're a customer. The Bookmart occupies the old scout hall at the north end of Kennaway Street, with Tusmore Park to its east, Hanson Reserve to its north and the Austral-Asian Community Church across the road.



It is run by the Lions Club of Glenside, whose thirty members work alongside an army of volunteers to make it the biggest second-hand bookshop in the state. It is also the Club's chief source of revenue, allowing

a wide variety of local, national, and international causes to be supported. Last year that support amounted to \$213,091.

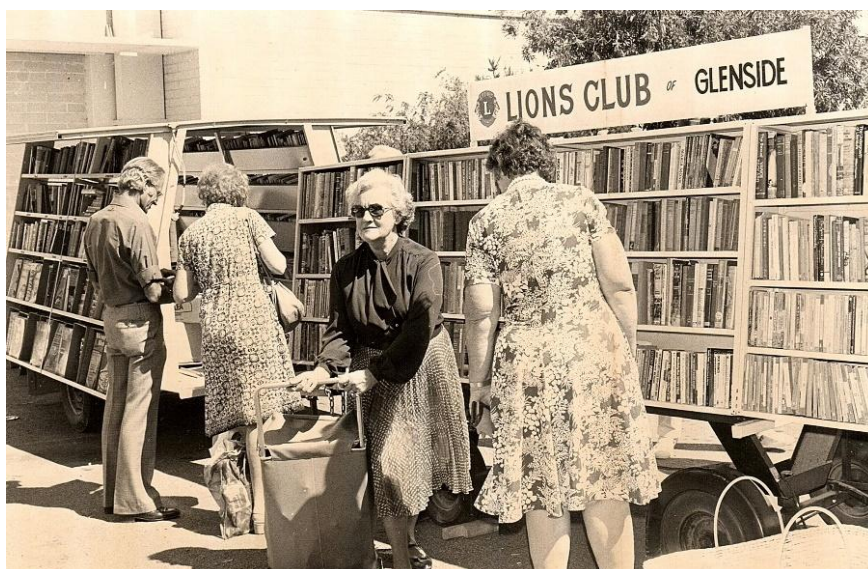


How it started

The Club was formed in late 1979 and its charter from Lions Clubs International was presented on 29 March 1980 at a formal dinner attended by the Premier, David Tonkin, and the Mayor of Burnside, Coralie Soward.

There were 29 charter members, and the first President was Phil Ashwin. In those days Lionesses had their own clubs, so all the Glenside Lions were male. One of them (Noel O'Brien, pictured) is still a member and one other (Bruce Spangler) still does shifts on the Bookmart sales desk.

A decision to raise money from second-hand book sales was made almost immediately. The idea came from Bill Pattullo, who had run such a fund-raiser as a Lion in Stirling, and the first sales platform was a pair of purpose-built trailers bought from that Club (photo). The name was always Book Mart, but the trailers were called book carts.



Donations of books were solicited through letterbox drops and the book carts were positioned in the car park of the Demasius department store (aerial photo next page, looking westward at the Greenhill/Portrush intersection¹) that was soon subsumed into Burnside Village. Storage of books and carts was arranged at Kenrae

¹ Australian Manuscript Collection, State Library of Victoria

Trading in Greenhill Road. The venture was an immediate success and raised \$7,798 in its first year. To put that in context, a brand-new Holden Commodore was priced at \$7,903.



In the Club's fourth year, to show it had no fear of competition, the Club gave Burnside Council \$3,500 towards its own mobile library.



In the fifth year, book sales exceeded \$10,000. Subsequently a much larger commitment was made to the Council's mobile library service, underlining the Club members' belief that making books widely available is as much a community service as a fund-raising effort.

Moving on



By 1989 the Book Mart had outgrown the book carts. They were sold to the Lions Club of Paralowie and the Book Mart was relocated to a dilapidated shed at Burnside Council's depot in Conyngham Street. The Council offered to build a new shed for the Book Mart, on condition that the Club demolish an old brick building on the site. This was done by members wielding sledgehammers every Sunday morning for six weeks. Timber shelving was built by charter member Bob Duffield, and other equipment was bought second-hand at auction. The photo shows President Phil Ashwin and Director (later Secretary) Terry Savvas loading those shelves.

Sales kept growing, reaching \$24,698 in 1993. Then in June 1994 the Book Mart was relocated again, this time, to a building in Glebe Road – opposite the MFS fire station and near Burnside Lions' Bargain Centre. This time the Club had to invest several thousand dollars in steel shelving. This was the Book Mart's home for fourteen years, during which book sales doubled. But the building's foundations were unsound. The Council concluded that they were beyond repair and the building would have to be demolished. So, the Book Mart had to move again.

On the western edge of Tusmore Park lay the derelict Gilbert Wood Scout Hall, long since abandoned by the Linden Park Boy Scouts. Its owner, Burnside Council, was happy to let the Glenside Lions take it over and undertake repairs and refurbishment. The steel shelving was moved from Glebe Road and professionally installed. This is still the



Bookmart's home, and the shelving is still in service. Around this time the name became joined up: not 'Book Mart' but 'Bookmart'.

The premises

The Gilbert Wood Scout Hall is interesting in itself. The total cost of construction was £1,300, of which £400 was given by Mrs Gilbert E. Wood, on the proviso that the Hall would be named "The Gilbert Wood Hall" in honour of her husband, who had taken a deep interest in the Scout movement in the District from the time of the foundation of the Group.²

Mrs. Gilbert Wood laid the foundation stone of the Gilbert Wood Scout Hall in Kennaway street, Tusmore, this afternoon.

A guard of honor comprising Boy Scouts and Cubs of the district was formed to welcome the visitors, including many scouting officials.

The Linden Park Scoutmaster (the Rev. M. Williams) paid a tribute to the generosity of Mrs. Gilbert Wood, who gave £400 towards the cost of the new building, and to the Burnside Council and other citizens who had assisted.

The building, which would replace the present troop room, would include eight patrol dens and a Rover crew den.

A sealed casket containing the names of the 110 Linden Park Scouts and Clubs, together with issues of Adelaide newspapers and scouting publications, was placed in the wall of the new building by Mr. S. W. Bown, Cubmaster of the second pack.

The Mail, Saturday 23 July 1938, page 24
headlined **Big Hall for Linden Park Scouts**

As the headquarters of a scout group, it was unusually grand and costly. The laying of the foundation stone in July 1938 attracted press attention.

It was opened only seven months later by Lord Hampton, the Chief Commissioner of Scouts in England and deputy to Lord Baden-Powell himself. A bust of the World Chief Scout, made and donated by Mr John Wilson of Bowden, still takes



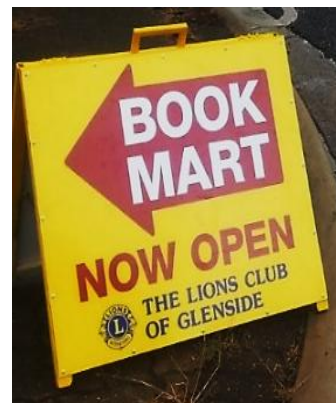
pride of place on the front of the building. Glenside Lions recently had it repaired and repainted. This is said to be one of only two sculptures of B-P in South Australia.

