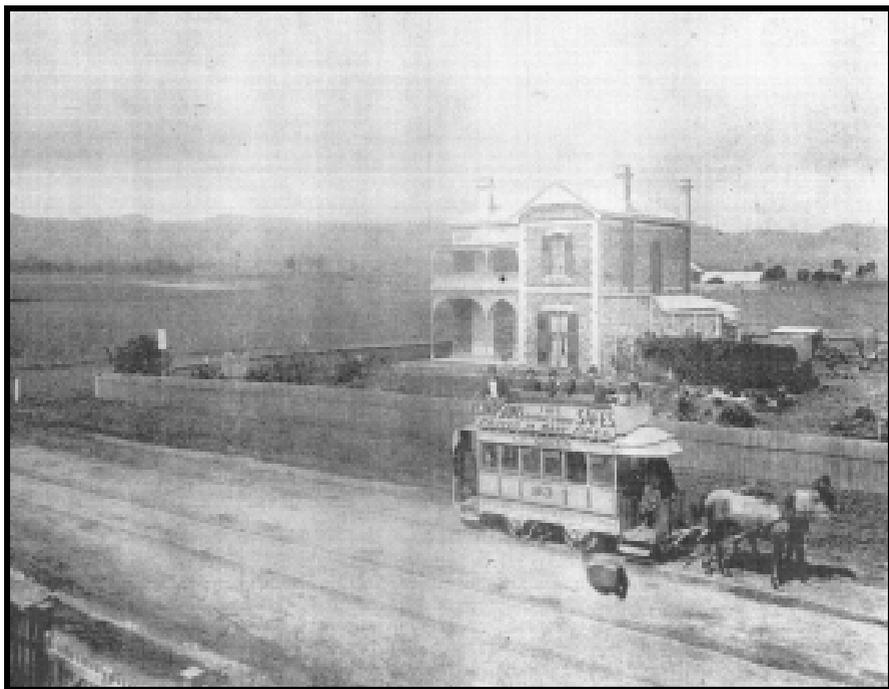


Burnside Historical Society Inc.

NEWSLETTER - June 2008

Volume 28, No. 2



William Sandover's House

From the Editor's Desk

History Week has come and gone. Hope you were able to take part in some of the events and enjoy history in our community. The History Trust does a great job in co-ordinating the events and advertising them in its brochure. It is up to local groups and organisations to plan, organise and run the events in their areas. As in previous years, the Burnside Historical Society has worked with the Burnside City Council to offer events throughout Burnside. Thanks go to a number of our Society members and their helpers who put much time into preparing and leading several walks and bus tours. Other events were organised by the Library. If you did not take part this year then perhaps you can be on the look-out for events in May 2009!

This edition of the Newsletter contains the Annual General Meeting reports from the President and Treasurer. Take the time to review the activities of the Society over the past year. You would have received copies at the AGM, but may not have had the time to read them.

Congratulations go to the office-bearers and committee elected at the AGM. Peter Davies stood down as Vice President and Brian Ward as a committee member. Thanks go to them for the reliable, thorough and friendly manner in which they have offered their services to the committee over the years of their involvement. Their positions were filled by Colin Harris, as Vice President, and John Love, who is returning to the committee as a full member. Eleanor Trott and Mary Wilson were re-elected.

Don't forget, if you have any items of interest about Burnside for the Newsletter please contact me at elainesmyth@aol.com or on 8332 8019.

Elaine Smyth (Editor)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the beginning of another interesting year. While we were sad to farewell our Vice President, Peter Davies, and Brian Ward from our Committee, we are delighted to welcome Colin Harris as Vice President and John Love to fill their places. John has served on the Committee previously. As you can see by the reports printed in this Newsletter, the Burnside Historical Society is a very healthy and active organization. We believe in making the most of each day and sharing it with others – the best way to go!

We shall be unveiling a plaque at the Gatehouse Lodge of the Linden Estate in the near future. Do note the date when advertised and join us on this important occasion. We work with Burnside City Council to help secure our historical past. Also, visit Beaumont House and view the beautiful garden seat donated by the Society. It sits under a magnificent tree, and it is a favourite place for bridal photographs. The plaque to indicate our gift should be in place soon. The house and gardens are delightful and perhaps you joined in their celebration during History Week.

