Burnside Historical Society Inc.

NEWSLETTER - June 2009

Volume 29, No. 2

Museum of Economic Botany

From the Editor's Desk

Once again, History Week has come and gone and hopefully many of you were able to take part in the walks and bus tours led by our Society members and the numerous activities co-ordinated by the Library. It was the sixth year of celebrating history week and the program reaches far and wide across the state involving many hours of volunteer time.

This edition of the Newsletter contains the Annual General Meeting reports from the President and Treasurer. The minutes were circulated at the May meeting and subsequently passed.

Congratulations go to the new office bearers and committee elected at the AGM. It is good to see that there are some younger members of the Society willing to take on its leadership. Congratulations Colin and Meredith. Those standing down have worked tirelessly and given of their time enthusiastically. John Clark and June Ward both stood for re-election and have been re-elected and Isabel has remained with the committee.

I sincerely thank all for the concern and support shown to me during these last few months as I have been dealing with my health problems. That support has been most encouraging and of great value to me. You have shown that you are a wonderful group of friends.

Don't forget, if you have any historical information relating to the Burnside area for the Newsletter, please contact me at elainesmyth@aol.com or on 8332 8019.

Elaine Smyth (Editor)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At the 28th Annual General Meeting of the Society held on 20 April 2009 we bade farewell to our President of the last five years Isabel Williams. Isabel has been a first class ambassador for the Society, bringing to the position of President outstanding qualities of graciousness, dignity and wisdom. She has also worked tirelessly, with levels of energy and commitment that I know I will find hard to match: the shoes she has left behind are indeed large! Whilst wishing her well with the increased leisure time she will now be able to enjoy, I am delighted that she has most generously agreed to remain as a Committee member for the next twelve months. Her continuing presence will provide valuable continuity and I know that I will be consulting with her regularly on many matters.

Also from the AGM, we are most fortunate in being able to welcome back to the Committee Meredith Ide. Meredith has taken the position of Vice President and brings to it a wealth of experience. A founding member of the Society, Meredith served on its Committee, and on the Newsletter Editorial Committee, for a number of years in the 1980s. She also served as a City of Burnside Councillor for some years: welcome back Meredith!

The only other Committee change saw Shirley Sumerling retire for family reasons. Shirley has been a most willing and effective worker and we will miss her. At the same time she has agreed to continue helping with distribution of the Newsletters and with the Program Committee – we are most grateful for this ongoing support.

I must mention also the many other members of the Society who so regularly help with the numerous tasks that are needed at our meetings, particularly Hazel Newton our supper co-ordinator, our audio technicians John Love and Brian Ward and the many members who come early to help with the set-up of chairs and tables.

There is every indication that the year to come will be a full and active one for the Society. We have a good programme of speakers and there is quite a high level of interaction with the City of Burnside on a number of projects. As reported elsewhere in this Newsletter, the Council and Society have worked co-operatively to install our most recent historical plaque, for the *Linden* Gate House on Greenhill Road. We are currently helping with the wording for a plaque to be installed where the Drew family crypt was re-discovered recently at 496 Portrush Road, St Georges and we are working closely with Council on the proposed re-opening of the highly significant Wheal Watkins Mine at Glen Osmond. Other interaction has included a submission on Webb Street Reserve, Rose Park, reported elsewhere in this Newsletter, and research for interpretative signage for the wooden gear wheel

from the old Finnissbrook Water Mill. The gear wheel is currently located in the foyer of the Burnside Community Centre near the entrance to the Atrium and is a rare and fascinating item from what was South Australia's very first water mill.

Next year, in June 2010, our Society will host the Eastern Districts Regional History Seminar and a planning committee, convened by our Secretary Sharan Northcott, has already commenced work in the lead-up to running that event.

Finally, I must thank our Editor, Elaine Smyth, for her indomitable spirit in continuing to bring out the Newsletters under quite some personal strain and difficulties. We all wish her well in the treatment she is undertaking after surgery earlier this year.

Colin Harris, PSM

UPPER SPENCER GULF REGIONAL TOUR DEFERRED

At the April 2009 Annual General Meeting of the Society it was announced that a three day regional tour to Upper Spencer Gulf was being planned for 11-13 September 2009.

Due to circumstances beyond the control of the Committee that tour is now to be deferred to 2010.

Timing for the tour will be advised as part of the overall programme for 2010, once developed.

