Burnside Historical Society Inc.

NEWSLETTER - March 2010

Volume 30, No. 1

Grave of Alexander Cock

From the Editor's Desk

Welcome back and I wish you all a happy 2010!

Details of forthcoming events are included in this *Newsletter*. Further information about activities still in the planning stages will appear in future newsletters.

Monday 19 April will be our AGM. This is the time for you to select your office bearers and Committee for the next year. A nomination form is enclosed in this *Newsletter*: copy it if you need more forms. If you would like to participate on the Committee or take a more active roll in the Society, please complete a form, cut it out and send it to our Secretary, Sharan Northcott. There are six Committee members: each year three positions fall vacant and any financial member is eligible for nomination. Talk to a Committee member if you want more information. Please note the earlier starting time for this meeting, **7.45 pm**, so that the business of the AGM will not impinge unduly on the guest speaker's address.

The Newsletter Committee would like to thank members for their contributions about the City of Burnside. We will be publishing more in later newsletters. If you have any historical information relating to the Burnside area, please let us know, it would be greatly appreciated. Even old photographs of the area can be copied. Or I can come and talk to you about your memories of the area. If you can help, please contact me at elainesmyth@aol.com or on 8332 8019.

Elaine Smyth (Editor)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With the festive season behind us it is time to start thinking about the forthcoming year. As I foreshadowed in our last *Newsletter*, 2010 is going to be particularly busy and the Committee of the Society looks forward to as many of you as possible becoming involved in the wide range of activities and events that are planned for the year.

The full programme for the year is included elsewhere in this *Newsletter* and I commend it to you. The monthly meetings look as interesting as ever with lively speakers addressing topics as diverse as the fate of the clipper ship *City of Adelaide*, the role of the Trak Cinema and the life and times of the mercurial South Australian geologist Reg Sprigg. Interspersed with the monthly meetings we have the Eastern Regional History Seminar in mid June, our 30th Anniversary celebrations and the regional tour, on this occasion, to Upper Spencer Gulf in September.

There is a lot of work involved in putting together such a wide range of activities and as we get closer to the major events we will advise of various tasks where the Committee will be looking for some help. None will be especially onerous but, as the old adage goes, many hands make light work …..

In the meantime, our year has already started, with the traditional outdoor meeting of January being held in Hazelwood Park. We chose a location on the western side of the Park close to the former location of the Clark family home *Hazelwood* and in near perfect evening conditions around fifty of our members and friends heard long standing BHS member John Clark talk about the Clark family. Andrew Crompton from the City of Burnside followed with a description of how the area would have looked at the time of European settlement. With our February meeting looking at the highly topical matter of the fate of the clipper ship, *City of Adelaide*, the Society is off to a good start.

At the same time, we must not let our short term successes blind us to the long term future of the Society. Its continuing popularity and interest throughout the community not withstanding, history has been in the doldrums for some years. In secondary schools it has, like geography, been pushed to one side by the subject *Society and Environment* and there is a groundswell of opinion that this has not been entirely for the better. One of our speakers will address this matter later in the year, but at our own level we need to reflect on the ageing profile of our membership and the fact that our total numbers have been declining steadily for quite some years. As I mentioned in my previous Message to members, it is

notoriously difficult these days to involve younger people in community organisations, but if the Society is to continue into the future we will need to address this – successfully.

Many of our members who knew Alan Cross will have been saddened to hear of his death at the age of 87 earlier this year. His active mind belied his years for almost to the end he was a regular attendee at meetings and in earlier years an active Committee member. Elsewhere in this *Newsletter* Richard House pays tribute to Alan and his contribution to the Society. On behalf of all members I have send the Society's condolences to Alan's wife Betty (also a Society member) and their family.

I look forward to working with all of you to ensure that 2010 is a productive and stimulating year for our Society.

Colin Harris, PSM

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BHS Regional Tour

UPPER SPENCER GULF

Pt Pirie, Pt Augusta and Whyalla

Friday 10- Sunday 12 September, 2010

Members will recall that the Society's 2009 regional tour to the Upper Spencer Gulf had to be deferred to 2010. It will now be run at the same time of the year as planned originally and the route and activities will be essentially the same.