We offered two bus tours and three walks during History Week. We thank Richard House, Colin Harris and John Love for their leadership and expertise in these fields. Mary Wilson prepared the information for the Rose Park walk led by John Love and myself. These walks and tours were very popular and well worth while.

I am doubtful about a weekend away this year as there appears to be no one available to organize it. There is much planning and preparation involved but perhaps there is someone amongst our membership who would like to do it, - please let us know and we shall give your our support. We do have a day trip to *The Cedars* later on in the year, and who knows? – maybe somewhere else? Any suggestions will be welcome.

Remember that the June 16 meeting begins at 7.30 pm when Ian Doyle returns with *The Story of the Murray Riverboats* on film. Maybe many of you saw the historic journey of the paddle boats down the Murray River during the Centenary of Federation Celebrations. I wonder if anything like that will ever happen again?

I am not afraid of tomorrow because I have seen yesterday and today is beautiful.

Janet H Bragg

Isabel Williams OAM, JP

PROGRAM 2008

Monday 16 June, 7.30 pm – early start

Source to Sea - the Story of the Murray Riverboats

Speaker: Ian Doyle

During the Centenary of Federation this 100 day journey was undertaken down the Murray from the Kosciusko high country to the sea at the Murray mouth town of Goolwa. A television crew was part of the flotilla. At times the fleet included more than 200 heritage and leisure craft, paddle steamers and riverboats. Australia has more original paddle boats than anywhere else in the world and Ian will talk about them.

The documentary film, which will be shown, was produced by Ian and includes memorable vision of many of the paddleboats that took part in this historic journey. It also shows some private family archival footage and historic photographs.

Monday 21 July, 8 pm

C J Dennis - The Untold Story

Speaker: Denise Schumann

Clarence James Dennis was one of Australia's most loved writers and his *Songs of a Sentimental Bloke* (1915) remains a classic in Australian literature. While most South Australians know that CJ Dennis was born at Auburn, in the state's mid-north, very few know that he spent many years living in Norwood. This fascinating talk will look behind the scenes and explore how Dennis' upbringing impacted on his life and how it permeated his writing.

Monday 18 August, 8 pm

An Antarctic Affair

Speaker: Emma McEwin

The talk will be based on Emma's book *An Antarctic Affair*. It will concentrate on the relationship of her great-grandparents, Douglas and Paquita Mawson, during their engagement years in the course of which Douglas almost died in the Antarctic. Separated for more than two years, both had to survive in different ways.

Monday 15 September, 8 pm

Hans Heysen – State Conservationist and Historian

Speaker: Alan Campbell

An outline of the historical significance of the art of Hans Heysen – an artist who was to record a regional way of life in Australia as no other had done before – Hahndorf and the rural surroundings when it was a transplanted Silesian farming village of the late 19th Century.

Monday 20 October, 8 pm

Keeping a Trust – the Wyatt Benevolent Institution

Speaker: Dr Carol Fort

William Wyatt arrived in South Australia within weeks of its official proclamation and vigorously took up the pioneering life, buying six town acres and some country land. His enthusiasm and dedication showed themselves as he became a force in several significant educational, medical and cultural organizations including the RAH, the Botanic Gardens, The Adelaide Club, etc. Moderately wealthy and seeing that he would die without heir, Wyatt established a Trust to benefit South Australia into the future. The organisation he created, the WBI, now gives over \$1 million a year to help South Australia and South Australians reach their potential.

Monday 17 November, 8 pm

The Largely Forgotten Story – Peterborough and World War Two

Speaker: John Mannion

Whilst Peterborough is a well-known "Railway Town", the northern railway system extended far beyond the town. The Peterborough Division of the South Australian Railways extended from Quorn to Terowie, Port Pirie to Cockburn and Gladstone to Wilmington. The largely forgotten story is the input of post World War Two migrant workers and their families.

Welcome to our latest new members Ms Libby Stalley and Miss Gwentyth Bungey. We hope you enjoy the history we share and our friendship.

TOUR OF *THE CEDARS*

Tuesday 23 September 2008

11.00 am – 12.30 pm

* Home of Hans Heysen from 1912-68

* Step back in time amongst his majestic gum trees

* See his studio, which has remained largely undisturbed since his death

* Also visit the studio of his daughter Nora (the first female Archibald Prize winner)

* View paintings in the surroundings in which they were created

* See a Ford Model A and Hans Heysen's original caravan used during his painting expeditions to the Flinders Ranges

* Browse for treasures in the Garden Shop

Cost of Tour: \$6.50 per person

To register your interest, complete the enclosed application and return it with the money to Peter Davies

Meet at *The Cedars*, Ambleside Road, Hahndorf

In my President's Report last year, I began by saying, "Despite the long, hot and dry summer the Society has enjoyed a happy year", - nothing has changed.

