

# Burnside Historical Society Inc.

**NEWSLETTER - September 2011**

**Volume 31, No 3**



**Bombing of Darwin, 1942**

## From the Editor's Desk

This year we have had two talks about war and in this issue we have a report and an article about the bombing of Darwin in 1942. Next year it will be 70 years since this event. In this time Darwin has rebuilt twice.

Recently, several of our members attended the State History Conference held at the National Wine Centre. Its theme was "In Perspective: rethinking South Australia's history". We will have reports of this event in the next edition of the Newsletter.

Included in this issue is an insert regarding the emergency evacuation procedures for the Community Centre. We would like you to put it on your fridge and remember the process so that if necessary everyone can have a safe evacuation.

We are always looking for historical articles about the City of Burnside. If you would like to write down your early experiences about events or your times in Burnside then it would be greatly appreciated. Or I can come and talk to you about your memories of the area. If you can help, please contact me at [esmyth@adam.com.au](mailto:esmyth@adam.com.au) or on 8332 8019.

**Elaine Smyth** (Editor)

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## President's Message

This past quarter has been very busy. Your Vice President, Colin Harris, has continued to have constructive discussions with the new City of Burnside Chief Executive (CE), Paul Deb, relating to Wheal Watkins Mine. The Glen Osmond mines are of national significance as Australia's first metaliferous mines and the future of the popular underground BHS run tours now rests with Council. Our traditional outdoor meeting in January 2012 will be held at the Wheal Watkins Mines, with mining experts highlighting its importance.

Your Program Committee has met and is organising speakers for next year and the programme will be announced in the next *Newsletter*. Thanks to members who gave us suggestions. We would welcome any information about interesting talks you have heard so that we can add them to our list to consider. As usual we will have two half day tours during 2012 and our biennial trip also falls due, an event which is always fun and well planned.

Recently I met with the City of Burnside's CE, Paul Deb, to keep the channels of communication open and to inform him of the aims of our Society and projects that link us with Council. The Society's Committee, which work hard behind the scenes, has been asked to attend a morning tea with the City of Burnside's Mayor, David Parkin (who is an Honorary Member of the Society). He hopes to attend one of our monthly meetings, so please make him feel welcome when he attends.

Fifteen of our members recently visited the Mitcham Heritage Resource Centre where Maggie Ragless explained the range of activities and projects her volunteers have been involved in, with excellent evidence on show to prove it. On another front, Sharan Northcott, Margaret Beare and Barbara Parker attended the 20<sup>th</sup> State History Conference.

New Committee member Chas Grimes and I also attended recently a public lecture by Dr John Hirst, from La Trobe University. It was organised by the History Council of South Australia as part of the State's 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and was entitled *South Australia and Australia – Reflections on their Histories*. A comparison was made between the makeup of the population of the colonies (freemen, convicts, squatters and miners). The main thrust of the colonies' development, the effect of the gold rush and the influence of religious intolerance (Catholic v's Protestant) were highlighted. Dr Hirst also examined the objectives and influence of past SA premiers Sir Thomas Playford and Don Dunstan.

Don't forget *Show and Tell* as our November meeting. Please tell me soon if you have a special treasure with an interesting history to share so that we can finalise the program for that November meeting.

**Meredith Ide JP**

# Program 2011

## MEETINGS

MEETINGS of the Burnside Historical Society are held in the Burnside Community Centre, corner of Portrush Road and Fisher Street, Tusmore (car park and entrance off Fisher Street) at **7.30 pm** on the third Monday of the month, unless an alternative time or venue is notified. Admission is free and supper provided. Visitors are most welcome.

### **Monday 19 September** - Ken Preiss & Geoffrey Bishop

*Ferguson Park: its history & natural History*

Ferguson Conservation Park on Hallett Road Stonyfell is an outstanding example of the original native vegetation of the foothills south east of Adelaide. Very little of this vegetation type remains on the Adelaide Plains and how this area came to be protected and handed down to the community will be told on the night, along with an account of its natural history and why it is so important.

Ken Preiss has lived in the Burnside area all his life and, as a child, spent many Sunday afternoons walking with his parents over the open ground that is now Erindale. Over the years he became very familiar with the natural history of what was to become the present day park, later becoming a champion of the need to have it properly protected. The park was fenced in 1978 and in 1982 it became the first park in South Australia to have a Friends group formed to watch over its welfare.