The Bookmart now

The Bookmart is still a bookshop, but more than that as well. Alongside the books are CDs, DVDs, jigsaw puzzles and the famous Lions mints, Christmas cakes and puddings – available all year round.

As an additional service, Burnside residents can collect their compostable bags from the Bookmart in exchange for a name and address to check against Council records.

Because of increased footfall – due in part to a doubling of the size of the children's books section and the opening of Burnside Council's very popular wading pool behind the building – the Bookmart is being used as a site for other community services too. Examples include free hearing tests, children's vision screening, and collection of donated food for the Foodbank Christmas hamper appeal.



² OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE GILBERT WOOD SCOUT HALL, 29th February 1939, pages 1 & 2

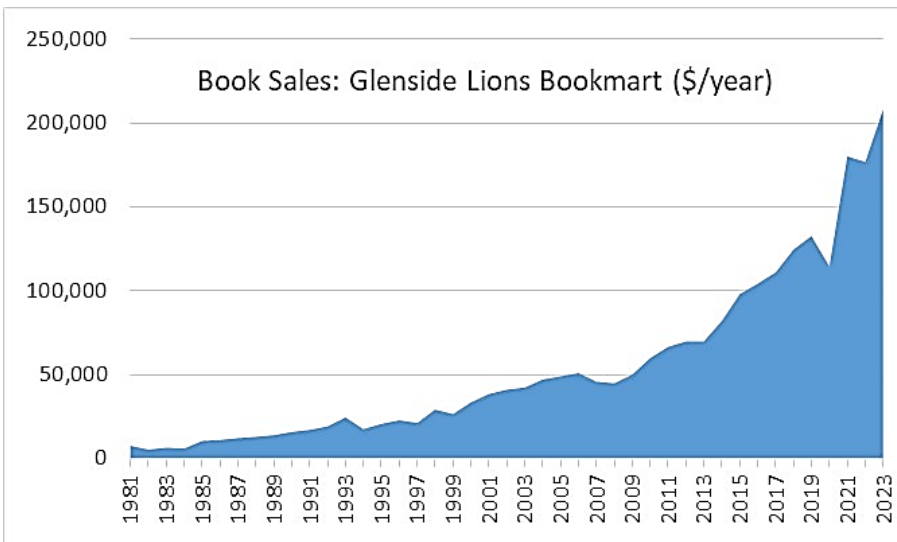


As ever, the Bookmart is heavily reliant on the disciplined efforts of Club members and book-loving volunteers managed by Evan Jenkins and Ann Mattschoss.

Gilbert Wood and his wife would surely be proud that this building, which still bears Gilbert’s name, is still being used to benefit their community.

Money

The Bookmart’s primary purpose is to raise money. Over the course of its 43 years the Bookmart has achieved gross sales of \$2.49 million, with expenses equivalent to 11.6% of this. All profits have been donated to carefully selected causes – local, national, and global – directly or through Lions foundations.



There were obvious dips in the Bookmart’s revenue due to the Global Financial Crisis (2007-09) and the Covid-19 pandemic (2020-21), but each of these was followed by a rapid recovery, and the trend is still strongly upward.

Donations are decided at the Club’s monthly business meetings. The single largest donation since June

2022 was \$45,000 to Lions Hearing Dogs (the national centre at Verdun) to cover the full cost of training a medical alert dog. The following have each received at least \$10,000 during that period: Lions Clubs International Foundation (disaster appeals for Ukraine, Pakistan and Turkey), Foodbank



glenside lions

South Australia, Flinders Foundation Eye Bank, Lions Clubs in the Riverland (for flood relief), Hutt Street Centre, Médecins Sans Frontières (for flood relief in Pakistan), Cancer Care Centre and the Eastern Districts Little Athletics Association.

Photos supplied by the Glenside Lions Club from their collection and used with permission.

1st LINDEN PARK SCOUTS AT THE GILBERT WOOD SCOUT HALL

Collated by Helen Bills from the 1978 commemorative edition of *The Golden Bunyip* magazine

The Gilbert Wood Scout Hall has been a hive of activity and the venue for worthwhile ventures for close to 100 years. Firstly, as the base for the 1st Linden Park Scout Group and today as the home of Glenside Lions Bookmart.

Tucked away in the Burnside Library Local History Room collection I found a copy of **THE GOLDEN BUNYIP, 1928-1978 Linden Park Scout Group Commemorative Edition** – pure GOLD. The Bunyip magazine was first published in 1946, superseding the previous group magazine called B.E.P.



1st Linden Park Scout Hall [PRG 287/1/6/34] 1938.
Note construction debris visible near the front verandah.

The following recollections are reprinted from the 1978 magazine and were written by former scouts and scout leaders.

Dave Hall recalled and related the history from 1928 - 1963¹

Arthur Threadgill, Group Scoutmaster of Linden Park in 1936. In 1917, while in a military training camp in England, he was invited to visit the local scout troop. After twelve months active service in France, he returned to England and visited further scout troops. In 1919, before returning to Australia, he met George Talmage, a very enthusiastic scout. In 1927 he assisted him to come to Australia.

We take up the story in the words of Arthur Threadgill ...

During the next year, the 1st Tusmore Troop, who held meetings in a Presbyterian room behind the Presbyterian Church in Barr Smith Street, closed down. In October 1928, with myself as Troop Secretary, and George Talmage as Scoutmaster, we received permission to start the 1st Linden Park scout troop, with six boys from the Tusmore Troop. We met in a shack 6' x 8' for many months. Upon starting the Troop, we decided upon the name "Linden Park" as it would perpetuate the old family name of "Linden" as being the home of the Wood family at Burnside. So, we asked Mr. Gilbert Wood (Jr.) to be our president. We did not have to ask twice, and I need not have to tell you what Mr. Wood has been to our Group.