Our meetings have been well attended and this reflects on the quality of the speakers and the friendliness of our members towards each other. We have enjoyed a diversity of subjects, all of which have been reported in our newsletter so that we can refresh our thoughts and recall something of the subject.

Two of our speakers will return this year, Duncan McKenzie of *Gluepot Remembered* and Ian Doyle - *Last mail to Birdsville*, so make sure that you do not miss them.

Our Yorke Peninsula weekend conducted by Colin Harris was a great success. Colin presented us with a comprehensive account of what we would see and the history of such places. He deserves high praise for his attention to detail and for his pleasant personality as he coped with a busload of eager travellers.

We have enjoyed two day outings, - Urrbrae House with the tour conducted by another member, Glen Woodward, and The Old Treasury Building (Medina Hotel) where we saw the vaults for the storage of gold in the 1850s and the State Government Cabinet Room as it was during the Playford era.

Burnside Historical Society members were involved in the re-issue of the seven Historic Self Guided Walks within the City of Burnside, and these are available in pamphlet form from the Burnside Community Centre and on the City of Burnside web site on the Internet. Unfortunately there are a few errors, which our Committee has been quick to find and these will be corrected in the next update. As you will note in your Newsletter, during History Week (May 16-25), three of these walks will be conducted by our members, as will be two bus tours.

The garden seat, which we donated to Beaumont House, should have the plaque in place shortly and we are preparing to unveil a plaque at the Gatehouse Lodge to the *Linden* estate. This will be done in conjunction with the Burnside City Council and you are invited to attend this important event when details are announced.

I wish to pay a tribute to the hardworking and very supportive committee members and I thank them for their loyalty and support. Vice President and programme

TREASURER'S REPORT: AGM

Monday 21 April 2008

organiser, Peter Davies; Richard House, Treasurer, who presents such easy to follow, meticulous and colourful statements; Sharan Northcott, Secretary, - efficient without effort it seems to me; June Ward, who writes the best minutes in the best precise manner, all deserve special mention and thanks. But what of the other members? Mary Wilson who handles publicity with flair as she prints out notices on her computer for display on the Burnside Council notice boards. Eleanor Trott who has taken reels of photographs of all the Park, Gardens and Reserves in Burnside – 113 of them – and these will be placed in special albums so that everyone can enjoy them. Shirley Sumerling, ever helpful and smiling; Brian Ward, John Clark and John Love, all with a great depth of knowledge, - to all these people I say 'thank you'. However I am sad to announce that Peter and Brian will retire at this A.G.M. We wish them well and know that you will applaud their superb contribution to the Society.

There are other members who deserve our thanks also. Elaine Smyth who produces an excellent newsletter, the newsletter committee, the distributors who make sure you receive your newsletter, the supper people and those who help to set up the room. You are the people who make this Society strong so please accept our heartfelt thanks for all that you do.

I commend and thank you all for the loyalty and support that you have given to the Burnside Historical Society over many years, and to me over the past four years. Now we are at the beginning of another, which promises well as we look through Peter's program ahead.

I leave you with this quote:

Any committee that is the slightest use is composed of people who are too busy to want to sit on it for a second longer than they have to.
(English journalist and writer Katherine Whitehorn, b 1926.)

Isabel Williams OAM, J.P.

Rose Park was laid out by the South Australian Company as a residential suburb and was named after its chairman, Sir John Rose. It was sub-divided in four stages – 1878, 1883, 1889 and 1909, with the first development located in the northwest corner. Prescott Terrace was the most affluent street in the district.

I am glad to report a successful financial year making a surplus of \$448. This has enabled us to transfer \$370 to the General Accumulated Funds Reserve and \$77 to the Council Grants Reserve.

This profit was achieved mainly from:

- the profit of \$656 from the weekend trip to Yorke Peninsula
- some generous donations amounting to \$303
- the Community Grant of \$950 from the Burnside Council which went towards the cost of the Newsletter and the Parks and Reserves project.