I apologise for this unavoidable change.

Colin Harris

Welcome to our latest new member Miss Danielle Trewartha. Looking forward to meeting you at future meetings and hope you enjoy the interest in history and friendship we share.

Program 2009

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 8 pm on the third Monday of the month, unless an alternative time or venue is notified. Admission is free and a supper provided. Visitors are most welcome.

(Information regarding our talks is always posted at the Library.)

Monday 15 June, 8 pm

Charles Birks Ltd – the Story of a Department Store

Speaker: Graham Polglase

The business commenced in the mid 19th century as a family Department Store and became David Jones in 1954. The talk will outline the coming together of two great retail stores and Graham will show a collection of historical memorabilia from the Archives. A brief history of the David Jones Employees Welfare Trust (S.A. Stores), set up to share Napier Birk's wealth, will also be given. Now semi-retired, Graham Polglase worked with David Jones for 37 years.

Monday 20 July, 8 pm

William McMinn: architect of Marble Hill

Speaker: Dr Geoffrey Bishop

Dr Bishop will give a biographical sketch of the artist, surveyor and architect William McMinn (1844-1884). McMinn achieved a great deal in his relatively short life and, in his career as an architect, designed some of Adelaide's finest buildings. These included the Vice-Regal Summer Residence at Marble Hill, built in 1879-80. Another phase of his life was his time in the Northern Territory as a surveyor and that reads rather like a *Boy's Own Annual* story. Dr Bishop is a former President of the East Torrens Historical Society and well-known for his historical research and writing.

Monday 17 August, 8 pm

How to build a good home cheaply: a history of the South Australian Home Builders Club

Speaker: Dr Christine Garnaut

The South Australian Home Builders Club Inc operated between 1945 and 1965. A little know South Australian organisation, its members built about 400 houses in metropolitan Adelaide, making a critical contribution to the State's post World War 2 housing shortage. Club members were not skilled in design and building, but with the Club organised as a co-operative and run on collaborative lines members learnt on the job and taught each other. Dr Garnaut is a Senior Research Fellow and Director of the Architecture Museum in the School of Art, Architecture and Design at the University of South Australia. An historian, her research focuses on the planning, design history and heritage of planned twentieth century places.

Monday 21 September, 8 pm

Dame Roma Mitchell: The Un-tellable Tale

Speaker: Professor Susan Magarey AM FASSA

Professor Magarey will present several stories about formative moments in Dame Roma Mitchell's youth, some other stories of significant events during her career, and finally will offer a short piece of fiction that she wrote when no-one was willing to go on the record about Dame Roma's love-life. Adjunct-Professor Susan Magarey AM FASSA PhD, History Discipline, University of Adelaide, is co-author of *Roma the First: a Biography of Dame Roma Mitchell* (Wakefield Press) Adelaide, 2007, reprinted with revisions 2009.

Monday 19 October, 8 pm

Your Dunes, My Dunes.

Speaker: Richard House

On retirement our Treasurer Richard House took a sea change and moved to Victor Harbor. Having been a passionate gardener for many years he suddenly found a new interest and became heavily involved in coast and dune protection in his local area. Richard will tell us about some of the problems that have been

caused by human impact and interference since European settlement, and will show some of the remedial actions that need to be introduced. His talk will be heavily illustrated with pictures of infrastructure and vegetation.

Monday 16 November, 8 pm

A light hearted Show and Tell of historical and heritage items by members, and a celebration of Christmas.

Further details to be advised.

* *

SOCIETY EQUIPMENT – LOANS POLICY

Over the years the Society has acquired a number of items of equipment, mostly as aids for lecture presentations. Currently, the Society holds the following items:

- Data (digital) projector
- Laptop computer
- 35 mm slide projector
- Tape recorder
- Equipment stand

From time to time BHS members giving talks elsewhere have borrowed some of these items. Approval has generally been given readily, but taking into account the cost and complexity of items such as the data projector and computer the Society's Committee has decided that the process should be formalised by a borrowing policy.

Accordingly, the following policy has been ratified:

- A borrower must be a financial member of the BHS
- The equipment being borrowed must be for a talk on history or some related subject
- The borrower must be competent to operate the equipment
- The borrower must assume liability for any accidental loss, damage or theft
- The equipment must be returned by an agreed date.