Geoffrey Bishop has a background in horticulture with a special interest in native vegetation management. Geoffrey became involved with Ferguson Park when he was preparing a management plan for the park in the 1980s and he is currently President of the Friends of Ferguson Park. Apart from his interest in natural history he has written widely on various historical topics and is currently, amongst other things, President of the Historical Society of South Australia.

### **Monday 17 October** - Sharan Northcott, Mary Wilson & Colin Harris

*The history behind the plaques: Greengate Inn, Prescott Farm & Wandeen*

BHS members will be aware that the Society has worked co-operatively with the City of Burnside to install bronze plaques at many sites of historical interest. Eighteen have been placed to date and more are planned in what is an on-going co-operative programme. Much can be learned from the wording on the plaques and three of our members will look in a little more detail at three important sites in the course of this meeting.

Installed in 1956, the plaque marking the site of the former *Greengate Inn* on Greenhill Road, Linden Park pre-dates the establishment of the BHS, but is notable for its commemoration of the centenary of the Burnside Council. The Inn was located about fifty metres south of the site of the plaque and Sharan will tell us of the discovery of recent archaeological material that almost certainly marks its former site.

The *Prescott Farm* plaque on Prescott Terrace, Toorak Gardens commemorates many decades of wheat and dairy farming in the surrounding area by the Prescott family and Mary will tell us more about the family and its farming at a time when the area looked decidedly rural.

Finally, Colin will tell us something of *Wandeen* on Lockwood Road, Burnside. *Wandeen* had a number of owners, but its best known was Frederick George Waterhouse, first curator of the South Australian Museum and a scientific collector on John McDouall Stuart's successful crossing of the Australian continent in 1861-62.

### **Monday 21 November**

*History through objects—a show and tell*

In keeping with Society tradition, the end-of year November meeting will approach history in a more light-hearted way than usual, on this occasion through the popular form of a members' show and tell.

We have a number of items already put forward for display and discussion and members are encouraged to bring along any object of historical interest, especially if it has a connection to Burnside and its history.

Those who would like to be involved are asked to register their interest with either our President or Vice President no later than the October general meeting.

As is customary with the November meeting the supper will have a suitably festive character.

## EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

What would you do if the fire alarm went off during one of our meetings in the Community Centre?

Don't panic! Your Committee has prepared guidelines to ensure orderly evacuation of the building.

Emergency wardens have been appointed. They will be recognisable by their high visibility vests, which they will put on when an alarm sounds.

There are two alarm sounds:

The first "beep beep beep" means please stay where you are but be prepared to leave.

The second "woop woop woop" means leave the building. The wardens will indicate which route to use.

Bulky items such as projectors and supper gear must be left behind but take small possessions - handbags, etc – with you.

The outside assembly place is where the community bus stops. If it is safe to return, the President will decide whether to resume the meeting.

**BEEP BEEP BEEP: GET READY TO GO**

**WOOP WOOP WOOP: BE GUIDED BY THE WARDENS**

## Ferguson Conservation Park Visit

Sunday 2 October 2011

**10.30 am – 12 noon**

Join your Society friends in a visit to Ferguson Conservation Park, a rare and precious remnant of the original native vegetation of the Adelaide Plains.

The park is notable for its wealth of native plants, many of which will be flowering at this time of the year. If Spring weather conditions are favourable we can expect to see among these plants some of the delicate and beautiful native orchids for which the park is noted.

In addition to its rich plant life the park is home to many species of native birds, small invertebrates, possums, echidnas, koalas and even an occasional western grey kangaroo – all this in the heart of suburban Stonyfell!

This visit is a follow-up to our September meeting when Dr Geoffrey Bishop and BHS member Ken Preiss will talk to us about the history and natural history of the park. Both are experts on its plant and animal life and will be present to guide us on our visit. Also present on one of their monthly working bees will be members of the *Friends of Ferguson Park*, a volunteer community group formed in 1982 to help manage the park.

**Meet: 10.15 am** sharp in the Bell Yett Reserve car park, Stonyfell Road, Wattle Park, opposite the entrance to St Peters Girls School.