None of those is a budgeted item so without that income we would have made a loss.

The cost of the use of the hall was smaller by \$60 because we did not have to pay for the use of the atrium in November when a number of issues went wrong including the air conditioning!

An expense which only comes up from time to time was the \$700 spent on the purchase of BHS wine glasses which have on them the Society's logo embossed in gold. These are mainly used for giving as 'thank you' gifts to the visiting speakers. They are also available for sale to any members who like to use them at home.

As always, Society membership fees are the main income for the society and the membership currently stands at 179 people. This is the lowest head count since 1997.

Richard House

AUDITORS'S STATEMENT

I have examined the books and records of the Burnside Historical Society Inc. The Balance Sheet and accompanying Statement of Income and Expenditure present a true and fair view of the Society's affairs as at 31 March 2008, according to the books, records and information submitted to me.

Alan David Jones, Auditor, BA, BA(Acc), Grad Dip Acc, Dip T (Sec)

BURNSIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31st March 2008

<u>2006/2007</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>2007/2008</u>
\$1,575.00	Subs 2007/08 (Single)	\$1,766.00
\$792.00	Subs 2007/08 (Family)	\$836.00
	Transfer from reserves for library donation	
	Transfer from Mines Reserve for display material	
\$0.00	Profit on mines tours	\$0.00
\$0.00	Profit (Loss) on dinners	
\$38.05	Profit (Loss) on day tours (Urrbrae House outing)	(\$5.00)
\$778.58	Profit (Loss) on weekend tour (Yorke Peninsular)	\$656.68
\$245.65	Bank interest on Cheque and Savings accounts	\$396.49
\$12.00	Sundry Sales - glasses, tapes etc	\$17.00
\$232.00	Donations received	\$303.07
\$950.00	Council Grant for Newsletter	\$800.00
\$0.00	Council Grant for Street Names project	\$0.00
\$0.00	Council Grant for Parks and Gardens project	\$150.00
\$0.00	Council Grant for Oral History project	\$0.00
\$0.00	Council Grant for Plaques Records update	\$0.00
\$0.00	Profit from Eastern Regional Seminar	\$0.00
\$0.00	Receipts for cost of Wandeen plaque	\$0.00
\$4,623.28	Total income	\$4,920.24
	Expenses	
\$12.00	Miscellaneous secretarial expenses	\$0.00
\$249.30	Printing and Stationery	\$145.87
\$217.00	Telephone, postage and PO Box	\$216.45
\$600.00	Use of hall and other meeting expenses	\$540.00
\$194.48	Supper costs	\$170.67
\$30.00	Subscriptions to other societies and seminar fees	\$220.00
\$0.00	Cost associated with bus tours led	\$30.00
\$745.00	Insurance	\$730.00
\$60.00	Gifts and purchase of Burnside Historical Society glasses	\$770.88
\$17.90	Tapes and minor equipment	\$155.92
\$30.00	Society records	\$0.00
\$300.00	Donations	\$250.00
\$0.00	Cost of McDouall Stuart plaque ceremony	
\$0.00	Loss on mines tours	\$0.00
\$923.78	Newsletter expenses	\$723.86
\$0.00	Street Names project	\$0.00
\$41.10	Parks and Gardens project	\$148.26
\$0.00	Oral History project	\$0.00
\$0.00	Plaques Record update project	\$0.00
\$462.00	Depreciation on equipment (projector, tape recorder, data projector)	\$370.00
\$3,882.56	Total expenses	\$4,471.91
	Surplus (Deficit) for the year	\$448.33
\$740.72	Transfer to General Accumulated Funds	\$370.45
\$755.60	Transfer to Mines Account Reserve	\$0.00
\$0.00	Transfer to Council Grant Reserve (Newsletter and Parks & Gardens project surplus)	\$77.88
(\$14.88)		\$77.88
\$740.72	Total	\$448.33

