

April 2026

## EDITOR'S NOTE

*Life at the BHS has been very busy over the past month and will be even busier over the next 2 months, so there is more information than usual to report to members. This Bulletin with 6 pages is longer than usual but **please take the time to read it.** To remind us that our AGM is coming up in May, there is also a form attached for those of you who wish to nominate for a position on the BHS Committee for 2026/27.*

## NEXT BHS MEETING: Monday 20 April at 7.30pm



The speaker at our meeting is **Emily Richardson** who is the Assistant State Manager of the National Archives of Australia, SA office. Emily's topic will be **Indigenous Service Men and Women** who served in the first and second world wars, long before their country recognised them as Australian Citizens. Emily's presentation will tell some of the stories revealed in the service records of these indigenous service men and women which are held in the National Archives collection, and some of the challenges they faced. Full details of the meeting can be found in the **flyer on page 6 of this Bulletin.**

## NORTON SUMMIT VISIT: THURSDAY 9 APRIL

Bookings have now closed for this outing. 26 members and friends will be attending which is a great response.

- **Arrival:** Please plan to arrive at Norton Summit by **10.20am** and be seated in St John's Church by 10.30am
- **Parking:** There is a parking area in St John Rd which is the road to the side of the old Council Chamber on the Summit corner and running up the hill to the Church (see building on right). Members of the East Torrens Historical Society will be there to direct you. There is limited parking up the hill at the Church for those who might find the "climb" difficult. The cars will remain here until after lunch when we drive to the Cemetery.
- **Change of Venue for lunch:** Due to the numbers of ETHS and BHS members attending, lunch will now be held at the Church, thus avoiding the need to cross the road to the Community Hall.
- Please **wear your BHS nametag** to facilitate interaction with ETHS members.
- All other arrangements are as per the original programme.



**Old Council Chamber at Norton Summit, St John Rd and parking to the left of this building**

**If you need to cancel your attendance at this event, please ring 0417 988 775**

## BHS MAY MEETING: Monday 18 May at 7.30pm



Our May meeting features BHS member Andrew Buxton as our speaker. Andrew will speak about the life and career of his uncle **Henry Eoin Sydney Melbourne – Surveyor and Engineer Extraordinaire.** Syd Melbourne served the Burnside Council from 1924 to 1958 commencing as a young engineer before 24 years as District Clerk (now CEO) from 1934-1958). Andrew will highlight his uncle's leadership style and vision that quickly established him as a respected leader in his field and left a legacy whose impact can still be seen today and not just in the City of Burnside.

This meeting is a History Festival Event, but BHS members do not need to book.

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BURNSIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



All members of the BHS are formally advised that the AGM of the Society will be held on **Monday 18 May** immediately following the May meeting (see above on page 1) The main items on the Agenda will include the President's Annual Report, the Treasurer's Report for 2025/26 including the audited financial statement, and the election of the Committee and Officers for 2026/27.

**There will be vacancies on the 2026/27 Committee** so please consider nominating for a position. The BHS Committee is responsible for the general oversight and management of the Society and generally meets monthly with the exception of December.

A **Nomination Form** is included with this email, and extra forms will be available from the Welcoming Desk at our April meeting. Nominations need to be forwarded to the BHS Secretary by **Monday 11 May** or more conveniently, handed in at the April meeting.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Keeping the stream flowing under the bridge.



The oft-quoted American baseball coach Yogi Berra once said, *"It ain't over till it's over."* Well, as far as the recent Eastern Region History Seminar is concerned, it *is* now over; everything has been finalised, acquitted, and formally signed off by Burnside Council.

It was especially gratifying to receive the following note from Jennifer Mann (Team Leader, Community Development):

*"It is wonderful to hear that the seminar was such a success and that it attracted a strong level of participation. Council is pleased to have been able to support this initiative through the Community Grant program, and we appreciate the important work the Burnside Historical Society continues to do in protecting, preserving and promoting the history of Burnside. Please also extend our thanks to everyone involved in organising and delivering the seminar."*

My sincere thanks to the Council for the Community Grant, and help which enabled BHS to run the seminar.

The seminar's theme was *Bridges*, and below is a summary of a witty, entertaining, and insightful piece by Anna Graves of Prospect. Her reflections on the many *"bridge"* idioms resonate just as strongly in Burnside as they do in Prospect.

