

April 2025

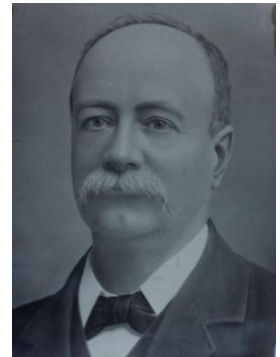
## NEXT BHS MEETING

The next meeting of the Burnside Historical Society will be held on **Monday 19 May at 7.30pm.**

Please note that due to a clash with Easter there is **NO MEETING IN APRIL.** The May meeting will feature Helen Hennessy and Patricia Booth as our speakers and their topic is:

*The defiant anti-conscriptionist, the curious life of Ephraim Henry Coombe*

Full details of the meeting can be found in the attached flyer on page 5 of this Bulletin.



**E H Coombe 1858-1917**



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Monday 19 May

All members of the Burnside Historical Society are formally advised that the AGM of the Society will be held on Monday 19 May immediately following the May general meeting (see above). The agenda for the AGM will feature reports on the Society's 2024/25 year including the President's Annual Report and the audited Financial Statement for the year. The election of the Committee and its Office Bearers will also take place. As detailed in the President's monthly report on page 2, there will also be a member vote on our amended constitution.

The Agenda and accompanying documents for the meeting will be emailed to all members in good time before the meeting.

## VISIT TO PORT ADELAIDE: Wednesday 9 April



Twenty-nine members and friends have booked for our visit to Port Adelaide and two of its museums on Wednesday 9 April. Participants have been given a choice to attend either the National Railway Museum or the SA Aviation Museum. The museum visits in the morning will be followed by lunch at the Birkenhead Tavern.

**Participants are advised to go directly from home to the car park of the museum of their choice and to arrive by 10am.** Depending on traffic conditions it should take about 50 minutes from the Burnside area. If you need further information or need to cancel at the last moment, then please contact either Neville Lawrence (0409500485) for the Aviation Museum or Bob Stace (0417988775) if visiting the Railway Museum.



## PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT - From BHS President Roger Bills



At the Special General Meeting in February the vote to change our constitution to allow the AGM to be as late as June (thereby avoiding a conflict this year with Easter Monday) was successful. Holding our AGM in May is now legitimate.

But, as announced at our March meeting, the change was only partially successful, in that the Department of Consumer and Business Services (CBS) has detected a few inadequacies in the rest of the constitution. Additional detail in a small number of other areas to conform better with the Associations Incorporation Act 1985, SA is therefore required.

Helpfully, the department has clarified the areas requiring modification and suggested acceptable wording, which we noted, and we have made the necessary changes.

The proposed version has been agreed to by the BHS committee and it was then referred to a CBS Senior Officer for review. The result being our proposed constitution meets the required standard.

It will now become an agenda item for ratification by members at our AGM on Monday 19 May. When adopted by the BHS membership it will be lodged with CBS for official acceptance.

Copies of the proposed constitution will be emailed to BHS members several weeks before the AGM to allow members ample opportunity to examine what we expect to be the last amendment for a very long time.

My thanks to Helen Bills for her skilful dealings with "officialdom" and to Justin from the Department of CBS for his most helpful assistance.

## NO INCREASE IN 2025/26 BHS SUBSCRIPTIONS



The BHS Committee has recommended that the annual membership subscription for the 25/26 will remain unchanged at **\$30 for individual members and \$45 for family membership** (i.e. 2 or more people living at the same address) Fees were last raised in 2017. This is most welcome when everything in our lives seems to be costing more and more, and it has been made possible by the judicious management of our funds over many years. The recommended fees will be ratified at our AGM in May. Personal invoices will also be distributed at the MAY meeting.

### **Payments can be made**

- in CASH to the Treasurer Dave Monceaux at the MAY meeting OR
  - by posting a cheque to Burnside Historical Society, PO Box 152, Glenside SA 5065 OR
  - Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Burnside Historical Society, BSB 105086, AC No. 330298840.
- Please add your full name/s to the Reference**

**Your prompt payment has always ben appreciated.**

## NOMINATIONS FOR THE BHS COMMITTEE 2025-26

Our constitution requires that nominations for the BHS Committee should be completed on the required form and returned to **PO Box 152, Glenside SA 5065** OR to [burnsidehistorysoc@gmail.com](mailto:burnsidehistorysoc@gmail.com) by **Monday 12 May** (i.e. a week prior to the AGM). The positions on the Committee are for a one year term and current members of the Committee are entitled to renominate. A copy of the Nomination Form is attached to the email bearing this Bulletin along with instructions on completing and returning the form.