Friday 10 September

Leave Burnside Community Centre by chartered coach 8 am
Morning tea at Pt Wakefield

Crystal Brook late morning: tour of town heritage sites and *Bowman Park.*
Catered lunch at Crystal Brook

Afternoon, travel to Pt Pirie for town tours and visits: the maritime and industrial heritage, the town history and heritage sites.

Overnight at Pt Pirie

Saturday 11 September

Leave Pt Pirie and visit nearby regional sites of interest including Nelshaby, Napperby, Telowie and Pt Germein. View John McConnell Black's 1880s farming land – the Burnside connection.

Lunch at Pt Augusta

Afternoon at Whyalla looking at the town's industrial history and current economic base. Tour of old Whyalla heritage precinct and adjacent Hummock Hill. Visit to *Whyalla Conservation Park* to look at some of the biodiversity of the region.

Overnight at Pt Augusta

Sunday 12 September

Morning in and around Pt Augusta: tour of maritime and pastoral heritage 9-10 am;

Wadlata Outback Interpretative Centre 10-11 am, tour and morning tea; Arid Lands Botanic Garden 11-12.00 followed by lunch.

Afternoon, return to Adelaide by the scenic inland route of Wirrabara, Gladstone and Clare.

Return to Community Centre 5.30 pm

The tour will be led by our President Colin Harris. Colin has organised and led the recent Murray Mallee and Yorke Peninsula tours for the Society and this tour will be organised along similar lines. It will have a strong historical and geographical focus and an emphasis on getting off the normal beaten track.

Please fill in the accompanying expression of interest if you are interested. The deposit will be refunded if we do not reach the numbers needed to make to make the tour financially viable.

PROGRAM 2010

Monday 15 March, 8 pm
The Magic Lantern – Glass Images from the Past
Speaker: Ron Potts

Photographs from the past represent a tantalising window into the society of their times and our speaker for this meeting, Ron Potts, will use a 1906 magic lantern projector to take us through a series of old glass plate images of scenes from around South Australia.

The projector came into the possession of Ron's father – a keen photographer – in 1946. Ron has maintained his father's interest in photography and through a number of conversions over time the projector has been maintained in working order. Originally powered by acetylene, it now runs on 240 volts mains power.

Ron is part of the wine-making Potts family of Langhorne Creek, but he spent most of his career in banking, rising to the position of Manager for a number of Bank of Adelaide branches, including Karoonda in the Murray Mallee and Cleve on Eyre Peninsula. He now lives with his wife Lorraine in retirement at Hahndorf in the Adelaide Hills.

Monday 19 April, 7.45 pm – AGM (note early start)
Solo Travels in the Outback – with a Glance at some Explorers
Valmai Hankel

Valmai is well known throughout South Australia as a speaker, wine writer and bibliophile. For much of her long career with the State Library of South Australia she was in charge of rare books and although retired since 2001 she remains an authority in the field. In 1996 she was awarded the Public Service Medal for her long and distinguished work with rare books.

Appropriately enough for such a dedicated bibliophile, Valmai has been recently elected the first woman President of the Friends of the State Library of South Australia. Valmai was also a Councillor of the Royal Geographical Society of South Australia for over thirty years and a Vice President of that organisation.

In her spare time she breeds part-Arabian ponies at her country property on the rain shadow flats east of the Mt Lofty Ranges and each year undertakes a long solo trip throughout the Outback in her Land Cruiser. The outback trips give her an opportunity to pay homage to the epic journeys of many of the early European explorers, the theme of her talk for this meeting.

Monday 17 May, 8 pm
Seymour College – a History
Margaret MacDonald

Seymour College, as the former Presbyterian Girls College is now known, began its life as a school in the early 1920s, with the purchase in 1921 of the prestigious eastern suburbs property *Wootton Lea*. The grand home had been constructed in 1860-61 and with its extensive grounds it became a prominent venue for high society gatherings. Amongst its owners were FH Faulding and GS Fowler, well known Adelaide names in the manufacturing and retailing trades.

Margaret Macdonald is College Archivist at Seymour and has had a long association with the College as a former student, Old Collegian and parent of students. Amongst other things, she is a member of the Australian Society of Archivists, the Federation of Australian Historical Societies and the History Council of South Australia.