**Wear:** sensible footwear for walking and bring a wind/rain jacket if the weather is showery.

**Morning tea:** will be provided, cost \$5, payable on the day, proceeds to the *Friends of Ferguson Park*.

**RSVP:** for catering and planning purposes to our Vice President, Colin Harris, telephone 8331 3571 or email [colin.harris6@bigpond.com](mailto:colin.harris6@bigpond.com) no later than **Friday 23 September 2011**.

## The Golden Age of Australian Exploration

Monday 21 March 2011

Rick Moore set his talk in the context of the early nineteenth century European thirst for stories of exploration in remote places, with particular reference to the unknown interior of Australia. There were various reasons for wanting to know what was there: the possibility of an inland sea; a possible military threat from Russia; the possibility of trade with the British colony of India; a desire for better communication with Britain. However, men accustomed to the fertile greens of England faced enormous difficulties in the unforgiving aridity of central Australia. This prompted some weird suggestions in the local press, such as supplying explorers with water by a hose!

The core of the talk was John McDouall Stuart. Trained as surveyor and draftsman, he gained experience in Charles Sturt's unsuccessful attempt to reach the centre of the continent. More survey work followed, mainly searching for grazing land for James Chambers. In 1858 he set out from the Flinders Ranges, going north of Lake Torrens and across Eyre Peninsula to Streaky Bay, finding some good land. He then led four northern expeditions, locating the centre of the continent and eventually reaching the north coast.

There were significant differences between Stuart's methods and earlier explorers. He tried to avoid Aborigines. He travelled light and fast, using only horses. He usually under-provisioned himself. He knew about scurvy but ignored it. He used only a compass, watch and telescope. But he was very good at finding water and he made good maps.

Sick and old before his time, Stuart died in London, where his grave is now being restored. The successful crossing of the continent had important consequences. The boundaries of South Australia were extended to include the Northern Territory; the overland telegraph line from Adelaide to Darwin (enabling rapid communication with London) followed Stuart's route fairly closely; graziers followed him into the pastoral lands he discovered and so did the railway to Alice Springs, years later.

### John Love

Welcome to the following new members and hope you enjoy the shared interests we have in belonging to the Burnside Historical Society.

Jennifer Cashmore and Diane Love; and apologies for the incorrect spelling for Derek and Cathy Bransbury in the last edition.

## What grows out of wars?

Monday 18 April 2011

Glen Woodward is one of our enthusiastic and vibrant members and on this occasion he gave us a challenging address citing the positive and negative effects of war.

Beginning with the magnificent bronze statue of horse and rider on the corner of North Terrace, which commemorates the Boer War of the late 19 century, Glen asked "Why was it there?" when the casualties of man and beast were so high. We erect and revere statues, sculptures and plant beautiful avenues of trees in memory of the fallen. Our War Museums are full to overflowing with the history and artefacts salvaged from the fields of war. All of this we respect as we honour those who died fighting for their country. Does this not reflect the spirit of nationalism which was growing in Australia?

The aftermath of war brought wide reaching changes. On the one hand, countries which suffered defeat needed aid and received it from the stronger ones, and a massive stride in technology, medicine and telecommunications began. Qantas Airlines opened up travel routes within Australia and overseas and people began moving feely throughout the world. Rockets were built to reach the moon and South Australia's outback became a testing place for the atom bomb. Weapons of war became very sophisticated on land, in the sea and in the air.

Migration began after WW1 with Jews, Italians, Greeks and Chinese coming to Australia - now we have boat people from the Middle Eastern countries adding to the mix of nationalities.

Women became more independent as they were needed to work outside the home and now they are recognized in prominent positions in all fields of business. Aboriginal people fought in both World Wars and gained rights for equality in working conditions and pay. Films, plays, music, art, photography and literature featured war themes, and language found new expressions such as "digger, cobber, wog, nip, chink and hun" and even Anzac biscuits.