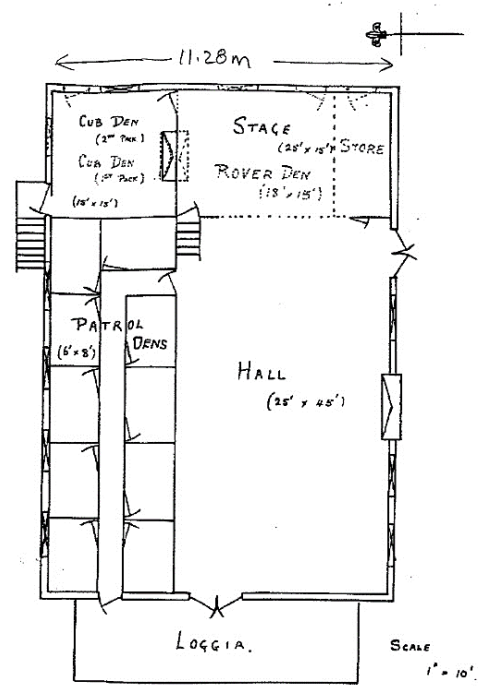


Dave Hall continues with “*In 1938, as a result of dedicated effort, headed by the late Reverend Mathew Williams, the Gilbert Wood Scout Hall was built. The building, costing £1156 (\$2312) was officially opened by the Chief Justice Sir Robert Murray, and the mould in meduse cement (photo page 59) of Lord Baden Powell at the front of the hall unveiled by the Chief Commissioner, Sir Henry Rymill.*

¹ Page 2 & 3 - *THE GOLDEN BUNYIP 1928 – 1978 Linden Park Scout Group Commemorative Edition*. Burnside Library Local History Room Collection

During the years ahead vigorous fund raising was planned and the Scout Hall was declared a freehold property in 1944 ... The following year building additions commenced, and a new wing was built containing toilets and a shower at ground level, and the Monday night Scout Troop den above with a stairway attached and leading into the cub den”.²

“The Linden Park Scout Dance was held regularly on Saturday evenings in the Masonic Hall adjacent to the Tasmore Methodist Church (Burnside City Uniting Church) until the dance was moved to the new Burnside Ballroom in December 1954, (later known as the Princeton Club). On the opening night hundreds were turned away. Over the years the dance proved to be a magnificent fund-raising venture for both Linden Park and Eastern Suburbs. Linden Park Rovers, Leaders, Seniors and parents ran the dance management on alternate Saturday nights and Eastern Suburbs under the control of the District Commissioner, Mr. Pip Gerner, ran the intermediate Saturday evenings. Ray Solomon and his fifty-fifty band were very successful and entertained a full house of 550 people each Saturday evening for six years.



M.A.C Stidson, scout leader for 7 years until January 1942, reported

“There were several "openings" of the Gilbert Wood Scout Hall. The first was so that it could be used, then came the formal opening. The money that came with it followed that which had been placed on the Foundation Stone when it was laid. ... (The) official opening of the Hall and the unveiling of the bust of the Chief Scout, Lord Robert Baden-Powell by B-Ps successor, Lord Hampton - again (brought) an increase to funds. The bust was modelled from memory by a Mr. Wilson who had been in Mafeking with the Chief and (who) then had a concrete factory in Bowden”.³



I could not find any reference to when the 1st Linden Park Scout Group disbanded, but by 1978 there were only 36 boys involved – down from its heyday in 1954 when there were more than 170 boys. Several murals, in the cub dens, can still be seen on the walls upstairs in the children’s section of local heritage listed Bookmart.

² Page 5 & 6 - THE GOLDEN BUNYIP 1928 – 1978 Linden Park Scout Group Commemorative Edition
³ Page 16 - THE GOLDEN BUNYIP 1928 – 1978 Linden Park Scout Group Commemorative Edition

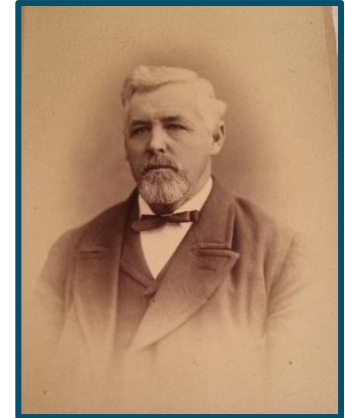
PIONEER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIAN QUARRIES: HENRY DUNSTAN

by Roger Harris, BHS member and great grandson of Henry Dunstan.

Introduction

The Burnside Heritage Survey identified Henry Dunstan as “the driving force behind the hugely successful Stonyfell Quarries and vineyards complex... [The quarries] under the energetic ownership of Henry Dunstan expanded enormously, supplying the house and road builders of the new suburbs ...”.¹ The *Register* reported that his business was “an example of what has been achieved within the lifetime of one man”², and later wrote that he had died after “a strenuous and ... successful career”.³ Mrs. J. Crompton, who had lived in Stonyfell House for over 50 years, referred to him as “a hardy Cornishman”, who was “an instance of the kind of pluck that went into the building of success.”⁴

So, who was Henry Dunstan?



Henry Dunstan, c.1904
[Mora Studio, 83 Rundle Street, Adelaide]

Arrival in South Australia: 1846

The Dunstan family emigrated from Camborne, Cornwall, when Henry was five years old. The new colony was desperately seeking skilled workers, and in particular to meet the promising boom in mining. So, Henry senior and his brother John emigrated with their families on Assisted Passage.

What would have been another adventurous step in his youth was, at the tender age of 10½ years, accompanying his father to the Bendigo goldfields in February 1852. Returning 10 months later, he worked with his father for 12 years in carting and contracting, mainly for the Norwood Corporation and Burnside District Council, filling in spare time with wood-carting from the hills. Later, he also became involved in carting stone with David Packham, who at that time leased the Stonyfell quarries.



Mary Ann Dunstan (nee Mildred) c. 1884 [Mora Studio, 83 Rundle Street, Adelaide]

Father's death and Henry's marriage: 1865

This was another significant year in Henry's life. In June his father died at his residence in North Kensington. Then only three months afterwards Henry married Mary Ann Mildred, daughter of George Mildred and the first girl born in Port Adelaide.⁵ They were to have seven children. Two years later, Henry leased a section of Stonyfell Estate, and worked the quarry on a royalty basis. In 1881, he installed the first steam-driven, stone-breaking machine in SA – the Hope Crusher. This was a giant step forward, as the need for metal screenings for tar paving footpaths was very much felt by Corporations and District Councils. For the first time, steam was used in SA for stone-crushing to provide these screenings.

¹ Burnside-Heritage-Survey-Part-1-General-Report-1987.pdf, pp. 10 & 30.

² ‘Governor at a quarry. Enjoyable time at Stonyfell’, *Register*, 1 May 1912, p. 9.

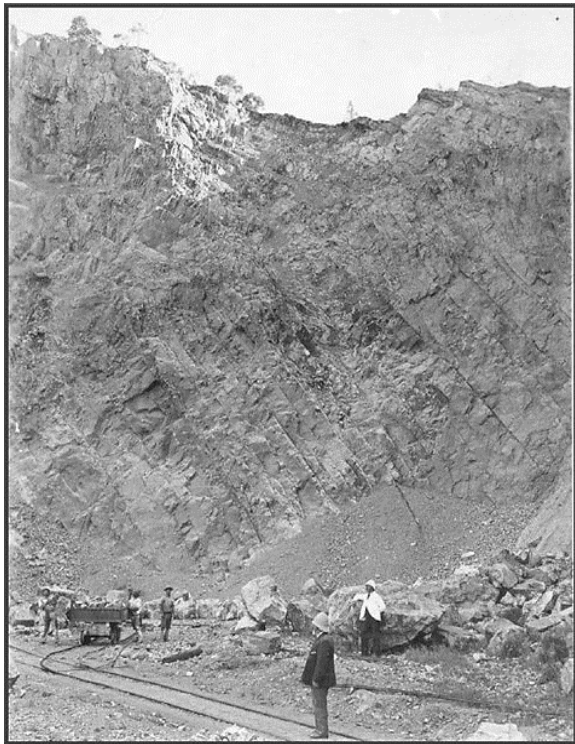
³ *Register*, 24 May 1915, p. 6.