The President, Secretary, Treasurer and custodian of the item being loaned are authorised to approve loans. Currently Committee member Mary Wilson is custodian of the most commonly used items and it is suggested that in the first instance any enquiries be directed to her (tel. 8379 5682).

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: AGM

Monday 20 April 2009

This is an AGM with a special difference as it will usher in a new era with a welcome change of leadership after five years. I am delighted by this as your incoming President will be Colin Harris who is a person of outstanding knowledge and personality. We will be privileged to welcome him after the completion of the elections.

This year, as usual, seems to have passed quickly. It would be great if one could look back over the years and feel that everything has turned out well. I cannot claim that honour and this is why your friendship and loyalty have meant so much to me. I thank you most sincerely for giving me the privilege of being your President.

Our speakers have covered a variety of subjects, all of which have been recorded in our newsletters by our members. We thank them for their comprehensive coverage as this is most important for members who are unable to attend meetings.

The Awards of Recognition presented by Christopher Pyne, Federal Member for Sturt, will be an annual event and they are an honour for the recipients.

I wish to pay tribute to the Newsletter Committee, especially Barbara Parker PSM and Elizabeth Rogers OAM, both of whom are Life Members of the Burnside Historical Society. Barbara has given 18 years, so far, with 7 of those as Editor and 11 years working on this committee, as well as being President for 6 years during this time.

Elizabeth has served for 15 years, so far, with 9 of those years as Editor and 6 on the committee, and she also accepted the position of President for 3 years within that time.

Elaine Smyth, a Foundation and Life Member, accepted the position of Editor 3 years ago after spending 11 years as Secretary, and Peter Davies, with 6 years to his credit, so far, plus 5 years as Vice President, present a strong team. All four members have been involved in organising weekend tours for you to enjoy and all have received the Award of Recognition.

This Newsletter is the best of any for its content and presentation and it is a superb showcase for the Burnside Historical Society. Congratulations to you all.

The Committee members, who are a dedicated group of people with a strong feeling of responsibility toward our Society, will be re-nominating for the coming year, with the exception of Shirley Sumerling. However she will continue to assist with the distribution of the Newsletter. We thank Shirley for her contribution.

I have written about the merits of your committee in previous Reports and these sentiments have not changed except to be enhanced as time goes by. I believe it is important that you know their impressive records.

Richard House: Joined BHS in 1980 as a Foundation Member. Richard is a Life Member and he received the Award of Recognition in 2008. Richard joined the Committee in 1983 as Secretary/Treasurer for 7 years, then served as President for 5 years to 1994 and since then he has maintained his role as Treasurer – in all 25 years so far. Add to this his research and presentation of the fascinating history of street and suburban names in albums which are held in the Local History Collection in the Burnside Library, as well as organising weekend tours and the historical tours of Burnside. An outstanding contribution indeed.

John Clark: Also a Foundation and Life Member and a recipient of the Award of Recognition. John has spent 28 years on the committee, serving 3 years as President and 11 years as Vice President. John's great interest is Wheal Watkins Mines and he not only led guided tours of the Mines but he also organised and trained teams of guides who conducted hundreds of visitors through the Mines over many years. John is working with the Burnside City Council to encourage them to expend their money, time and energy to upgrade the heritage Mines so that they can be reopened to the public once more. John has led historical walks, especially in Knightsbridge, which is Clark country.

John Love: A Foundation and Life Member and a recipient of the Award of Recognition in 2008. John was a member of the Inaugural Steering Committee in 1980 and he has given 15 years of staunch support on the Committee. He is currently recording the addresses of our speakers and has led historical walks in Rose Park.

Eleanor Trott: joined 1995. Eleanor has been working with the old Burnside Council minutes, compiling all references to the Burnside Parks and Gardens from the beginning. She has taken photographs of the 113 Parks and these are available for your viewing, beautifully presented in albums in the Local History Collection. Eleanor has reached 1946 in the minutes. A marathon effort!

Colin Harris: joined in 1995. Although Colin has been but 2 years on the Committee, he willingly accepted the role of Vice President. He has contributed

greatly with his extensive knowledge, not only of Burnside History but also in all manner of subjects. Colin, with Elaine Smyth, organised excellent weekend tours and historical walks with superb information for our enjoyment. We are delighted that he has accepted the nomination of President.