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st March 2008

<u>2006/2007</u>	<u>General Accumulated funds</u>	<u>2007/2008</u>
\$6,543.31	As at 1st April 2007	\$7,298.91
\$755.60	Surplus (Deficit) for the year	\$370.45
\$7,298.91	As at 31st March 2008	\$7,669.36
	Mines Account Reserve	
\$3,113.28	As at 1st April 2007	\$3,113.28
\$0.00	Surplus (Deficit) for the year	\$0.00
\$3,113.28	As at 31st March 2008	\$3,113.28
	Council Grants Reserve	
\$222.48	As at 1st April 2007	\$207.60
(\$14.88)	Surplus (Deficit) for the year	\$77.88
\$207.60	As at 31st March 2008	\$285.48
	Being - Newsletter	\$98.54
	- Street Names project	\$0.00
	- Parks and Gardens project	\$1.74
	- Oral History project	\$0.00
	- Plaques Reprint project	\$185.20
	Total	\$285.48
\$10,619.79	TOTAL EQUITY	\$11,068.12
	Members equity is made up from	
	Current Assets	
\$3,600.06	Cash at bank	\$4,078.01
\$5,876.73	Bank South Australia Express Saver Account (Internet only)	\$6,260.11
\$9,476.79	Total as at 31st March 2008	\$10,338.12
	Non Current Assets	
\$2,312.00	Equipment as at 31st March 2007	\$1,850.00
(\$462.00)	Less depreciation @ 20%	(\$370.00)
\$1,850.00	Total as at 31st March 2008	\$1,480.00
\$11,326.79	Total Assets	\$11,818.12
	Current liabilities	
\$465.00	Subs 2008/09 (Single)	\$525.00
\$242.00	Subs 2008/09 (Family)	\$225.00
\$707.00	Total Liabilities	\$750.00
\$10,619.79	TOTAL NET ASSETS as at 31st March 2008	\$11,068.12

An Album of Memories: 1944-1952

18 February 2008

Ken Preiss presented an entertaining account of life in the post-war years.

Aided by a highly professional power point presentation, Ken continued the story of his life from 1944-1952. In the first phase 'Early Working Days' he described his apprenticeship in the family business, Preiss Rebores Service, started by his father in 1938. Ken studied for his tool-makers certificate at the Trade School of Adelaide Technical College. A number of photographs of the workshop in Rundle Street, Kent Town, showed the assembled workers and the outside sink where they washed their hands, the extensions built by Ken's father who made much of his own plant and equipment, a large caterpillar cylinder block, and other machinery. Nothing was wasted and everything re-modelled and re-used in this period of austerity after the war and with a sense of frugality from the depression days. In the 1940s there were frequent power cuts and Ken's father, a humorist with a liking for Oswald Prior's 'Cousin Jack', attached a candle to his hat.

Set of Wheels highlighted the importance of wheels in Ken's life. Cars in those days were rather basic with starting handles and the need to carry spare fan belts and radiator hoses for long trips. Friends obliged with tow-ropes in the case of break-downs. Being a highly practical man, Ken's father built his own caravan of spruce timber clad with masonite, later replaced with aluminium when the cladding proved too heavy. The caravan provided family holidays for many years even before caravan parks were developed. In 1947 Ken's father went to Geelong to take ownership of new Ford V8 which replaced his Essex Challenger. Ken himself acquired his first set of wheels, a 250cc Lewis motorcycle named the 'gutless wonder' as it barely exceeded 40mph. This was replaced by an ex-army 500cc Indian a little later. His father helped him build a side-car chassis. The Dusting side-car used by the SA police was not available to the public so in 1949 a custom-built replica was made.

His own set of wheels led Ken to the third phase of his talk **Walking Out**. He was able to take Margaret, his future wife, on many outings. Margaret also enjoyed holidays with the Preiss family in their caravan. As he pointed out, life was much simpler and much more 'moral' in those days. Entertainment, apart from outings on 'wheels', included going to the pictures with its long interval for milk shake consumption while the second film was brought to the theatre by taxi (having just been shown at a theatre elsewhere!). Ken reminded us that we all stood for "God Save the King" at each performance. Ken may not have enjoyed the dances at the Palais Royal or the Annual Ball because he had two left feet, but no doubt Margaret did in her Christian Dior 'New Look' dresses. Margaret also played soft-ball as a

member of the Genes team. Another exciting outing was to see the *Barcoo*, a navy survey vessel, washed up after a storm. The fire in March 1948 which destroyed Moore's in Victoria Square must have been a frightening sight. Ken's 21st birthday celebration at Kensington Gardens Scout Hall was not a lavish affair as stringent war-time regulations continued for quite a few years.