⁴ ‘Memories of old days. A chat with Mrs. J. Crompton’, *Register*, 26 February 1923, p. 10. Joseph Crompton had gone into partnership with her brother, Henry Clark, in the Stonyfell Vineyard, and shortly afterwards when her brother died, Mr. Crompton carried on the vineyard.

⁵ *Register*, 29 July 1912, p. 6; *Observer*, 3 August 1912, p. 41.

Purchase of Stonyfell Estate: 1888

In 1888 he purchased the whole Estate from the Bank of Adelaide, as it had been taken over during the economic depression four years earlier. Henry Martin joined the company as his accountant and purchased Crompton's house *Ilfracombe* on Stonyfell Road. The



Stonyfell Quarries with a rail wagon being loaded with stone by quarry workers. Henry Dunstan (on track) and Thomas Keays (white coat), c.1900 [SLSA BRG 3507/45/40]

quarry and road-making business became H. Dunstan & Son in 1892 (son John had reached the legal age of 21 years), while the winery, H. Dunstan & Co., was managed by Henry Martin. Later in 1902 Martin leased the vineyards and cellars from Henry Dunstan (and eventually purchased the winery outright from the Dunstan Estate in 1934).



Elizabeth East Harris (nee Dunstan) 1901 [Studio: Hammer & Co., Adelaide]

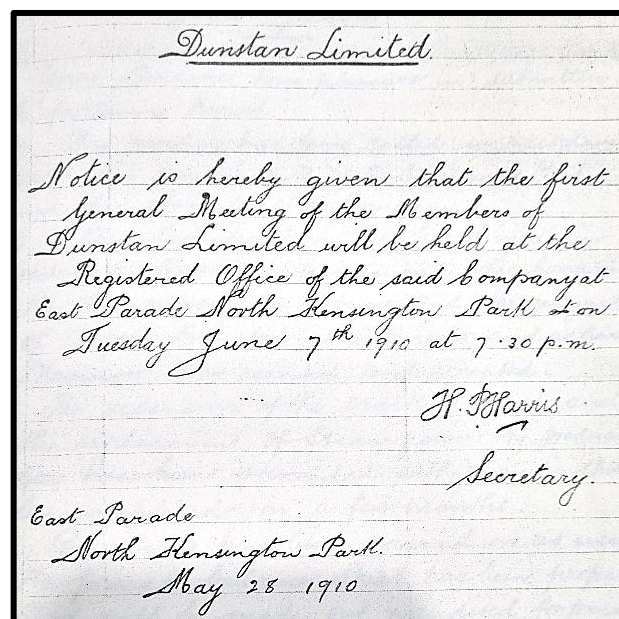
In July 1902, Howie Harris (my grandfather) who had been working in the Treasury entered the employ of H. Dunstan & Son as the accountant.⁶ Two years later, he married Henry's daughter Elizabeth, and later became Secretary and a Director of the Dunstan company.

Formation of Dunstan Limited: 1910

Another significant shift occurred at the beginning of 1910. Henry's only son, John, resigned from the company, and in January 1912 incorporated his own, John Dunstan & Son Ltd., at Waterfall Quarry in Chambers Gully, Burnside. As a result, Henry had to change the name of his own company to Dunstan Limited – its first General Meeting was held on 7 June 1910. Unfortunately, neither Henry nor John were to live long enough to see the successes their new companies would become.

Other activities

Henry was also a farmer. He bought a farm in 1887 just south of O'Sullivan's Beach – it was where around 30 draught horses at a time who carted stone from Stonyfell Quarry could be rested for 3 months



Announcement of the first public meeting of the new company, Dunstan Limited, in 1910. Signed by H. P. Harris, my grandfather. [Source: Local History Room, Burnside Library]

⁶ His diary therefore reports that he submitted his Tax Return on 7/3/1903 which comprised six months in the Treasury at £55 and six months with Dunstan & Son at £104, his income totalling £159 for 1902.

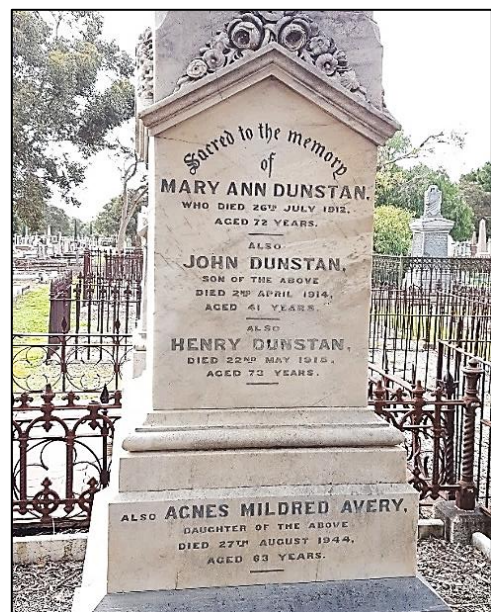
each year after their arduous work (120 horses; 90 in use at any one time). In 1965 the Port Stanvac Oil Refinery was established in the area. The SA Housing Trust bought up farmland within a 4–5 kilometre radius of the refinery site, only about one kilometre from Henry’s farm, which by then was owned by Elizabeth and Howie Harris. The family was offered £250 per acre, and with no other recourse, had to sell. I remember fondly many family holidays there during January each year, but sadly these had to end!

Apart from running his quarry business and farm, Henry was involved in many other commitments. He was a member of the Oddfellows and Foresters Friendly Societies and the South Australian Vinegrowers' Association. The Southern Farmers' Floral and Industrial Society had recently appointed him as vice-president before his passing. He was elected in July 1894 to the executive committee of the newly formed East Torrens Electoral Association. A long-term and significant commitment was with the SA Chamber of Manufactures where he was a valued member of the committee (Vice-President in 1902) and a trustee.

Undoubtedly, his major involvement was with the Congregational Church. He was long associated with Clayton Congregational Church, which the Dunstans joined in July 1879.⁷ Henry was an elected deacon (and elected life deacon around 1913) and, on the church’s 80th anniversary in 1934, was referred to as one of the prominent members of Clayton.⁸ The Harris family also worshipped there. Elizabeth and Howie met while Sunday School teaching. One of Henry’s special activities was giving valuable assistance in the erection of the Congregational Church at Port Noarlunga near his farm – “a staunch supporter of Port Noarlunga Congregational Church, the foundation stone of which he laid in 1910”.⁹ The stone bore the inscription: "This stone was laid by Henry Dunstan, Esq., February 5, 1910. Righteousness exalteth a nation." He remarked that he had been handling stones for the last 50 years, but that was the first occasion upon which he had been privileged to lay a foundation stone of a new church. The President of the SA Congregational Union ‘eulogized the generosity of Mr. Dunstan’ who had given such valuable assistance.¹⁰

His passing: 1915

Henry died on 22 May 1915. He had experienced considerable grief throughout his life. Four of his seven children had passed away, two from typhoid, at relatively early ages: Mary Elizabeth in 1873, Mary Jane in 1892, Emily in 1903 and John in 1914. His wife Mary Ann had died in 1912. He had also lost five of the six siblings who had emigrated with him – only his younger brother James survived him, though he, too, was to pass away less than two months after Henry.