Strong friendships were made between enemies eg. Australia with Turkey and France, where some of the bloodiest of battles were fought. Dernancourt was a rest camp for Australians in 1918 and the village suffered almost complete destruction from German shelling with four hundred Australians buried there. After the war, two Rose Park women of French descent, with the help of the community, shipped boxes of clothing, food, cocoa, coffee and preserves to Dernancourt which now has a *Pavilion Adelaide*, a school building funded from SA and also a *Rue d'Australia*, and each year they celebrate *Adelaide Day* when

the children parade to the cemetery to lay flowers at the graves of Australian soldiers.

Politics is now more all-encompassing as leaders meet on a round-table basis to attempt to solve points of conflict and make business deals. The geography of the world has changed, and with it the culture, the food, the way of life and an explosion of population.

In his well-researched and interesting address Glen mentioned the fascinating fact that there were few fat people during the war – now what? Will this modern world with all its knowledge and skills be able to prevent war? As he remarked “War is a meteoric earthquake – events shape history which is often made by people.”

Well done Glen, you gave us an excellent and challenging address.

**Isabel Williams** OAM, JP

## **The defence of Darwin**

Monday 16 May 2011

“The Defence of Darwin” was a strong memory jolt delivered by a passionate Ray Buttery, who served in Darwin during the bombing raids of 1942-3 as an anti-aircraft platoon commander. It is a story of outstanding bravery and fortitude of the service personnel who had to suffer the ineptitude of inexperienced commanders and government. In Ray Buttery’s opinion, the government was in error by sending four divisions of the second AIF, as well as thousands upon thousands of air force personnel to the Middle East and Britain, for it showed an improper disregard for the defence of Australia. In fact, most of the RAAF which were in Great Britain at the time of the Japanese entering the war remained there, although the middle-east troops returned to fight the Eastern war.

We must remember, however, many British troops were also taken prisoner in the Malayan archipelago, and that Britain’s two huge battleships, the *Prince of Wales* and the *Repulse*, were bombed and sunk off the Malayan coast. There was a massive loss of life. Further, British and Indian troops later pushed back the Japanese in Burma, thus diverting Japanese effort to that quarter.

The rapid advance of the Japanese through the Malayan archipelago, the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia) and into New Guinea and surrounding islands was

accompanied by appalling cruelty. Civilians of the occupied lands were particularly harshly treated and included the murder of 340 Christian workers including about 150 Australians missionaries at or near Rabaul.

Inevitably the war came to Australian shores. It had a very sparsely defended coast line, and even in Darwin the small numbers of troops there had to contend with old armaments and ammunition which had been stored since the Great War of 1914-18. New supplies were being sent urgently to Darwin and hence the harbour became crowded with 45 ships at berth or anchor on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1942. That was the day when 188 Japanese aircraft bombed the town, jerking it into action, but still resulting in the sinking and damaging of much of the supply fleet and naval vessels. Hundreds of people on the harbour and in the town were killed or injured. The attack came without warning to the town or the defence forces due to the relevant authority ignoring reports from Bathurst Island that the planes had been sighted, as well as from a coast watcher. It was a shameful debacle.

The service personnel behaved bravely and at their best. The town police and fire brigade also managed their tasks in an outstanding manner. One soldier, armed with an obsolete WW1 Lewis machine gun could not sight it to a high angle so he used the shoulder of a tall fellow soldier as a steady for the gun’s barrel – a hot, ear shattering experience.

Air raids on Australian targets continued on Darwin and northern coastal towns of Western Australian and Queensland for 21 months. There is still a graveyard of flying boats on the sea floor at Broome, where they had been moored after transporting people from the East Indies. Many Dutch women and children were killed.

Ray is convinced that information on targets had been passed to the Japanese from Australia by unknown agents.

We must never again be complacent about Australia’s defences.

**David Rogers**

### **Bound for South Australia 1836**

History SA recently launched a blog *Bound for South Australia* tracing the journey in 1836 of the first ships that set sail for South Australia. Entries to the blog are updated weekly so that readers can follow the voyage. The website is <http://boundforsouthaustralia.net.au>

## John Rymill – our forgotten explorer

Monday 20 June 2011

John Rymill's 1934–37 British Graham Land Expedition in the words of our speaker Valerie Sitters, a State Library librarian and researcher was 'No dramas, no loss of life, no glorious remembrance in the pantheon of Antarctic explorers; just dogged well-managed achievement of all they had set out to do.'