June Ward: joined 1999 and she received the Award of Recognition in 2009. June has served 9 years on the Committee with 3 of those, so far, as Minute Secretary – and an excellent one also. With her husband, Brian, they have organised a tour of the University and the excellent River Murray Meander with its wealth of information
.
Sharan Northcott: joined in 2000 and she immediately accepted the position as Secretary, which can be a demanding role. Sharan has excelled in this area as she is meticulous, conscientious and very supportive.

Mary Wilson: joined 2000. Mary has taken over the responsibility of publicity, plus researching material for the erection of our historical plaques. She is delving into the mysteries of the finer points of a more modern recording system for our meetings. Quite an undertaking!

Shirley Sumerling: joined in 2005, so she is a relative newcomer. However she has looked after the name tags as well as helping with the distribution of the Newsletters. We shall miss you Shirley.

I know that I can say special thanks to the Committee for <u>all</u> they have done from <u>all</u> of us.

Very special thanks are expressed to the deliverers of the Newsletter and to the willing supper helpers, led by Hazel Newton. Without this friendly interlude the meeting would lose some of its charm.

As I come to the end of this report I thank all of you once again and I bring you my last and favourite quote by Stephen Grillet (1773-1855)

> *I shall pass through this world but once – If therefore, there can be any kindness I can show, or any good thing that I can do, let me do it now. Let me not defer it, nor neglect it for I shall not pass this way again.*

Thank you.
Isabel Williams OAM J.P.
President

TREASURER'S REPORT: AGM

Monday 20 April 2009

I am glad to report a successful financial year making a surplus of $736. This has enabled us to transfer $457 to the General Accumulated Funds Reserve and $279 to the Council Grants Reserve.

This profit was achieved mainly from:

- the profit of $123 from conducting bus and walking tours,
- $427 from the Friends of the Arts Burnside which terminated during the year and distributed money in hand,
- other donations of $53,
- the Community Grant of $990 from the Burnside Council which went towards the cost of the Newsletter and projects.

None of those is a budgeted item so without that income we would have made a loss. There were also some unusual expenses incurred and the cost of them was taken from the General Accumulated Fund which is a reserve kept especially for these types of items. They were

- $616 for the cost of converting selected meeting tape recordings from tape to disc. Tapes as recording media are becoming outdated and this conversion is regarded as essential if the recordings are to have any validity in the future. It will be an ongoing expense as we have many tapes to be converted. However the conversion is only being done for those tapes that are regarded as having special significance for Burnside history.
- $293 which was donated for the cost of a new filing cabinet in the Historical Collection of the Burnside Library.
- $605 which was donated to the National Trust for a commemorative plaque at Beaumont House.

Membership fees are our main income and the membership is now 165 people. We seem to be going through a phase of decline in the headcount and this is the lowest head count since 1987 when it was 154.

Richard House

BURNSIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31st March 2009

2007/2008	Income	2008/2009
$1,766.00	Subs 2008/09 (Single)	$1,673.00
$836.00	Subs 2008/09 (Family)	$772.00
$0.00	Profit on mines tours	$0.00
$0.00	Profit on walking tours	$11.35
$0.00	Profit on bus tours	$112.00
($5.00)	Profit (Loss) on day tours (The Cedars outing)	$24.90
$656.68	Profit on weekend tour (Yorke Peninsular)	$0.00
$396.49	Bank interest on Cheque and Savings accounts	$0.00
$17.00	Sundry Sales - glasses, tapes etc	$5.00
$0.00	Donation from ex Friends of the Arts Burnside	$427.50
$303.07	Other donations	$53.00
$0.00	Transfer from Accumulated funds for expense items (below) marked *	$1,517.45
$800.00	Council Grant for Newsletter	$850.00
$0.00	Council Grant for Street Names project	$0.00
$150.00	Council Grant for Parks and Gardens project	$90.00
$0.00	Council Grant for Oral History project	$50.00
$0.00	Council Grant for Plaques Records update	$0.00
$4,920.24	**Total income**	**$5,586.20**
	Expenses	
$0.00	Project to copy tape recordings of meetings to discs (see * above)	$618.75
$145.87	Printing and Stationery	$257.23
$216.45	Telephone, postage and PO Box	$315.70
$540.00	Use of hall and other meeting expenses	$590.00
$170.67	Supper costs	$221.22
$220.00	Subscriptions to other societies and seminar fees	$180.00
$30.00	Cost associated with bus tours led	$0.00
$730.00	Insurance	$728.48
$770.88	Gifts and purchase of Burnside Historical Society glasses	$74.55
$155.92	Tapes and minor equipment (2nd hand computer)	$248.50
$0.00	Donation to library for purchase of filing cabinet (see * above)	$293.70
$250.00	Donation to N. Trust for plaque at Beaumont House (see * above)	$605.00
	Other donations	$50.00
$723.86	Newsletter expenses (printing $545.47, admin $159.30)	$704.77
$0.00	Street Names project	$0.00
$148.26	Parks and Gardens project	$5.95
$0.00	Oral History project	$0.00
$0.00	Plaques Record update project	$0.00
$370.00	Depreciation on equipment (projector,tape recorder, data projector)	$355.00
$4,471.91	**Total expenses**	**$5,248.85**
$448.33	**Surplus (Deficit) for the year**	$337.35
$370.45	Transfer to General Accumulated Funds	$58.07
$77.88	Transfer to Council Grant Reserve (Newsletter, and Parks & Gardens and Oral History project surplus)	$279.28
$448.33	**Total**	$337.35