In the fourth phase, **Homemaker**, Ken described the difficulties trying to build a house in the days when everything was in short supply, black marketeering was rife, building restrictions were in force and permits were needed for all sorts of things. The simple house plan drawn up on the kitchen table was approved by Council in 1952. Work started on the Goyder Street block (an Allendale Grove block was sold at a profit when it proved unsuitable for building) and Ken and his father fabricated half a shed to store valuable building materials. Because they had no experience in wood, Ken and his father made metal roof trusses at Kent Town and welded battens on to them. The metal roof trusses were still fine fifty years later.

The final phase of Ken's presentation was called **Wedding Bells**. Ken and Margaret were married in 1952 at Knightsbridge Baptist Church with a reception at the Masonic Lodge, North Adelaide. True to the spirit of frugality, Margaret's mother did the catering for the simple menu. Ken's father allowed him to use, for the first time, his car and caravan for their honeymoon which was spent in the Grampians. While waiting for the completion of their house Ken and Margaret rented two rooms. Fortunately the house was owned by a French polisher because Margaret scorched the dining room table while doing the ironing. The audience, probably all over fifty, related well to Ken's tales of 'make and mend' and 'waste not, want not'.

June Ward

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS FOR 2008 ARE NOW DUE

All subscriptions fell due on 1 April 2008.

It was moved at the AGM that the cost of membership remain the same.
Single \$17 and family \$25.

Membership fees may be paid at our monthly meetings or posted to Richard House, our Treasurer, at the Society's address indicated on the inside back cover.

SS Great Britain: a story of a great ship, a great engineer and a great-grandmother

17 March 2008

Jim Crompton gave our Society a most interesting talk on the history of the *SS Great Britain*. His great-grandmother wrote a diary of her voyage in 1866, which gave him the enthusiasm to visit the *SS Great Britain* and learn of her history. The ship was the first propeller driven ocean going iron ship, and was designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunell, the chief engineer of the Great Western Steamship Company. His first ship *The Great Western* was launched in 1837, and Brunell proved that it was possible for a steam ship with paddle wheels to make regular voyages back and forth across the Atlantic without running out of coal. Brunell decided to build a sister ship, better and faster and larger and so the *SS Great Britain* was launched in 1843. Brunell had designed 25 bridges, mostly of iron and steel, so he decided that this great ship must be of iron, built in a dry dock in Bristol where construction workers could work beneath her.

The Great Western dry dock became a floating harbour in July 1843, and the Prince Consort, Prince Albert, travelled from London on Brunell's Great Western Railway. Brunell, who had retired, attended the celebrations. The Prince rode in procession through the city of Bristol, and at noon reached the dock. Thousands watched the proceedings: shops were shut, and business suspended. Churches displayed flags and peels were rung, canons fired, and a band played on board ship whilst Prince Albert walked from stem to stern. There were official trials in 1845, and the maiden voyage of 3,300 nautical miles to New York took 14 days. A lavish party was held in Liverpool.

On the *SS Great Britain's* fifth voyage, disaster struck. Heading for the Irish coast, she ran at some speed hard ashore on the beach of Dundrum Bay in County Down on the east coast of Ireland. The crew had failed to see the Chicken Rock Light on the Isle of Man where the ship should have turned northward on a course between the Isle of Man and the Irish coast. The ship was not badly damaged, and no one was injured, but she remained beached for several months. After difficult repairs in 1847 she was winched towards the sea and in August, afloat and free, she was towed to Liverpool for repair. The owners had under-insured *SS Great Britain*, and the cost of saving her was too much, so they were forced to sell her as well as *The Great Western*. She was bought by another company of Liverpool, which was running services to Australia, where gold had been discovered, which had stimulated intense interest.

The ship was reconstructed, with a trial voyage to New York, then returned to

Liverpool, successfully, before she sailing for Australia in 1852, via Cape Town and Melbourne. Returning to Liverpool, she was again refitted, and modified, replacing two funnels with one, and three square rigged masts instead of six. There were many changes over the years. Travelling eastwards for the return passage from Australia she followed the route of the sailing ships, averaging 60 days out, and the same back. She made 32 round voyages before her obsolescence in 1876, after 30 years at sea, a splendid record. Captain Grey was commander for 18 years, and was very popular, but he was lost at sea in 1872.