Rymill has never achieved as much fame as the other two South Australian explorers of the Antarctic – Douglas Mawson and Hubert Wilkins.

He was born in Penola, to which he eventually returned, enjoying his last days on Old Penola Station where his son Peter, of the wine-making family, still lives. (Members will remember our trip to the South East a few years ago when Peter was our co-host.) At home Rymill had listened rapt to accounts of the expeditions by Scott, Shackleton, Amundsen and Mawson; he was then determined to become a Polar explorer himself.

In 1927 in England he studied surveying, navigation and anthropology; he qualified to fly and became adept at aircraft mechanics, which served him well later. He joined the British Arctic Air Route Expedition which surveyed the least known part of Greenland with aerial photography complementing the coastal survey, discovering and measuring a new mountain range. Near tragedy occurred on the second crossing of the ice cap when Rymill's kayak was swept under the ice but he and his partner Hampton escaped unhurt.

In 1932–33 an expedition to complete the work done previously was clouded by the disappearance of leader Gino Watkins and this saw Rymill assume control. The British Graham Land Expedition which followed was planned on a modest scale due to financial stringencies, and enlisted the aid of a bulky fishing schooner which was aptly renamed 'Penola'; engine trouble and rotten ice hampered the first year's work but Rymill's love and understanding of the pack of Husky dogs was further strengthened. Rymill's expedition took him on foot and sledges across snow-capped, cloud-covered mountain ranges up to 12,000 feet high. The adventure proved conclusively that the channels named by Hubert Wilkins did not exist and that Graham Land was a peninsula of the main Antarctic continent. Rymill and his men had changed the map of Antarctica.

He was awarded the British Polar Medal with Arctic and Antarctic bars by the Royal Geographic Society of London and in 1938 the Founders Medal together with the David Livingstone Gold Medal of the American Geographic Society in 1939.

Valerie quoted assessments of Rymill by a number of his colleagues and

contemporaries; all spoke glowingly of his quiet strength, stoicism, inventiveness and leadership qualities.

In 1938 he married Dr Eleanor Mary Francis and settled down as a pastoralist. Tragically he was injured in a car accident and died in September 1968.

The local children knew him affectionately as 'Mr Big John'.

**Peter Davies**

## Bombing Darwin

- Pearl Harbour was bombed 7 December 1941
- Rabaul was taken by Japanese 28 January 1942
- Singapore fell to Japanese 15 February 1942
- Darwin was first bombed on 19 February 1942

The strength of the Japanese had been under-estimated. Their government planned to occupy Darwin. The military said the supply line was too far. They decided to neutralise Darwin to prevent it being used as a US Base.

Messages of the approaching Japanese planes were relayed from Bathurst Island Mission and from coast watchers. There was no response in Darwin. There had been an evacuation of 3,000 citizens but there were 2,000 people plus the Aboriginal population left in the town.

Australia had sent four Divisions of soldiers overseas, three to the Middle East and one to Malaya. (Churchill wanted to finish the war in Europe before allowing our troops to come back to defend Australia.) Supply troops were sent from Australia to Rabaul, Ambon and Timor. Many of our troops were militia or hastily trained with WW1 technology. Later Darwin received 12,000 militia troops.

The big guns in Darwin pointed out to sea and were unsuited to shooting planes from the sky. Gunners were ordered to use up WW1 ammunition first. The first Japanese raid at 2 minutes to 10 am flew 188 planes from aircraft carriers. The Zeros strafed the city. The second raid at 12 noon, launched from Ambon 600 miles away, bombed the 45 American, British and Australian ships in the harbour. They sank eight ships, beached six and damaged two (one was a clearly marked

hospital ship.) Australian military leadership and command, as well as ordnance, were lacking. However, the local police and firemen did an admirable job.

Next day *The Advertiser* only reported “Darwin Post Office staff had been killed while sheltering in the trenches.” The *Sydney Morning Herald* reported that 18 were killed. Later, a Royal Commission quoted 263, while others claimed 400 dead. We will never know the real number.

There were 64 raids on Darwin over two years and possibly 600 tons of bombs dropped. There were 33 other raids over Australia including Broome and the sinking of the hospital ship, *Centaur*.