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st March 2009

2007/2008			2008/2009
	General Accumulated funds		
$7,298.91	As at 1st April 2008		$7,669.36
$0.00	Transfer to Income and Expenditure for special costs marked *		($1,517.45)
$370.45	Surplus (Deficit) for the year		$58.07
$7,669.36	As at 31st March 2009		$6,209.98
	Mines Account Reserve		
$3,113.28	As at 1st April 2008		$3,113.28
$3,113.28	As at 31st March 2009		$3,113.28
	Council Grants Reserve		
$207.60	As at 1st April 2008		$285.48
$77.88	Surplus (Deficit) for the year		$279.28
$285.48	As at 31st March 2009		$564.76
	Being - Newsletter	$243.77	
	- Street Names project	$0.00	
	- Parks and Gardens project	$85.79	
	- Oral History project	$50.00	
	- Plaques Reprint project	$185.20	
$11,068.12	**TOTAL EQUITY**		**$9,888.02**
	Members equity is made up from		
	Current Assets		
$4,078.01	Cash in BSA cheque account at bank		$2,904.71
$6,260.11	Bank South Australia Express Saver Account (Internet only)		$6,641.61
$10,338.12	**Total** as at 31st March 2009		$9,546.32
	Non Current Assets		
$1,850.00	Equipment as at 31st March 2008		$1,480.00
($370.00)	Less depreciation @ 20%		($355.00)
$1,480.00	**Total** as at 31st March 2009		$1,125.00
$11,818.12		**Total Assets**	$10,671.32
	Current liabilities		
$525.00	Subs in advance for 2009/10 (Single)		$234.00
$225.00	Subs in advance for 2009/10 (Family)		$150.00
$750.00		**Total Liabilities**	$384.00
$11,068.12	**TOTAL NET ASSETS as at 31st March 2009**		**$10,287.32**

AUDITOR'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 31st March 2009, according to the books, records and information submitted to me.

Alan David Jones, Auditor, B.A., B.A.(Acc.), Grad.Dip.Acc., Dip.T.(Sec.)

John Banks Shepherdson – first school master, farmer and Special Magistrate

Monday 16 February 2009

Eric Spehr had a detailed knowledge of Shepherdson. Interestingly, only a couple of our Burnside Historical Society members had heard of John Banks Shepherdson (1809-97). Amazingly, he was an important and early migrant to South Australia who left a strong and long paper trail of his early history. In 1835 there were advertisements published in England for work in the new Colony of South Australia. In 1836 John joined the British and Foreign School Society and, after training, was given permission to travel to South Australia as the first school master. He was offered £100 a year for two years, with his salary eventually increasing to £250 a year. So, aged 27, John arrived in South Australia when the colony was only nine months old.

The school was opened on 28 May, 1838. There is a cairn erected opposite Trinity Church, east of Morphett Street Bridge, to commemorate the school and John Banks Sheperdson.

When John and his wife, Marianne (nee Craike) and four children sailed to South Australia, William Randall and his family were on the same boat. They all landed at Holdfast Bay and had a very long walk to the city where North Terrace was just a rutted track. The family moved into a tent at £10 a week. As John had not been provided with a return fare by the South Australian Company, he went from teaching to farming at Mt. Barker (beside the now Howard Vineyard). These were very difficult times for John and his family. Finally, he was offered the position as Clerk of the Court in Mt. Barker where he moved with his family, becoming Postmaster, Returning Officer and Clerk. John's wife died of a brain haemorrhage aged 54 after bearing eleven children and he later married Sarah Kellaway Green.