SS Great Britain was bought by another company which stripped the ship, and used her for carrying coal to San Francisco and returning with wheat, round Cape Horn, each trip lasting a year, until 1885, in April, the winds caused serious difficulties, with enormous waves breaking over her decks. Masts were lost, and she limped into Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands. After forty years at sea, she was never to sail again, destined to spend another fifty years afloat in the Stanley Harbour. The Falkland Islands Company bought the ship to be used as a store ship, but it was uneconomical, and she was towed out of the harbour, beached at Lonely Spartan Cove, and left to rot. In 1937 holes were knocked in her stern to stop her floating off, and she became a famous land mark.

During the 1950s interest was developing to salvage the ship, and in 1967, with finance and examinations, it was decided to attempt salvage, with a large submersible pontoon. Many surveys were done and the whole exercise took many months of planning, with a great deal of drama. In 1970 the ship, at last on the pontoon, was towed out of the Stanley Harbour, and two months later was brought into Avonmouth Docks with tremendous excitement. She was afloat, and towed up the River Avon to Bristol, and then into the Great Western dry dock. The Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip, was present, 127 years after the launch. There was much corrosion, the ship having had no protection from the elements. She has been cleverly restored and is now surrounded by plate glass membrane protecting the hull. Underneath the glass is a humidifier which keeps the bottom of the hull dry. The ship is maintained by the Maritime Museum. The reconstruction shows the ship as she was in her early days, with cabins and steerage class.

Everyone enjoyed the evening and the wonderful history of the *SS Great Britain*.

Pam Whittle

Adelaide City History

21 April 2008

Max Winter talked to members, and some of his teacher friends, about the way people have lived in the City of Adelaide. In 1837, one newly arrived farmer walking through the swamps from Pt. Misery said, "I do see the pigsties but where be the houses for people?" For the next twenty years people, who did not bring tents, built shelters from wood scraps, branches and mud. Some Manning prefabricated houses were imported, one of which remains to the present as the Quakers' Meeting House near St Peter's Cathedral.

The Torrens River was used for swimming, drinking, drainage, dumping and sewers. Roads in summer were dust bowls, spreading TB virus, and in winter were potholes with cess pools.

Structures like Government House, the Gaol, Asylum and Hospital, were built but housing was mostly at the west end. The Newmarket Hotel sold "butchers" of beer to the workers from the near by abattoirs.

The 1840s were a disaster with poverty and poor health. When the men left for the Victorian gold diggings in the 1850s the women were 'left to the wild dogs and natives'. Tolmer's gold escort subsequently restored some wealth, but it was copper and philanthropists like Hughes and Dutton, and later Elder and the Barr Smiths, who led the way to build up the city. William Randall brought trade along the River Murray and wealth to the city. These boom times produced infrastructure like trams, gas and sewers. the Town Hall and GPO were built, along with the University and East End Market.

The depression of the 1890s slowed development but with the turn of the century, technology brought electricity for trams and factories but the black smoke from the Electric Supply Co. (now *Tandanya*), polluted the city. Workers lived near factories and had back yards with vegetables, chooks and a dunny, Some had a pig and a stable (complete with rats) or a cow in the parklands: slums and disease were common.

The 1930s depression brought tent cities for the homeless along the Torrens. Some slept in the Moreton Bay Fig buttresses known as "Fletcher mansions". People made do with little in the way of possessions; they recycled, or lived on their wits, like Piccolo Pete making "music" on the streets. Charity organizations helped with hand-outs. The City Council gave aid and entertained children.

Recovery came slowly. Landmarks included commencement of the Christmas Pageant in 1933 and Centenary celebrations in 1936. But WW11 changed things, industry grew, soldiers arrived and citizens dug trenches, even in the City squares.

After the war, life went back to pre-War conditions. All kinds of materials and food were in short supply. Ex-servicemen were offered education in the city so houses were over-crowded. Developers began widespread demolition in the 1950s, the population of the City having declined from 43,000 in 1930 to under 5,000 in 1950. People had moved to the suburbs. Remember Sundays in the city?

In the 1970s public protests by the people saved some of our Heritage, including Edmund Wright House. The Festival Theatre, Elder Park and Rundle Mall, became places for the public.

We are now in the process of making the city a place for work and living, the little cottages are being updated and there are now trendy places like Rundle Street East.

Glen Woodward

17th STATE HISTORY CONFERENCE

1 – 3 August 2008
Adelaide

Changing Lives: Changing Places

A focus on history of communities, neighbourhoods and working lives disappearing in the face of rapid suburban and technological change and the challenges facing historians, museums and heritage experts in their attempts to record and preserve the past.