Gravesites – members of the Dunstan family, West Terrace Cemetery, Adelaide.

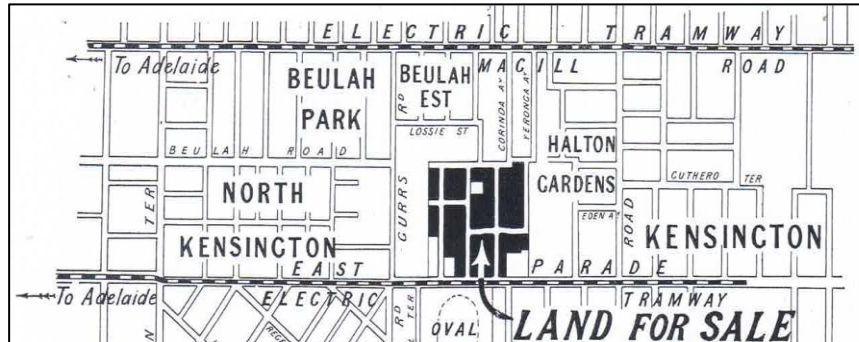
⁷ Clayton Jubilee Record, 1906, p. 21.

⁸ ‘Clayton Church 80th anniversary’, *The Advertiser*, 27 April 1934, p. 11.

⁹ Harris, D. D., *Leftover autobiograffiti*, 2000, p. 5.

¹⁰ *Register*, 7 February 1910, p. 9; *Advertiser*, 7 February 1910, p. 11.

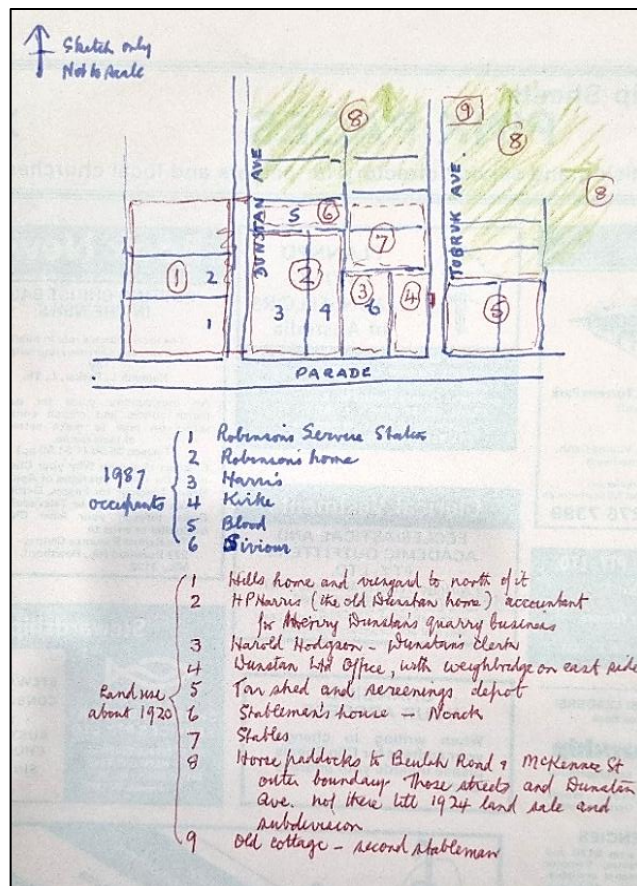
However, the work of Dunstan Limited continued long after Henry's passing until it merged (as was John's quarry) into Quarry Industries Ltd. in 1939. For example, two interesting projects in 1925 were constructing the first tennis court in Adelaide to be laid in bituminous concrete and terracing the south-eastern corner of the Adelaide Oval mound. But while the company started by Henry Dunstan continued, his personal estate needed to be wound up. Under instructions from the Trustees of the Dunstan Estate, first the furniture from his then residence *Dunelme* in Magill was auctioned in 1915, followed by his property in Magill in 1920 (subdivided into 22 lots), and finally his property in North Kensington Park in 1924 (subdivided into 93 lots, except 341 The Parade on the corner with Dunstan Avenue which continued in Harris hands until 2002, and still stands, occupied now by other owners).



Dunstan Estate at North Kensington Park sold as 93 lots in 1924
 [Source: Bagot, Shakes & Lewis sales pamphlet, SLSA 333.38 B148b]

Who was Henry Dunstan the person?

The evidence indicates that Henry was an astute businessman, who did not mince his words and



Hand-drawn sketch of Henry Dunstan's property in Kensington Park North, showing land use c. 1920 and 1987 [by Don D. Harris]

expected much from his workers. The *Aldine History of SA* (1890) records him as “not only an old Colonist, but also one of the most enterprising men, and as such is much esteemed in the Colony ... from a very small beginning [he] has worked up to be one of the foremost men in Adelaide.”¹¹ At the visit in 1901 by the Kensington and Norwood Council to the Stonyfell Quarry – the “great stone industry which that fine colonist has established” – the accolades were for “Mr. Dunstan's enterprise, pluck and perseverance in building up such a large and profitable business from the modest start of a one-bone dray”.¹² Press reports of such visits always referred to his hospitable and generous nature, and the onsite winery almost certainly would have aided in this regard! He was an empathetic and a generous person, both traits perhaps emanating from his strong Christian faith. His empathy, for example, was evident in his care and provision for a widow whose husband and son had been killed in a Stonyfell Quarry accident in 1901¹³. In his generosity he contributed not only to the

¹¹ Morrison, W. F. (Ed.) *The Aldine History of South Australia*, Vol. 2. Sydney: The Aldine Publishing Co., 1890. p.724

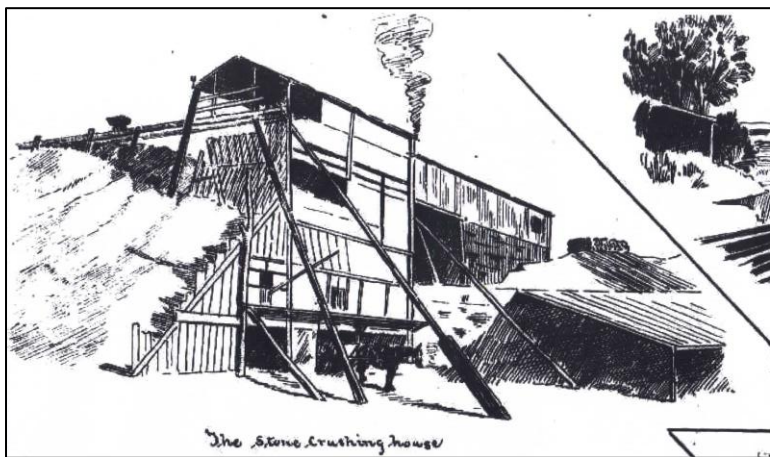
¹² *South Australian Register*, 22 January 1901, p. 6.