**Glen Woodward**

## **Burnside War Memorial Hospital Inc.**

My initial offer to write a book review of Robyn Taylor’s *The Living Memorial - A History of the Burnside War Memorial Hospital Inc*, 1998, was made without a definite date. This outcome changed significantly after attending one of the sessions in History Month, organized by History SA, during May 2011. Mr Nick Warden, CEO, presented ‘A tradition of excellence in health care – Burnside Hospital’ in the Burnside Library. He supported his lecture with excellent archival slides from the George Bolton Collection. He told of the Burnside Council’s decision in 1943 to raise funds for a community hospital, as a memorial for those who had served in two world wars. In 1944 Mr Otto von Rieben gifted his property *Attunga* to the Council for the hospital. It was really interesting to hear how the project evolved and is a compelling story.

The hospital has been of some interest to me for many years. As a local teenager in the late 1940s I attended one or two fundraising fetes in the grounds. It was a challenge to see if I could see myself in the crowds attending the fetes! Later I worked there for three months in 1956 as a registered nurse in the Attunga Convalescent Home. Added to that, years after the hospital’s opening in late 1956, I’ve been a patient twice (I must have been one of the first patients in their new two-bed Acute Care Unit in 1985).

The Foreword in Robyn Taylor’s small book was written by Barbara Crompton, former Burnside Councillor, BHS member, and Hospital Board member for many years. The ‘Acknowledgements’ name Barbara and Nick at the beginning of the list. The early history of the district is described in the first chapter, and the life of

Mr von Rieben, including buying *Attunga* in 1907.

The concept of building a war memorial hospital was one of the most ambitious projects undertaken by the City of Burnside. An initial concept of a hospital with 100 beds evolved into the first hospital opening in late 1956 with 40 beds. For many years there were constant demands in a very competitive and changing health environment. Adequate staff (in various categories), buildings, equipment, practices, knowledge, legal requirements, State and Commonwealth government requirements etc. all play a role. Initially the financial position was never flush yet to survive, be competitive and keep abreast of changes was vital.

The book describes the changing and evolving phases and story in a most readable manner. It is available from the Office at the hospital.

**Barbara Parker**

## **Our City: *Burnside the Beautiful***

On one wall of Burnside Town Hall hangs a painting by W. Follen Bishop, dated 1915 and titled *Burnside the Beautiful*. No one will cavil at the title but how did it originate? Was it just artistic license?

In 1866 Baillieres’ South Australian GAZETTEER and ROAD-GUIDE, compiled by Robt. P Whitworth included:-

BURNSIDE (Co. Adelaide) is a small postal township, suburban to Adelaide, in the hundred of Adelaide and electoral district of E. Torrens. It is situated on a small watercourse called the Second creek, and is in an agricultural district where wheat is cultivated to a small extent and hay is principally grown. There are also numerous small vineyards and orchards. The nearest mine is at Glen Osmond, where a lead-mine exists, but is not now worked. The next places are Kensington, 1½miles N.W., and Marryatville, about the same distance, the communications being by omnibus, twice a day. With Adelaide, 4 miles distant, the communication is also by omnibus. There is one hotel – the Burnside, where the omnibus stops. The surrounding country is slightly undulating except to the east where rise the Adelaide ranges. The geological formation is principally of schistose and hard sandstone rocks, overlaid in some places by thin stratum of limestone formed of decomposed coral reef. The soil is good

and mostly taken up for gardens. The population is small.

BURNSIDE (Co. Adelaide) is a district council in the electoral district of East Torrens. It is under the control of a chairman, the present one being Mr. George R. Debney, of Burnside, and 4 councillors. The receipts and expenditure in this district council for 1865 were as follows: Assessment £9642 – rate 1s. in the pound; rates collected £466.15s.3d; total receipts, £979.4s.10d; office expenses and salaries £170.2s, expended on public works £712.11s.8d.

The population numbers 1472 persons; the area is 10 square miles or 6400 acres; land under cultivation, 1966 acres; and number of dwelling houses, 215.