Information and registration forms available from
History Trust of South Australia

Recollections of my early years

Edna Bayfield

Edna has spent all her life in the eastern suburbs of Adelaide and has been a resident of Rosslyn Park within the City of Burnside for the past half century. Edna was a foundation member of the BHS and has been talking recently with Newsletter Editor Elaine Smyth about her life. Elaine has written-up the recollections and will publish them in instalments: the following is the first and deals with Edna's early childhood memories.

I was born in January 1925, at Maylands, the second daughter of Beatrice and Percy Mears. Our family home was at Stepney. I had an older sister, Jean, who commenced school at East Adelaide during the week in which I was born.

There were no small children living nearby, so while my sister was at school I had no playmates. I used to take the shell of my breakfast egg down to the fowls that we kept at the bottom of our back yard and say "Thank you, chookies" (but not give the shell to them). I took them green feed which they ate out of my hand. Then I would go in to their scratching pen and sit on a heap of straw. The hens would come and sit in a semi-circle around me and I would sing songs and tell them fairy tales. They would listen and comment occasionally.

In December 1930 we moved from Stepney to Kensington Park. In the New Year my sister and I were enrolled at Marryatville Primary School, she in Grade Seven and I in Grade One. I really liked school. I remember my first day there, we were given a small black board and a piece of chalk and shown how to write a running script "m", this represented a bee, both in form and sound. The next few days were devoted to the letters "a" which was said to represent a baby in a pram, and the letter "t", a policeman on traffic duty! By the end of the week I could write, and illustrate "mat". We also learned to write the numbers 1-10 and to count. I considered myself highly educated after a week or two. In 1932 I moved to Grade Two and my sister left to attend Norwood High School, which was then in Lossie Street, Kensington Park.

In Grade Two we had the desks with the tip up seats where the front of the desk behind became the back of the seat for the desk in front. The desks each had two ink wells where the boys put half dead flies. They also liked to flick ink with their pens onto the children wearing light-coloured clothing.

To be continued....

BURNSIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.
PO Box 152, Glenside SA 5065

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Society shall be:

- 2.1 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;
- 2.2 to promote the collection, recording, preservation and classification of works, source material and artefacts of all kinds relating to Burnside history;
- 2.3 to assist in the protection and preservation of buildings, works and sites of historical significance in the City of Burnside;
- 2.4 to co-operate with similar societies and other bodies throughout Australia;
- 2.5 to do all such other things as are conducive or incidental to the attainment of any of the above objectives.

OFFICE-BEARERS FOR 2008-2009

President:	Isabel Williams, OAM, JP (8379 4090)
Responsible Officer:	“ “ “ “ “
Vice-President:	Colin Harris, PSM (8331 3571)
Secretary:	Sharan Northcott (8332 1761)
Treasurer:	Richard House
Committee:	John Clark, John Love, Shirley Sumerling, Eleanor Trott, June Ward and Mary Wilson.

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 several occasional contributors whose names appear with their articles in the relevant issues.

Distribution Organiser: Shirley Sumerling (8364 3505)

Assistant: Eleanor Trott

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 8 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: currently \$25 family, and \$17 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:

William Sandover's House, Rose Park.

Photo: Burnside Local History Collection

The first auction sale of Rose Park allotments was held in 1878 when 192 allotments were made available in the area north of Alexandra Avenue and west of Webb Street. The idea of a country residence in a first class suburb was dangled before potential buyers. Initially 83 allotments sold and only a few buildings were completed. There were further subdivisions in 1883 and 1889 and by 1890-91 60 homes had been built, mostly in Watson and Hewitt avenues and along Victoria Avenue and Kensington Road. William Sandover (1822-1909), MLC, built on the corner of Prescott Terrace and Kensington Road about 1889. He had arrived in South Australia on the *Glenelg* in 1849 and had some success when he went to the Victorian Goldfields in the 1850s. He entered State Parliament in 1868. The house still stands, but has been added to over the years.

Disclaimer

Views and opinions expressed in articles in the Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Burnside Historical Society Inc. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of articles printed, responsibility is not accepted for any errors they may contain that are out of the Society's control.

The Privacy Act

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Any e-mails will be treated as above. However, any information sent by e-mail will be at the sender's risk and the Society will not be held responsible for any unintended use or disclosure of this information.