¹³ 'The Stonyfell fatalities', *Register*, 17 August 1901, p. 6.

positioning of the new Clayton Church building to look down The Parade towards the city and its initial and continuing development, but also what was called a “generous donation” that helped build the Port Noarlunga church.

This curious mix of toughness and empathy in his character was most aptly highlighted in a meeting of the Chamber of Manufactures. The Chair in 1915, after Henry’s death, stated that “they all admired his sterling character. He had been fearless in the expression of his views, and by those who knew him he had been much beloved.”¹⁴

There are at least four press obituaries¹⁵ for Henry Dunstan. In these he was depicted as “a sturdy, hard-working man, who built up the present large quarrying and contracting business of Dunstan Limited, at Kensington and Stonyfell from very small beginnings.”



Sketch of Dunstan’s Quarries, Stonyfell – 1890 The stone crushing house [Source: ‘Our industries – Mr. Dunstan’s quarries’, *Pictorial Australian*, August 1890, p. 108]

In addition, an article about him was published in 1909 in *The Cyclopedia of South Australia*.¹⁶ There were also references to him even sometime after his passing. I refer to three. In 1919 Mr. G. H. Boykett, a lawyer acting for the employers in the Industrial Court, referred to “the late Henry Dunstan ... No man in Adelaide had proved himself a finer citizen.” His immense capacity for keeping on was recalled in 1923 by Mrs. Crompton, who quoted old-timers saying that ‘the Old Boss was a beggar to work, and we

had to work too’. Henry was described in 1924 as the “*deus ex machina* of those quarries” by C. E. Owen Smyth, C.M.G., I.S.O., writing that Henry was a “good citizen, and an honest man.”¹⁷

Conclusion

It is fair to conclude with a mention of both the environmental consequences of quarrying, and the valuable contribution made to the development of the colony/state. Steinberner wrote in 1987:

Travelling over the quarry with Henry Dunstan in 1890 would have been impressive ... Travelling over the mechanised quarry of today is equally so, all the more for the effort being made to repair the visual ugliness made by such massive excavating. Henry Dunstan, like the men who followed, did not think too much about the long-term repercussions of their business activities, particularly with regard to aesthetics.¹⁸

¹⁴ *Register*, 9 June 1915, p. 6.

¹⁵ *Advertiser*, 24 May 1915, p. 8; *Chronicle*, 29 May 1915, p. 14; *Observer*, 29 May 1915, p. 45; *The Mail*, 29 May 1915, p. 17.

¹⁶ Burgess, H. T. (Ed.). *The Cyclopedia of South Australia*, Vol. 1, Adelaide: Cyclopedia Co., 1909, pp. 611-612.

¹⁷ Owen Smyth, C. E. ‘Some thoughts and memories’, *Register*, 10 September 1924, p. 9.

¹⁸ Steinberner, A. *The history of Stonyfell Quarry*, 1987, p. 23.

It is interesting that as far back as 1909 in the *Quiz*, a writer had also hinted at this environmental issue, commenting that “Mr. Henry Dunstan, whose quarry is making such an indentation in the hills above Burnside, has been delving the hillside which provides the Adelaide roads with metal for nearly forty years”.¹⁹ In between these two sources, *The Advertiser* also commented in 1948 on the scars in the Hills, while at the same time lauding the importance of the quarrying industry in South Australia’s development:

Standing in the city or suburbs and looking east, two orange scars are noted ... These familiar marks may mar the beauty of the scene, but they also point to a natural asset with which South Australia has been abundantly endowed... Developments in the quarrying industry in South Australia have produced stone of vital industrial value. The scars are at Stonyfell, where ... Henry Dunstan took over a lease. These quarries have been worked ever since... the Stonyfell quarry is claimed to be the biggest of its kind in Australia... The work ... has eaten deeply into the sides of two ridges... Not all the stone from this quarry has been used on roads and footpaths. By a strange juxtaposition of saints and sinners, both Clayton Congregational Church and the Adelaide Gaol were built of stone from Stonyfell.²⁰

A similar article was published in the *Advertiser* in 1954 under the title, “While critics condemn the disfigurement of the Adelaide foothills, quarries are a major industry in SA.” It stated that while artists wrangle about the aesthetic aspect of the quarries, hard-headed businessmen and Government departments count themselves lucky that Adelaide has such a close and unlimited supply of quartzite stone, ideal for roadmaking, building and a hundred other uses. Quarrying at that time was considered a local industry with a promising future and an interesting past: “It all started back in 1875 when Henry Dunstan took a lease at Stonyfell”.²¹

In Stonyfell Quarry Park, opened in 1974, there is a large stone with a plaque paying tribute to the pioneers. It reads in part:

The Dunstan family quarried stone here for 51 years and the present owners, Quarry Industries Ltd., who bought the quarry in 1939 have dedicated this park to those pioneer quarrymen and winemakers whose horse-drawn carts rumbled past here so long ago.

With this monument, so near to where my wife and I currently live, it is a fitting way to end this article on one of the pioneers of South Australia. His business greatly helped the city to develop its infrastructure, his successful career from such humble beginnings was a testament to hard work in challenging times, and his character exemplified the qualities demanded of emigrants arriving in a fledgling economic and spiritual community in order to develop the State as we experience it today. We certainly owe much to such bold and enlightened forebears.



Photo in the Local History Room, Burnside Library

¹⁹ *Quiz* Adelaide 1900-1909, 19 November 1909, p. 4.

²⁰ ‘Quarrying is big S.A. industry’, *Advertiser*, 3 July 1948, p. 6.

²¹ *Advertiser*, 19 June 1954, p. 8.

THE LIFE OF MY GREAT UNCLE FREDERIK CHARLES KRICHAUFF (1861-1954)

by Henry Krichauff, BHS Member

My Uncle Frederik was born on 27 June 1861 at Bugle Ranges, which is near Macclesfield in the Adelaide Hills. He was the third in the family of four boys. His father F E H W Krichauff arrived in 1848 on the *Alfred* from Schleswig, southern Jutland, following the border troubles at that time.