In 1858 John published his first book on Colonial Law titled *Practice of Local Courts.* Copper was discovered in 1861 on *Wallaroo* station, and because of subsequent lawlessness in the copper triangle John was made a Justice of the Peace/Magistrate and sent to Wallaroo with two troopers. In 1866 a Court House was built and an Anglican Church also. John had 40 years in the Public Service of South Australia, and at the age of 78 on applying to retire he was granted eight months leave with full pay.

Sharan Northcott

Teaching in the 1950s and 60s

Monday 16 March 2009

True to his word, Burnside Historical Society member, Glen Woodward whetted the appetite of a large gathering with snippets of the 22 stories contained in his recently published book, *Teachers Stories. Before they're gone…*

For a country student in his youth, teaching provided a chance to get to the city and to receive an education: Glen chose the path of the junior teacher which took him, at the age of 17, to such places as Alford, Yundi, Bute and White Hut and eventually to Japan and travel all over the world, while his colleagues enjoyed or endured placements as diverse as Cowell, Ungarra, Tarlee, Westbourne Park, Quorn, Uraidla, Peake, Mt Compass and Olary, although each appointment was meant to be not far from their homes.

These young people, raised on 'mock duck, mock turkey and mock chicken' and the collection of 'bones, bottles and batteries' for patriotic funds, received varying measures of support from the teaching staff at the school of their appointment, one of them being summed up in the words: 'Here are the books; there are the kids – go and teach them.' In many cases their methodology was based on the memory of the best teachers they had encountered in their own school days.

As the basis of his talk, Glen read statements from many of the people who contributed their experiences to his book. They provided a rare insight into the conditions provided for teachers in those post-World War 2 days, the frustration of not being met on arrival, often after hours of uncomfortable travel, and the inevitable diet of 'leathery mutton, potatoes and (when available) swedes.'

His talk provided a wonderful evocation of the hopes, frustrations, triumphs and despair of a generation of young people, currently celebrating the 60th anniversary of their long journey.

Question/comment time elicited a number of warm memories of one teacher schools in country areas, but also the heart-felt reminiscences of one of the book's 'stories', former Principal of Burnside Primary School and a past speaker to our Society, Rex Hosking, who recounted his harrowing experiences at the rural community of Olary.

Peter Davies

The Diplomatic Gardener
Richard Schomburgk: explorer and Botanic Gardens Director

Monday 20th April

Richard Schomburgk was the third son of a Lutheran pastor. He was born on October 5th 1811 in Freyburg, Saxony. He received some of his education at the Freyburg Primary School with additional lessons from his father and a private tutor. At the age of fourteen he began an apprenticeship as a gardener in Merseburg. The apprenticeship usually lasted 3½ years and was then followed by three years of travel either to different parts of the country or in other countries.

Dr Pauline Payne gave an interesting Power Point presentation on the life of this man, her great grandfather, who became the second Director of the Adelaide Botanic Garden. Pauline was named after her great grandmother and, as a child was not at all pleased with the name as it was not as fashionable as the names of her friends, but in later years, after researching the lives of her forebears, she is now proud to carry the name. Pauline's PhD thesis was based on this research, published recently as a book *The Diplomatic Gardener.*

Robert Schomburgk, Richard's older brother, had been involved in mapping in British Guiana and was to embark on another expedition in 1840. Richard was to join the expedition and was commissioned by the Prussian Government to make collections for the Royal Prussian Museum and the Botanical Gardens in Berlin. The expedition lasted 4 years and was very arduous, with Richard suffering a severe bout of yellow fever. He returned from the expedition in 1884 with an impressive collection of plants, even after the loss of many, which had been very difficult to preserve due to climatic conditions. Physically he was in bad shape with problems with his feet. It was on this expedition that he first saw the lily *Victoria amazonica.*