But, of course, some things are never truly over. For the BHS, our journey is more like a continuously flowing stream - because without movement, the waters risk becoming stagnant. No flow, no show. And the opportunity to keep that flow going is right before us. Our AGM will be held in May, when all committee positions become vacant. Like every society, we benefit enormously from the fresh ideas, vision, and energy that new members bring to our activities.

Whether by joining the committee or helping in other ways, I encourage you to consider becoming involved. A nomination form is attached to this Bulletin. I urge you all to give some thought to how you might help keep fresh water flowing under our bridges.

### Roger Bills

## An Idioms Guide to Local History



At the Eastern Region History Seminar, **Anna Graves, Chairperson of the Prospect Local History Group**, reflected on the theme of *"bridges"* through a series of familiar idioms—each offering a useful perspective on the role of local history groups.



### Bridge to the Past

Our committees connect today's residents with the stories of their homes, families and community, while working with councils to preserve local heritage.

## Bridge the Gap

Dealing with bodies such as the ATO, Consumer and Business Services, grant providers and insurers can be challenging—but it is essential. At the same time, we must embrace technology and attract people with the skills to help us grow and engage our communities.

## Water Under the Bridge

Like many organisations, financial pressures increased during COVID, particularly through rising costs such as insurance. Encouragingly, Prospect Council has recognised the value of local history, providing annual support that allows the group to refocus on its core purpose.

## Burn Your Bridges

Don't burn them! Strong relationships matter. Collaboration, goodwill and reputation ensure that support is there when it is needed. Working together strengthens us all.

## Cross That Bridge When We Come to It?

Not quite. Succession planning is vital. Sharing knowledge and encouraging participation, whether on committees or in supporting roles, ensures continuity.

## A Bridge Too Far?

There is no such thing. By embracing new ideas, technology, and especially younger members of the community, we can ensure that local history remains vibrant and relevant.

*Thank you Anna for this original insight. Anna's full article can be found on the BHS website.*

## Roger Bills

## STORIES OF DRY STONE WALLS: FULL OF HISTORY

The 44 attendees (39 members and 5 guests) who attended our March meeting were impressed by Bruce Munday's enthusiastic talk on **Those Dry Stone Walls Revisited**. Thanks to Judy Fander for providing the following report:



At Cut Hill, on the road to Victor Harbour, our entertaining speaker, Bruce Munday, author of two books on dry stone walls, advised us to stop to admire the dry stone wall by the side of the road (at left). Slides were shown of a wide range of structures found around South Australia, all built by skilled men using no mortar. These included walls for fencing paddocks, a sheep pen, a Post Office, a stable for draught horses, and a well. From 1984 to 2017, Bruce Munday and his wife had a

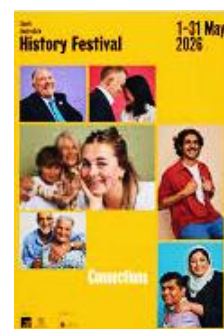
farm at Tungkillo. There he built dry stone landscaping features with weathered, not quarried, stone. What do you do with crumbling artifacts? His advice is to leave them or restore them. Workshops for those who want to learn the techniques of dry stone walling, have been popular with both men and women. (at right). When they moved to the Aldinga Arts-Eco Village, they took sixteen tonnes of stone, hoping it would be useful. There he has continued working on decorative stonewall projects, as well as bridges.



## SA HISTORY FESTIVAL: Programmes now available

The Programme for the SA History Festival in May has recently been released. Printed copies can be obtained from Drakes Supermarkets, local councils and public libraries. You can also check the comprehensive online programme at <https://festival.history.sa.gov.au> where you can search the 560 events in this year's Festival. **Book now to avoid disappointment.** BHS has 4 listed events in the Adelaide East section on page 37 of the Programme which include:

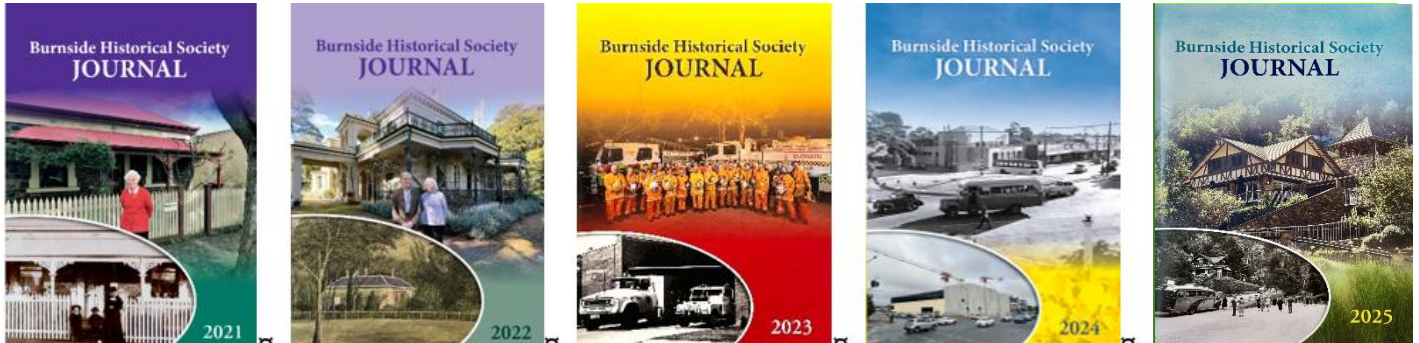
- Wheat Watkins above ground tour with Dave Monceaux.
- Burnside's Waterfall Gully Creek: a short historical walk with Colin Harris.
- Writing our stories: A local Burnside non-fiction writers 'reveal', led by Judy Fander.
- BHS May meeting with Andrew Buxton speaking on Henry Eoin Sydney Melbourne.



## THE BHS JOURNAL: WILL NOT BE PRODUCED IN 2026

The Journal Committee of Helen Bills, Judy Fander, and Bob Stace has reluctantly advised the BHS Committee that they are unable to produce a Journal this year. Five quality Journals have been produced from 2021 – 2025 which tell the Society's annual story along with a range of articles about the history of Burnside. Five of our members Anne Both(3 editions), Liz Silz (4), Judy Fander (1), Helen Bills (5) and Bob Stace (5) have all been involved over this time. Our thanks to them for producing such a high quality and valuable resource over this past 5 years.

Back copies of some editions are available to purchase at meetings for \$5 cash.



## GOOD NEWS

### Wheal Watkins



For the past two years the BHS has been working with the City of Burnside (CoB) on a project to repair and rehabilitate the two entrances (adits) of Wheal Watkins at Glen Osmond. Phase 1 of this project is being supported by a \$10,000 donation from BHS (from funds donated by BHS member John Clark in 2008), a State Heritage Grant of \$10,000 and \$20,000 funding from the CoB. The project which is being managed by the CoB has hitherto experienced delays due to the difficulty in finding a contractor to do the work.

The BHS Committee has recently been advised by James Brennan, Director Environment and Planning (Acting) at the CoB who has been managing the project, that a contractor has been appointed and that work will be commenced shortly and is on track to be completed by early June. This work on Phase 1 of the project will include reinforcement of internal and external timber supports at the lower (20 Fathom) adit and repair of fencing at the upper (6 fathom) adit.

### Moorcroft Bridge

For at least five years the BHS has been a strong advocate for the restoration of the Moorcroft Court Reserve heritage carriage bridge. James Brennan, who is also managing this project, has recently advised us that the restoration of the bridge remains a priority initiative within Council's Advocacy Plan and that good progress has been made in preparing the project for delivery including:

- Finalising tender documentation
- Confirming the approved heritage methodology
- Testing the market for a suitable supplier

The Council's Asset Planning Team has advised that restoring the bridge strongly supports Council's priority of protecting heritage assets. It is pleasing to note that restoration of the heritage Moorcroft Bridge remains a Council priority and that the project may be allocated funding and work commenced sooner rather than later.



The damaged carriage bridge in the Moorcroft Court Reserve

## DOVER HOUSE AT KENSINGTON GARDENS - BHS hosts a day to remember

Liz Silz provides this report on a day to remember for two BHS guests from interstate:



Late in 2025, Burnside Historical Society received a call from Jervis Bay in NSW. Member Dianne Wilson took the call. The caller, Marion Jordan, is a descendent of past owners of Dover House at 339 Kensington Road, Kensington Gardens. Several years ago, Marion's parents had undertaken much research into the family, including the Burnside connection and she wished to donate this research to the Local History Room at the Burnside Library.