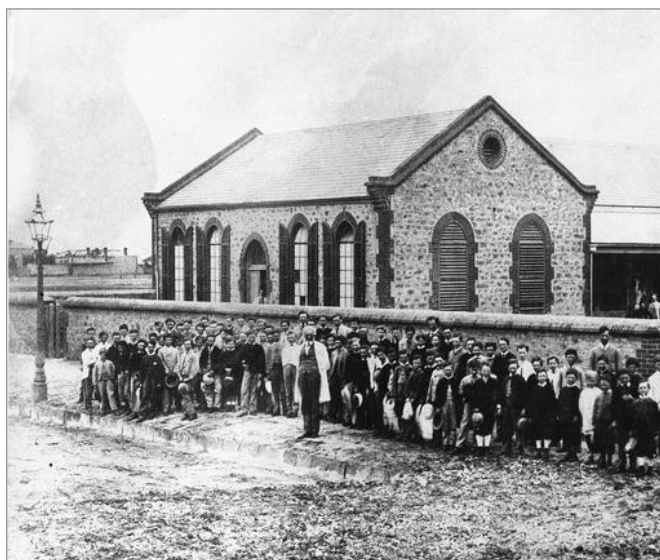
The *Alfred*, a 3 masted ship under the command of H.E. Deckers, departed Hamburg, 20 Aug 1848 with 275 passengers on board and arrived in Port Adelaide, South Australia on 8 Dec 1848. Painting by Ian Hansen, Morpeth Gallery, NSW

He acted on the advice of his good friend and contemporary, Baron Ferdinand von Mueller, a famous pioneer botanist. The two men purchased land from pioneer settler Samuel Davenport who had extensive holdings in the area, in addition to his land at Beaumont. Following Krichauff's initial agricultural pursuits, he became increasingly involved in public life. As a result, the family moved to Adelaide in 1864. I remember my uncle recounting to me that, when they moved down from Bugle Ranges, they first lived in Charles Street, City, and had great fun flying kites on North Terrace! They moved to live in Stacy Street, Norwood in 1881.

Uncle Frederik attended the North Adelaide Grammar School and later Whinham College in Jeffcott Street.

Having a proclivity to draw might have prompted his father, who was briefly Commissioner of Public Works, to recommend he join the Government Architect's Department, which was within the Commission of Public Works. This occurred at the age of seventeen, on 18 February 1878, after Frederik had passed the Civil Service examination. The Chief of the department then was E J Woods whose tenure ended in 1886 and after this time, Frederik remained in the Works and Buildings Department under the superintendency of C E Owen Smyth.

By 1890 Frederik had risen to the position of Chief Draughtsman, a title he retained for the ensuing 30 years. Since Owen Smyth was less an architect than a very able administrator, Frederik became his trusted assistant, becoming responsible for the detailed design, drawing and specification of the bulk of South Australia's countless public buildings over this long, productive, period which extended for nearly 43 years. Among these he worked on was Owen Smyth's concept of the Art Gallery on North Terrace where a design for ground-glass skylights was devised and implemented in collaboration with E F



North Adelaide Grammar School (Whinham College),
Jeffcott Street SLISA [B 5109]

Troy, a noted stained-glass artist and decorator. Another was the Brookman building on North Tce, with basic design from Owen Smyth and the detailed work from my Great Uncle. This imposing Federation-Gothic structure was built from local bluestone and bricks in 1903 as a preparatory school for students entering the School of Mines.



Brookman Building. This artwork in the State Library of SA collection shows the adjacent Exhibition Building, demolished in 1962.



Frederik Krichauff c.1890
Photo by T Duryea Adelaide
Supplied by Henry Krichauff

During this time, Frederik also drew up plans for and saw the erection of a wide range of other public buildings including a new wing of the Public Library and the old Geographical Society's building. He also worked on most of the large city Government buildings erected during that period, together with schools, hospitals, residences, post offices, courthouses, police-stations and other extensive works for the Commonwealth.

In 1898, aged 27, Uncle Frederik had married Elizabeth Alice Gemmell at Long Valley near Strathalbyn and soon after designed and built a home in Hewitt Avenue, Rose Park, remaining there for 16 years. In 1920, not yet 60, but doubtlessly overworked, he chose to retire. Rumour had it that he was offered the position of Architect in Chief, but on the condition that he do away with his German (actually Danish) name as after WW1 all things of

German origin were not acceptable. Consequently, he declared himself an architect and entered private practice.

His first job, provided in an honorary capacity and as a resident of Burnside, was to design a pavilion in Hazelwood Park as a First World War memorial. This Pavilion was built by public subscription in 1921 as a memorial to the fallen soldiers from the Burnside and Beaumont Wards who served in the Great War 1914-1918.



The opening of the First World War Memorial Pavilion in Hazelwood Park on 17 April 1921.
Burnside Local History Room collection

The Pavilion was demolished in the early sixties to make way for the George Bolton Swimming Centre. This building was at the end of the impressive memorial avenue of Sugar Gums, leading to it from The Parkway and Davenport Terrace. There is a plaque there now which was placed there by the Burnside Historical Society and the City of Burnside in 1997.



He answered a call from the German community, especially in the Barossa Valley, for consultancies which included legal chambers in Tanunda and private houses. Continuing to live in the Burnside area, he and Elizabeth moved to Toorak Gardens following the purchase of a 2000sqm block at 353 Portrush Road. He proceeded to design and build a two storey axially-planned red brick house with flanking piazzas surmounted by sleep-outs. The house still stands today in almost its original form.

On one of my visits to him on my way riding home from school to Tusmore, a few years before he died, I recall he referred to the extensive use of red cedar for all the internal woodwork, windows, doors, skirting boards and the big staircase. He told me that the wood was from large logs which were ballast on ships coming down from the east coast, lying on wharves at Port Adelaide. He also mentioned how there was an uninterrupted view clear down to the Gulf, not necessarily from upstairs. An extensive orchard was out the back.



Two of his hobbies were philately and photography. He was a founding member of the Philatelic Society of S.A. (est1888) and several times its president and later was a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Great Britain. He had good access to stamps from around the world with his father's overseas connections. I have on record that through the sale of a small section of his collection he was able to build his new house. Rare collections of his stamps were bequeathed to the Art Gallery shortly before his death.

Frederik was a founding member of the SA Photographic Society, which was established in 1885. He was its first treasurer and by 1890 its secretary. Uncle Frederik's photos often recorded images of public life in Adelaide in the late nineteenth century like his photo at the Adelaide Zoo of Miss Siam, the elephant. His photographs received meritorious awards in Adelaide and London. Frederik's knowledge and equipment proved valuable when he joined government surveying parties sent to the remoter reaches of the Murray River in the 1890s. His brother Edward, my grandfather, was leading a number of these, which probably gave him more reason to be involved. As he was involved in very early photography, I remember him describing how he had to use the white of eggs together with other innovations to help with the developing process for his prints.

My Great Uncle died at home, 25 March 1954. He had no descendants.

Frederik Krichauff, who lived for over 50 years of his life in the Burnside area, can be counted among the numerous settlers of Northern European extraction to contribute significantly to the cultural and built life of Adelaide and South Australia during the second 50 years of the Colony's existence.