In 1849, after civil unrest in Europe, he migrated to South Australia with his new bride, Pauline, meteorological instruments and a collection of plants. He established a farm in the Gawler area and the couple produced a son and five daughters. When the job of Director of the Adelaide Botanical Garden became vacant he applied and got the job. One of the benefits that came with the position was a house on the grounds which, with his large family of girls, was a real asset. His background of being a gardener and having to work for and with clients fitted him well for dealing with the local bureaucracies and he was able to achieve a great deal. The Gardens became the best in Australia at the time and were used as a recreation centre for the local population. Much if his work involved experimenting with new species of cereal crops, exchanging plants with other gardens throughout the world and convincing the State government that any money spent would have benefits for the State. He had the glass Lily House built for the Victoria Lily. He raised money to have the Museum of Economic Botany built and planted Botanic Park. He believed that the Gardens should be used and be beautiful in all seasons and many annuals were planted. This practise was not common at the time as it involved a lot of labour, but Schomburgk believed that it was necessary to maintain the Garden's appeal. Vandalism was a problem and he lost more plants from this than from drought. He died in his 80th year, while still in office, leaving a wonderful legacy to his adopted country.

Mary Wilson

ANNUAL SUBS ARE NOW DUE for 2009/2010

If you haven't already paid please pay at our monthly meeting or send your money to

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

Single subscription	$20
Family subscription	$30

Member request:

Edna Bayfield has suggested that we could have an "**I remember….**" Section in the Newsletter. If members have thoughts that are two or three sentences long about events of the past in Burnside please give the Editor a telephone call and she will record them for inclusion in future Newsletters.

WEBB STREET RESERVE, ROSE PARK

Earlier this year the City of Burnside advised that it was considering a proposal to re-name Webb Street Reserve, Rose Park to Jean Wickham Reserve. At its March 2009 meeting the BHS Committee considered the proposal and resolved to advise the City of Burnside that it believed the current name of Webb Street Reserve was appropriate and should be retained.

In taking this position the Committee acknowledged the commendable civic and community service undertaken by Jean Wickham over many years, but argued that the Reserve was already named appropriately, commemorating as it does Mr Geoffrey Webb, Director of the South Australian Company at the time the Company sold for subdivision the land that is now Rose Park.

Subsequently, the Committee was pleased to be advised by the City of Burnside that Council had resolved not to change the name of the Reserve and would, instead, find some other way of acknowledging Jean Wickham's work.

The position taken by the BHS Committee reflected an earlier submission (August 2008) that it had put to the City of Burnside on the self same matter of Reserve naming policy. It had asked whether Council had a reserve naming policy, noting that whilst past councillors and aldermen were well represented in reserve names there was a distinct under-representation of Indigenous place names and early European settlers of the Burnside district.

In response the Council advised that it did not have a policy, but – commendably – it immediately set about developing one and by December 2008 it was able to forward to the BHS a copy of a comprehensive *Naming of Public Roads and Reserves Policy*. Generally speaking, the BHS Committee considers the policy to be very good and Council's decision to retain the name Webb Street Reserve is consistent with the principles outlined in it.

If anyone is interested in the detail the Society holds a copy. Council has also advised that it will work on a new approach to interpretative signage for reserves and historic sites throughout Burnside and the Society looks forward to an opportunity to contribute to that policy.

We particularly commend Simon Bradley, Manager Open Space and Recreation with the City of Burnside, for his effective and professional response to our representations.

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 2009-2010

President:	Colin Harris, PSM	(8331 3571)
Responsible Officer:	Isabel Williams, OAM, JP	(8379 4090)
Vice-President:	Meredith Ide	(8365 3049)
Secretary:	Sharan Northcott	(8332 1761)
Treasurer:	Richard House	
Committee:	John Clark, John Love, Eleanor Trott, June Ward, Isabel Williams OAM, JP 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: are now $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 interior of the Museum of Economic Botany (c. 1881).
Photograph from *Adelaide Botanic Garden Past and Present.* Board of the Botanic Gardens Adelaide, 1988. Page 41.

Documenting and promoting the economic value of plants was seen to be an important role of Botanic Gardens in the in 19th century and establishment of the Museum of Economic Botany was one of the crowning achievements of Richard Schomburgk in his long reign as Director of the Adelaide Botanic Garden. Constructed in Greek revival style in 1880-81 at a cost of £2900, the interior of the Museum was maintained almost unchanged for over a century. The Museum is currently undergoing intensive renovations and will re-open shortly.

Payne, P. *The Diplomatic Gardener. Richard Schomburgk: Explorer and Botanic Garden Director.* Jeffcott Press. 2007

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.

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