Margaret's talk will introduce us to the founding of the Presbyterian Girls College/Seymour and its grounds and historic buildings.

Members planning to attend this year's Eastern Regional History Seminar on 19 June should note that Seymour College will be one of the options for the afternoon tours.

Monday 21 June, 8 pm
The Trak – Burnside's art-house Cinema
Michael Schneider

Burnside's much loved Trak Cinema started in a former hairdressing salon and opened to the public on Boxing Day 1975. It exhibited low budget commercial films and had eight managers in two years until it was discovered by Barry Loane while holidaying in Adelaide. Loane took up the lease and over a period of time was able to expand, eventually taking over the entire first floor of the Toorak Village Arcade and opening a second screen in 1995 (a third was opened in 2008).

Michael Schneider, now co-owner with friend and business partner Michael Todd, started at the Trak in 1991, working as a casual for Loane before moving to Germany and working there for two years. On returning to Adelaide he continued working at the Trak while studying a business degree and in 2003 he and Michael Todd (formerly of the Capri) purchased the business from Loane.

As a pioneering art-house cinema the Trak was once the only place to see European and non-Hollywood productions, but with the rise of the Nova and the Palace the audience demographics have changed. Michael will talk about trends in the film industry and share with us his great passion for the Trak and the industry that drives it.

Monday 19 July, 8 pm
Burnside's Parks and Reserves
Simon Bradley and Eleanor Trott

Monday 16 August, 8 pm
Tom Kruse and Reg Sprigg – Legends of the Outback
Kristin Weidenbach

Monday 20 September, 8 pm
Swimming in the River Torrens
Michael Talbot

Monday 18 October, 8 pm
A National History Curriculum – Attainable Goal or Pie in the Sky?
Paul Foley

Monday 15 November, 8 pm
Mound Springs and the Burnside Connections
Simon Lewis

Special Events

Saturday 19 June, 9 am to 4 pm
Eastern Regional History Seminar, hosted by Burnside Historical Society
Burnside Community Centre

Saturday 14 August, 30th
Anniversary of Burnside Historical Society

Vale Alan Cross

Members of the Burnside Historical Society will be saddened to hear of the recent death of Alan Cross.

Alan and Betty Cross joined the Burnside Historical Society in 1982 shortly after the foundation of the Society two years earlier. They had already been long time residents of Burnside and have only recently moved from their home in Wattle Park to Tanunda. They have been amongst the most consistent and faithful members, attending meetings and other functions. They have also been on many of the day and weekend outings.

Alan served for nine years on the Committee – four years from 1983 to 1987 and a second term for five years from 1994 to 1999. During that time he played an active and constructive role, especially in relation to identifying topics and organising the monthly meetings. At the *Members Night* in 1992 when we had a 50th Anniversary meeting of the war against Japan with reminiscences and personal experiences of members, he gave us a story of his wartime journey from Adelaide to Darwin when the RAAF posted him to serve as a radar operator in the Northern Territory. Alan also made editorial contributions to the newsletter with meeting reports and in 1995 he took on the onerous task of organising the only 'overseas' weekend trip that we have done – namely to Kangaroo Island, which included the need for a preparatory visit to the island.

Even after the move to Tanunda Alan managed to get to the meetings and his gentlemanly personality will be sadly missed.

Richard House

SUBS RENEWALS FOR 2010

All subscriptions fall due on **1 April this year**: the amount will be set at the AGM.

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the **29th Annual General Meeting** of the **Burnside Historical Society Inc.** will be held in the **Burnside Community Centre** on **Monday 19 April 2010,** at **7.45 pm**. *(Please note the earlier commencing time of* **7.45 pm for our AGM** *so that the talk which follows may begin around 8 pm in the usual way.)*

A G E N D A

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 20/4/2009
4. President's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Determination of Subscription Fees for 2010-11
7. Election of the Committee for 2010-11
8. Election of the Auditor for 2010-11
9. Any other business
10. Close of meeting

The current Committee (elected at the previous AGM) consists of:

President	* Colin Harris PSM
Vice-President	* Meredith Ide
Secretary	* Sharan Northcott
Treasurer	* Richard House
Other Members:	John Clark
	* John Love
	Isabel Williams
	* Eleanor Trott
	June Ward
	* Mary Wilson

In accordance with Paragraph 8.1 of the Society's Constitution, the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer are due to retire, but are eligible for re-election. The members whose names are marked * (above) are those whose term expires at the 2010 AGM, but they are also eligible for re-election.

BURNSIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

NOMINATION FORM

The following member is nominated to serve on the Committee:

Nominee ……

Address …….

Telephone …….

Committee position ……....

For the term of office between …….. and ……
(e.g. between 2010 and 2011)
* See below

_____

I agree to accept nomination for the above position:

Signature of nominee ……

Proposed by ……...

Seconded by ……...

***** *Each year the following are elected for a one-year term: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer*

** Three Committee Members are elected each alternate year for a two-year term.*

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Eastern Regional Seminar
10th Anniversary

Local History - A Sense of Place

19TH JUNE 2010

proudly hosted by the
Burnside Historical Society Inc.

Burnside Community Centre
401 Greenhill Road, Tusmore

Keynote Speaker

Richard House
The Bits of Burnside – Some aspects of Burnside's early history

Afternoon Tours

Seymour College, formerly *Wootton Lea*, buildings and grounds

St Peters Collegiate Girls' School, *Chiverton,* buildings, grounds and museum

Natural heritage conservation, important biodiversity sites in the Burnside Council area

Support your Society in the organisation and conduct of this event.

Complete and send in the registration form in the accompanying flyer.

Seminar costs, including lunch, morning and afternoon tea,
and the afternoon visit is $30

History through objects: a show and tell

16 November 2009

Twelve members participated in the opportunity to display and talk briefly about artifacts in their possession. Some had connections with Burnside's early history.

Richard House had an original copy of ***The Times*** (of London), dated 28 December 1836, the actual date on which South Australia was proclaimed. The print was very small (we are getting back to that now!) He transcribed several items.

Marjorie Barham Black showed 8 diaries of Ellen Barham Black around 1880, whose family bought land in Wattle Park and built *Bell Yett* in 1879.

Sharan Northcott had toys from 60 years ago (still working) and another copy of ***The Times,*** 1939.

John Clark had 9 items of silverware made by his great grandfather when he was a silversmith in Birmingham in the 1820s-30s.

Margaret Beare showed the Journal of Thomas Hudson Beare – (27/7/1836), a very early settler on Kangaroo Island. She also had a book written about John Bull, on the development of the reaper.

Edna Bayfield had items from her early childhood in the 1920s to hold her doll's tea set.

Margaret Preiss showed a damask tablecloth with Agnes Hay of *Linden* woven into it.

John Love had a small glass jar with a (hall-marked) silver lid containing tiny glass balls and a dropper – used for smelling salts!

Pam Whittle had two century old collar boxes; a woven rug and a pillow case with a crocheted lace edge.

Irma Steele had a beautiful wooden work box which still contained original threads and cottons.

Sally Hopkins' (Bagot) family arrived in Adelaide in 1840. She told of their history in Ireland and the Goat's head in their family crest, and handed around a damask napkin with the crest woven into it.

June Ward had her grandmother's children's books from her childhood in Wales.

The evening concluded with the opportunity for members to browse through the items discussed and to enjoy a Christmas fare supper.

Barbara Parker, PSM

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.

MAGILL CEMETERY

Local cemeteries are always of interest to historians, containing as they do the graves of many individuals and families closely associated with the early days of European settlement, and Magill Cemetery is no exception. Fronting Jackson Street just north of Norwood Morialta High School, the Cemetery contains headstones and memorials that commemorate many of the names that are closely linked with the early history of Magill, including the Crompton's, Bennett's and Gillard's.

The village of *Makgill*, or *Magill* as it quickly became known, was established by Wm Fergusson and Robert Cock after they received a Land Grant for Section 285 in the Hundred of Adelaide in 1838. As such it was a privately established village, as distinct from the large number of Government towns that were to be later surveyed and established throughout the State. Robert Cock's brother, Alexander Cock, purchased part of Section 285 which he later subdivided and it is likely that Alexander's family set aside Allotment 43 and part Allotment 44 of that subdivision as a cemetery at the time of his death in 1872. The south eastern portion of the Cemetery was walled in for the use of the Cock family and remains so to the present day.