F.C. Krichauff, Photographer
SLSA [B 30112]



Miss Siam, Adelaide Zoo's first elephant, donated in 1883 by Thomas Elder, President of the South Australian Zoological and Acclimatisation Society.

Children riding an elephant, believed to be Miss Siam, at the Adelaide Zoo, c. 1889. Picture: by Frederick Charles Krichauff. Zoological Gardens SLSA [B 35168]

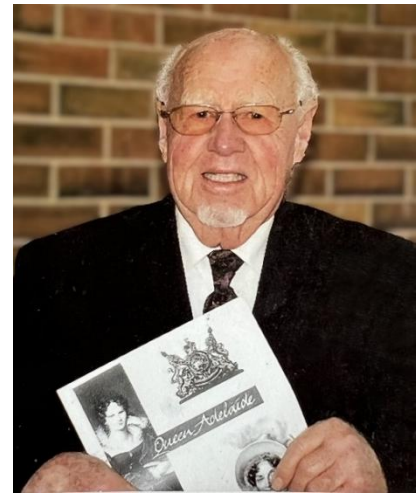
My references have been Trove and "*Founders of Australia and their descendants*" Alfred S Kenyon pp 387 & 388

TOURS AND TRIPS WITH GLEN WOODWARD

By Glen Woodward, BHS Member

*“Experience is an arch wherethro’
Gleams that untravell’d world whose margin fades
For ever and forever when I move.” Ulysses, Alfred Lord Tennyson*

Storytelling could be in my Cornish blood.



My father showed me photos with camels. In 1917, when he was 22, he drove a Dodge from Oodnadatta to Henbury Station NT. The camels hauled cans of petrol. Pioneering!

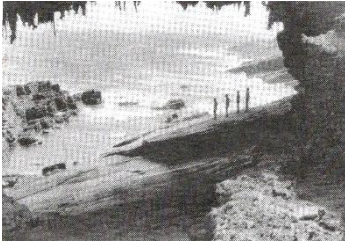
After high school years I went hitchhiking to Brisbane, around Tasmania and took trips in DC3 planes. In the 1950s, when I was teaching in Darwin, in my spare time I went fishing and hunting

and toured to Thursday Island - 2 days in a small plane. We met a cyclone. For one year I lived with a Chinese shopkeeper family before heading overseas. At ports from the ship, I organised tours ashore by bartering with taxi drivers.

The European Tour was in a car with two friends. I then taught at a school which was near Epping Forest, northeast of London. On some Saturdays I took students on tours of London, and during my holidays I went hitchhiking around England. After two years I headed home via Canada. I arrived in Montreal and within two days was teaching at a junior high school. I showed my slides of Australia to friends in the evenings. I learned to ski and went skiing most weekends. I volunteered at a summer camp with 100 children, programming their activities for four weeks in the forest. I made many friendships. They visited me in Adelaide for tours. Two years later I drove for two months across USA to Vancouver where my car was burgled. My documents were stolen. I was issued a special visa “In care of the captain of P&O *Himalaya*”.



I arrived home in 1959, stony broke, but with much experience. I was offered a geography teacher position at Unley High School (UHS). The Year 11 course was mainly about North America.



I began organising holiday tours for boys. On one, I took four boys in my car to Kangaroo Island and camped at Cape de Couedic. There was no sign for the arch, so we made one naming it Admiral's Arch. Sometime later, on the front page of The News, a tragedy at Admiral's Arch was reported.



On a Tasmanian bus tour, a student missed the airport bus. Luckily, he caught up in a taxi. On a bus tour to Alice Springs, the Finke flood caused us to camp at Curtin Springs. The Adelaide headlines read "UHS STUDENTS STRANDED".



For several years, each September, I took ten boys to Mt Buller Youth Hostel to ski. I catered for all their meals. One day at the shop I ordered 'spareribs'. One boy twisted an ankle and found it difficult on crutches.

My first tour of China was in 1979 just after the "Gang of Four". People wore blue Mao jackets.



Chinese young men in Mao jackets in 1979

In 2010 I toured the Shanghai Expo. Later, a three-week tour out west and then a boat trip down the Yangtze River. Also, I visited a Changsha family.



Young guides in Hiroshima

In Japan I taught English to students on Saturdays. Four of my young students planned a tour by ferry to Hiroshima. They had organised the whole tour for me and conducted it in English. I was now learning tour techniques from my young students.

The women had English lessons at home. They often took me on local tours. After I left, they volunteered as tour guides.

Back in Australia in the 1990s, when I was 57 years old, I joined the Australia Japan Association SA (AJA). This group organised tours to Himeji (sister city with Adelaide). I also helped to find homestays for students.



Glen with women at English classes in Japan

Since 2009 AJA has worked with the City of Burnside for the annual Japanese Cultural Day.



AJA Committee with City of Burnside Mayor Anne Monceaux 2023

The Adelaide Town Hall foyer in 1992 was the only part open to the public. With Lord Mayor Steve Condous, we established tour guides. For 32 years I have led tours of the Town Hall for people from all over the world from kindergarten to the aged. I can relate with some from countries that I have toured. Some have special needs. When I take tours for the deaf, they are not looking at me but at the Auslan translator.

Our sister Japanese city, Himeji, sends high school students every year. I designed a programme of four tours for each weekday for the History Festival. The tour topics were – “The Functions of the City Council”, “The Life Stories of Queen Adelaide and Colonel William Light”, “Architecture”, and “Stories Behind the Portraits Hanging in the Council Chamber”.

I joined the “Friends of Urrbrae House” 25 years ago, joined the committee for a time, then trained as a guide.



Glen with Japanese high school students in the Adelaide Town Hall



Peter Waite bequeathed this mansion, which was his home, and his wealth to the University of Adelaide. For 25 years I have been impressed by the foresight of Peter Waite.

Urrbrae House

I am a Life Member of the Mitcham Historical Society and have led tours of the Mitcham area for many years.



The Museum of Economic Botany (MEB) is unique in the world. It was established in 1881 by Richard Schomburgk to educate by displaying useful plants. Before its refit in 2012, I volunteered in the shop and visitor centre. I have spent 12 years at weekends explaining the MEB exhibition. I enjoy children's responses and overseas visitors.

Aiden Harvey (aged 15) wrote

My visit to the Museum of Economic Botany was marked by rich atmosphere, ambience, and a deep sense of history not just about botany but about the museum itself.

My fantastic guide through this collection of irresistible antiques was Glen: knowledgeable and personable, Glen wove colour into the rich canvas of history, with invaluable insights into the items on display. Glen brought the exhibits to life with his eloquent and charming words, completing and heightening the experience to ultimately deliver a truly wondrous journey through the otherwise cloudy mists of time.¹

EDITOR'S NOTE: Glen has made a valuable contribution by sharing the history of Adelaide as he led tours of the Adelaide Town Hall, the Botanic Gardens and the Mitcham area. He is now in his mid-nineties and has reluctantly retired from what has been a lifetime of volunteering across the globe.

¹ Botanic Gardens Gazette