Marion and her husband Jim stopped briefly in Adelaide on 27 March whilst on a cruise which was circumnavigating Australia. Dianne had arranged to meet them and took them to see Dover House. Fortunately, the house still exists, is being restored, and was visible from the front gate.

Dianne had organised a morning tea and a visit to the History Room where Marion handed the research documents to Meegan Bartlett ( Team Leader Library and Volunteers). Our President Roger Bills also attended.

Marion and Jim were most appreciative of Dianne's willing response and how her planning enabled the smooth transfer of these documents.

Coincidentally Marion grew up in Melbourne, in the same neighbourhood where member Liz Silz had grown up. They attended the same school and were surprised to learn this at the morning tea. They enjoyed an afternoon of reminiscing as Liz drove them back to the cruise ship via the scenic coastal route.



**Marion and Jim outside  
The Marines at Grange**

## GREEN AND GOLD COOKERY BOOK, 3<sup>RD</sup> EDITION

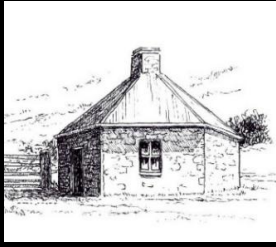


*Show and Tell with a Bell* was the topic for July 2025 BHS Meeting. One item featured was the Green and Gold Cookery Book, compiled by Ann Sharman in 1923 as a fund raiser for the newly formed Kings College. Many know this book as they have a copy or their mothers or grandmothers had a copy. The famous cookbook began to take on a new life as the story spread.

Helen Bills met Keryl and Jan Howie in Arnhem Land in August 2025, and they thought they had their mother's copy. In fact, it was their grandmother's – a rare 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (1927), purchased for 2/3d at W.H. HOLDEN, M.P.S., CHEMIST - AND - BOOKSELLER, Renmark. They willingly saved it from a certain death by skip by donating it to the BHS. In turn the BHS sought permission to have it displayed in the Burnside Treasures cabinet in the Local History Room. Hannah Shaw, Historical and Cultural Officer, gratefully received the donation from BHS President, Roger Bills.



Meanwhile, quietly in the background, Nan van Dissel, BHS and Burnside Probus Ladies Club member, has been, preserving, protecting, promoting and celebrating the past by collecting many more copies. The editions so far range from 9<sup>th</sup> to 38<sup>th</sup>. More than 50 editions have been printed. To date she has given 9 copies to Helen.



# Burnside Historical Society

Active in the Burnside Community for 46 years

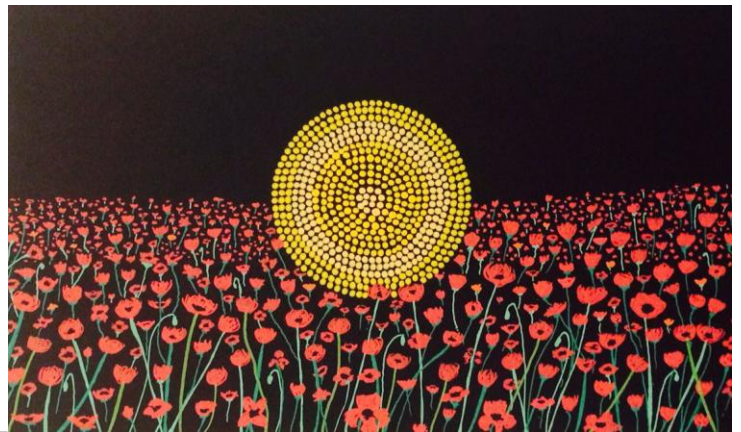
## APRIL 2026 Meeting

### Indigenous Service Men and Women

**Monday 20 April @ 7.30pm**

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

**TOPIC** Indigenous service men and women served in the first and second world wars, long before their country recognised them as Australian Citizens. This presentation will tell some of the stories revealed in the service records held in the National Archives collection and some of the challenges that indigenous service men and women faced.



*Image sourced from Koori Kicks Art*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL P02140.002

*Image sourced from Australian War Memorial*

**OUR SPEAKER** **Emily Richardson,** is the Assistant State Manager of the National Archives of Australia SA office. She has worked with the National Archives' collection for 6 years. She is passionate about family and local history.



**VISITORS - a \$2 cash donation is appreciated**

#### Further information



**WEBSITE:** [www.burnsidehistory.org.au](http://www.burnsidehistory.org.au)  
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**FACEBOOK:** Burnside Historical Society, South Australia