## SPOTLIGHT ON THE BHS WEBSITE -

<https://www.burnsidehistory.org.au/>

The BHS website is a treasure trove of information and resources

**The MENU has a link to NEWSLETTERS & BULLETIN**

<https://www.burnsidehistory.org.au/newsletters-and-bulletins/>

About
Meetings
Membership
Photo Gallery
<b>Newsletters &amp; Bulletin</b>
Historical Walks
Regional Tours
Projects
Resources
Contact

There you can view all 204 newsletters, bulletins and the journals spanning all 45 years of the BHS. What an amazing resource! These are all searchable by using a **single word, several words, a quote, or a year**. Once you have opened the newsletter PDF, you will need to repeat a search for your search term. For example, if you search **WHEAL WATKINS** you will find 63 references.

There is also an Index of all newsletter articles which you can download, [download newsletter index file](#) – however the index has not been updated since December 2011.

Anne Monceaux reported that she used the search function on the BHS website to see what had been written about the **GILBURN BRICKWORKS**. **Newsletter: December 2003 (Vol. 23, No. 4)** She used the information she found as the basis of her BURNSIDE HIGHLIGHTS segment which she posts regularly on Facebook.

The “Spotlight on the BHS Website” articles are being supplied by Helen Bills

## BHS CONTRIBUTION TO THE MAY HISTORY FESTIVAL



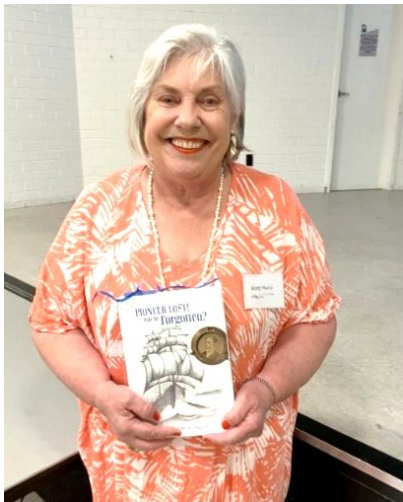
BHS has contributed five different events to the upcoming History Festival - 4 guided walks and the BHS MAY Meeting

**These events will fill quickly so BOOK NOW.** Be aware that there is a **\$5 cost** for each of our walks (CASH ONLY) payable on the day.

- Saturday 3 May, 10am-12noon  
**Secrets of Dulwich: Discover the untold stories of Dulwich** with Polly Dundon. **BOOK** at [secretsofdulwichsa@gmail.com](mailto:secretsofdulwichsa@gmail.com)
- Wednesday 14 May, 10am-12noon  
**Secrets of Dulwich Part 2:** More untold stories of Dulwich with Polly Dundon. **BOOK** at [secretsofdulwichsa@gmail.com](mailto:secretsofdulwichsa@gmail.com)
- Tuesday 6 May and Wednesday 7 May 10am-12noon  
**Eastwood: Burnside's smallest suburb, yesterday and today** with Ally Preiss  
**BOOK** by ringing **0422705916**
- Sunday 11 May: Two sessions 1.30pm – 2.30pm or 3.00pm – 4.00pm  
**Surface tour of Wheal Watkins 1843 Heritage Mine** with Dave Monceaux  
**BOOK** by ringing **0422705916**

Full details of these events can be found in the History Festival Programme on **page 34**. Print copies are available in all Drakes Supermarkets and libraries this week. A digital PDF copy is online at <https://festival.history.sa.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/historyfestival2025-program-digital.pdf>

## HIRAM T MILDRED: From cabin boy to well respected Old Colonist



BHS member **Anne Martin** used her recently published book "Pioneer Lost! Was he forgotten?" as the basis for her talk at our March meeting to tell the story of Hiram Telemachus Mildred (1823-1892). At the age of 13 Hiram left London bound for South Australia aboard the *Rapid* which was under the command of Colonel William Light. On the voyage Hiram served as a cabin boy but once ashore he started his duties as a cadet surveyor in Light's Survey Party and was involved in the critical early tasks of finding the site for the new town and surveying it.