Although the gazetteer classed it as a township it was not then the conventional grouping of ¼ to ½ acre lots but consisted of a number of 2½ acre lots and some larger portions. Not until 15 December 1877 did that type of closer development begin with the cutting of three of the portions (Nos. 10,11,12) of an earlier 1849, subdivision, planned by architect T Price of Hindley Street, instructed by auctioneer Nathaniel Hailes. The

ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1877.

AT THREE O'CLOCK.

**W.** WADHAM & CO. will sell by auction—

ON THE LAND,  
BURNSIDE the BEAUTIFUL,  
38 ALLOTMENTS,

Being the subdivision of Blocks 10, 11, and 12 in the original subdivision of Section No. 320, which was laid out twenty-eight years ago and named as above by that good ancient Auctioneer, N. Hailes.

These Allotments are within a mile of the Terminus of the Kensington Tramway, command a magnificent view of the plains and sea, and good water can be obtained by sinking, as proved by wells in the neighbourhood.

TERMS TO SUIT PURCHASERS.

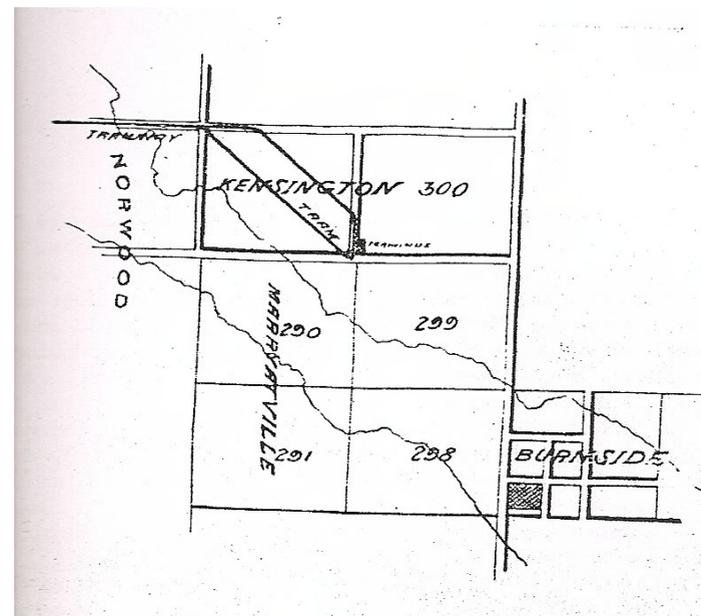
For Plans, apply to the Auctioneers, or at the Burnside Hotel.

1877 subdivision consisted of 38 1/5 acre lots along Glynburn (then Burnside) Road, High-, Gartrell- and John- Streets in lots approximately 53ft. x 150 ft. (16m x 45m).

The 1877 auctioneers, W. Wadham & Co. then described the property as above.

Around that time a long series of articles, written by Nathaniel Hailes, appeared in the *S.A. Register* under the heading “Reflections of a Septuagenarian”, and in the issue of 13 February, 1878 he wrote of Burnside- “.... A gentleman bought from the S.A. Company the Section (No. 320) which had intermediately been leased to another party, and placed it in my hands for subdivision as a township. Of course I immediately inspected the land with a view so to lay it off that as many allotments as possible might benefit from the running water.

With much surprise I perceived that since I first saw the section (in 1840) it had been cultivated and abandoned. European trees and shrubs were flourishing: and it might truly be said, adapting Goldsmith’s line, that ---“once a garden smiled and full many a garden flower grew wild”.



But the altered conditions of the spot will best be gathered from the advertisement which announced the auction:- “**BURNSIDE THE BEAUTIFUL**” – A. B. (Nathaniel Hailes) feels real pleasure in introducing to all who value health, fertility and beauty, Preliminary Section No. 320, situated one mile above Kensington, at the foot of the most picturesque mountain of the whole magnificent

range nearest Adelaide. Excellent roads surround the section on all sides. A limpid and overflowing stream meanders through it, producing luxuriant, diversified and perennial verdure. Amid the wattle and other native flowering shrubs appear (the result of cultivation in the 'olden time') the gorgeous rose, clinging honeysuckle, climbing clematis, the fragrant briar, geraniums in wild profusion, nasturtiums, sweet-peas, garden-herbs of every species, a forest of Cape-Gooseberries, the wayward strawberry, figs, peaches, nectarines, vines of choicest varieties, apples, oranges, plums, almonds and pomegranates. Even the weeping willow inclines its graceful form and extends its valedictory arms over the stream which has nurtured it since the foundation of colony. New colonists should visit the spot before they send home their "first impressions", and old colonists will do well to become acquainted with a scene of beauty whose existence is unsuspected by most of them. The sea views are bounded only by the shore of the Gulf or the horizon and the neighbouring walks are romantic in the extreme. The sale will take place --- etc.