In 1878 Alexander's widow Mary and her son Alexander donated the Cemetery land to the Magill Wesleyan Church to be managed by trustees of the Church. A new title was created for the Cemetery in 1944 with ten trustees and after a further revision of trustees in 1958 the property was transferred to the Corporation of the

City of Burnside in 1974. The Cemetery is now full, except for those with leases, several thousand burials having taken place since its establishment over a century ago. There are nearly 900 leased plots, 24 of which lie within the walled Cock family enclosure. Many of those buried in the Cemetery were local residents, primarily artisans and Magill Methodist Church members. The nearby cemetery adjoining St George's Anglican Church at Woodforde was favoured by the more well-to-do families of the district.

That said, and as noted above, many of those buried in the Magill Cemetery made a significant contribution to the early European development of the district:

- the *Bennett* family name is well known for its continuing production of high quality terra cotta garden and building products

- the *Gillard* name is linked with the early development of viticulture at Norwood and Clarendon and Joseph Gillard took over from Mary Penfold the management of the vineyard and winery at Magill, later to be celebrated as the Grange Vineyard

- the *Crompton* family was closely associated with the Stonyfell Winery and nearby olive plantations and the company Crompton & Sons was also involved in distilling, importing and exporting, and soap manufacture (the *Bunyip* brand)

Because of its somewhat obscure location, the Magill Cemetery is not well known within the City of Burnside, but for anyone interested in the district's history it is well worth a visit – make sure you allow plenty of time.

Acknowledgement: This article has been adapted by *Colin Harris* from a more detailed report prepared for the City of Burnside in mid 2009 by *Andrew Peake*. Andrew is a member of the Burnside Historical Society and well known as an authority in genealogy and family history. We are grateful to Andrew for generously allowing us to publish this summary of his work.

History Week 21 – 28 May

See further details and bookings at the Council for bus and walking tours to be led by Society members

Did you know:

- Until Burnside was proclaimed a municipality in 1935, it did not have a Mayor, but instead a "Chairman" of the District Council. Dr Christopher Penfold was the first Chairman of the District Council of Burnside.

- The first clerk of the Burnside District Council in 1856, Thomas Barnes, was paid £10 every 3 months.

- Elected in 1975, Margaret Bond was Burnside's first female Mayor.

CHELSEA CINEMA

We have heard much about the Chelsea Cinema in the last couple of years. It is one of a number of buildings in the City of Burnside listed on the State Heritage Register.

The cinema was built at 275 Kensington Road in 1925 and is a brick building that has been built directly against the Kensington Road footpath. The structure has a solid, white, art deco facade and a cantilevered verandah.

It was built at a time when enthusiasm for the new medium of moving film was immense and distribution houses erected grandiose palaces of entertainment which were filled to overflowing.

The building's striking architectural style is the result of extensive remodelling in 1941. It is an outstanding example of its type and represents very well the heyday of one of the most significant technological and social developments of the twentieth century. The building was most recently renovated and restored in 1987.

The Save the Chelsea Group is actively campaigning to have it retained as a community asset and, as a fall-back, is attempting to raise the funds to purchase it if the Council proceeds with a sale. The Cinema's listing on the State Heritage Register means that any changes to it must respect the character and features responsible for its listing and the advice of the State Heritage Branch of the Department for Environment and Heritage must be sought and taken into account.

Reference: Marsden, A and Dallwitz, J 1987: Burnside Heritage Survey, Part 2

Chelsea Cinema, 2010

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 grave of Alexander Cock, Magill Cemetery. Alexander Cock was a brother of Robert Cock, one of the co-founders of the original village of *Makgill,* now Magill. Alexander had purchased part of Robert's subdivision and it is likely that Alexander's family set aside part of that as a cemetery when Alexander died in 1872. In the south east corner there is a stone walled section where Alexander's grave is located, along with members of his family. The Magill Cemetery has been under the control of the City of Burnside since 1974.

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

A member's personal information collected by the Society, for example name, address and telephone number, will only be used for forwarding of the Newsletter and relevant information concerning the Society. The information will not be shared, sold or given to any third party without the member's consent.

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.