Hiram's parents and members of his family joined him in South Australia in 1837 and within a few years they had established their farming property at *Clairville* in Campbelltown. By the 1850's Hiram's adventurous spirit took him to the Victorian Gold Fields and on his return, he married Helen Jane Ellis in St George's Church, Magill. They lived in a cottage adjacent to *Clairville* where Hiram farmed his land and took a lead role in the founding of St Martin's Church at Campbelltown. By 1860 he was already a well-respected member of his local community.

From then until 1877 Hiram Mildred assumed various civil service positions in country South Australia including at Port Elliot/Encounter Bay as a customs collector and then on to Port Augusta which was then an important port but still very much a frontier town. Here he made a significant contribution to the town as he took on such roles as Customs Agent, Harbour Master, Postmaster, District Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Clerk of the Local Court, and JP. As there was no Doctor in the town at the time, Hiram and his wife performed minor surgical procedures at the Custom's House! In his "spare" time he supervised the erection of the Port Augusta Institute and actively supported the founding of St Augustine's Anglican Church.

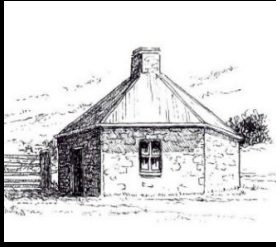
In retirement Hiram lived an active life in North Adelaide. He died in August 1892 and is buried in the North Road Cemetery, [We should visit Hiram's grave when we tour the historic North Road Cemetery in September: Ed]



Our thanks go to our speaker Anne Martin for relating the story of of Hiram Telemachus Mildred who rose from young cabin boy and cadet surveyor to a person of substance and influence who was much respected by his peers for the significant contributions he made during his lifetime in South Australia

### Meeting Attendances

The attendance at our March meeting was again very pleasing with 61 in attendance (46 members, 15 visitors). This marks the fourth monthly meeting in a row where attendances have ranged between 60-80. It has been great to see so many members regularly attending our meetings and enjoying the convivial nature of our Society. Long may it continue!



# Burnside Historical Society

Active in the Burnside Community for 45 years

## MAY Meeting

### The Defiant Anti-conscriptionist, the curious life of Ephraim Henry Coombe

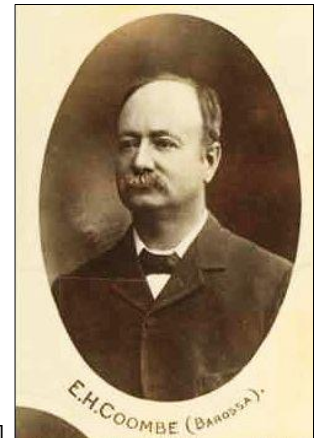
Monday 19 May @ 7.30pm

Burnside Community Centre Hall, (adjacent to Burnside Library)  
401 Greenhill Road, Tasmore, enter off Fisher Street

#### TOPIC

**Ephraim Henry (Harry) Coombe** was a 'self-made man' of strong principles. With no more than six years of formal schooling, he became a journalist, newspaper editor and member of parliament, representing the Barossa District for a total of 14 years. He advocated for proportional voting, women's suffrage, the extension of the railway to country towns, and against the closure of Lutheran schools during the First World War.

But his steadfast anti-conscription stance led to his persecution, and many of his parliamentary colleagues labelled him a coward, a traitor to the men at the Front, and disloyal to King and country.



E.H. Coombe, SLSA [B 6691/32]

#### OUR SPEAKERS



L to R: Helen and Pat

**Helen Hennessy** is a local historian based in Gawler having retired from a career spent in library management, education and community engagement. In 2019 she was named the South Australian Regional Historian by the History Council of South Australia.

BHS member, **Patricia Booth** retired after a career in Office Management. She is the great granddaughter of Ephraim Henry Coombe and grew up with her paternal grandparents, James and Alma Coombe.

In 2022 they were jointly awarded the Keain Medal by the Historical Society of South Australia for the most significant non-fiction book published in the previous year.

**Non-members - a \$2 donation is appreciated**

**AGM will be held at the end of the meeting**

#### Further information



WEBSITE: [www.burnsidehistory.org.au](http://www.burnsidehistory.org.au)  
PHONE: 0422 705 916  
EMAIL: [burnsidehistorysoc@gmail.com](mailto:burnsidehistorysoc@gmail.com)  
FACEBOOK: Burnside Historical Society, South Australia