"The foregoing inflated advertisement, elaborately displayed, produced the effect desired by announcers of auctions: it attracted public attention and drew a large company to the sale. The land was disposed of satisfactorily – (although it was about a year before all of the lots available were sold) – and Burnside is now a populous as well as a pretty suburb of Adelaide".

AND THERE is our answer to how the term "BURNSIDE THE BEAUTIFUL" originated – not in "artistic" license but "poetic" license wrought from the breast of an auctioneer.

### W (Bill) V Mason

Reprint: Burnside Historical Society Newsletter. Volume 1, No 1, Dec 1980

### ANNUAL SUBS ARE NOW DUE for 2011/2012

A few members have not yet paid their subs for 2011/2012. If you are one of them there is a pink reminder slip in this *Newsletter*.

Please pay at one of our monthly meetings  
or send your money to

The Treasurer, Burnside Historical Society  
PO Box 152, Glenside, SA 5065

Single subscription	\$20
Family subscription	\$30

BURNSIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC., PO Box 192, Glenside, 5065

### OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Society shall be:

- \* to arouse interest in and to promote the study and discussion of Australian and South Australian history and in particular, 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 Burnside history;
- \* to assist in the protection and preservation of buildings, works and sites of historical significance in the City of Burnside;
- \* to co-operate with similar societies and other bodies throughout Australia;
- \* to do all such other things as are conducive or incidental to the attainment of any of the above objectives.

### OFFICE-BEARERS FOR 2011-2012

<b>President:</b>	Meredith Ide, JP	(8365 3049)
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<b>Treasurer:</b>	Richard House	(8552 4723)
<b>Committee:</b>	Margaret Beare, Chas. Grimes, John Love, Eleanor Trott June Ward, and Isabel Williams OAM, JP	

### Newsletter Subcommittee:

Elaine Smyth, Editor (8332 8019), Peter Davies, Barbara Parker, PSM and Elizabeth Rogers, OAM.

**Contributors:** Apart from the Newsletter Subcommittee, we are fortunate to have members who contribute occasionally and their names appear with their articles in the relevant issues.

**Distribution Organiser:** Shirley Sumerling (8364 3505)

### Program Subcommittee:

Colin Harris (Chair), Shirley Sumerling, Meredith Ide and Sandra Lachlan

### Plaques Subcommittee:

Colin Harris, Eleanor Trott and Sandra Lachlan

**Supper Co-ordinator:** Hazel Newton

**Meetings** of the Society are held in the Burnside Community Centre, corner Portrush Road and Fisher Street, Tusmore (car park and entrance off Fisher Street) at 7.30 pm on the third Monday of the month unless an alternative time or venue is notified.

Admission is free, including supper. Visitors are most welcome.

**Membership fees:** are \$30 family, and \$20 single, due in April each year and may be sent to the Treasurer at the Society's address (above) or paid at a monthly meeting.

## Front Cover:

The bombing of Darwin by the Japanese in World War II began on 19 February 1942 with aircraft from four Japanese aircraft carriers. The ammunition ship *Neptuna* (on the outer berth and about to be completely blown up) and the *Barrossa* (on the inner berth) were two of the 45 ships in the harbour at the time. Eight of these were to be sunk.

While only four Japanese planes were shot down, 251 people were killed and around 350-400 were wounded. Although this was the heaviest attack, Japanese planes continued to attack the north of Australia until November 1943 with more raids on Darwin, Katherine, Adelaide River, Batchelor Airfield, Broome, Townsville and other smaller bases and towns.

Courtesy of the Northern Territory Archives Service: Garnet Rex Caudle, NTS 284, Photograph albums, Darwin 1917-1945, item 25.

### **Disclaimer**

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