Burnside Historical Society Inc.

NEWSLETTER
March 2017

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From my Desk

Welcome to the first issue of the Society's Newsletter for 2017. In this issue we remember the life of Edna Bayfield and recognise members David Mattingley and Wendy McGuffog who have recently been honoured with awards.

Congratulations also go to Ross Both and Meredith Ide (right), who received Honorary Life Memberships of the Burnside Historical Society on 21 November 2016.

The deadline for the June 2017 issue is **Friday 16 April**. Contributions should be sent to jlbrown@internode.on.net.

Judy Brown (Newsletter compiler)

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Front Cover: David Mattingley receives his Legion of Honour award from the French Ambassador to Australia

Membership fees are $45 family and $30 single, due in April each year. Subscriptions may be sent to the Treasurer at the Society's address, paid at a monthly meeting or by a direct bank transfer.

The Society gratefully acknowledges annual grant funding from the City of Burnside to help support the production of this *Newsletter*.

President's Message

Looking through Burnside Historical Society Newsletters from the early 1980s we can see the progress made by the Society's Committee and its various subcommittees with other volunteer members assisting in planning, preparing and presenting activities. The membership was younger and there was commitment to join the committees.

The current Committee met on 16 January 2017 to discuss the future of the Society, with Amy Ide facilitating the process. The Society's priorities were examined and, to a certain extent, alternative ways to best manage activities to reduce the workload of future committees. Firstly we looked at the Society's five objectives and agreed that they were still relevant. We examined four activity groups – Administration, Communications/Publicity, Events and Projects and assessed which were working well and which needed improvement. Then Committee members individually allocated their highest priorities on the activities list sheets using a maximum of 15 coloured dots.

Four activities were seen as most important. These relate to the structure for managing the Society and communicating with members.
NB The Committee is a requirement of the Constitution so was not included in the voting process.

1. Meetings with guest speakers.

Meetings don't just happen. It takes time to locate, contact and cater for the needs of each speaker. We have already announced there will be no January meeting.

2. Subcommittees – see p.19 of Newsletter

3. Newsletter – more input of articles from members is encouraged to reflect opinions of our Society.

4. Website – I recently received a positive comment about www.burnsidehistory.org.au from another historical group wanting advice to develop their website. Our web developer is very popular!

The Committee decided we can't continue with all activities so some will be discontinued or put on hold until we get more member participation. These include day trips and the regional tour (due 2018).

If you or a group of members are interested in joining the Committee or organising an excursion, please speak to one of the current Committee members. A May day trip could be to a place of interest listed in the History SA Festival booklet/website if it is booked in plenty of time - from early April.

Constitution: There might be changes to the Constitution - for instance if there is a reduction in the number of Committee members. Planned changes will be announced in the newsletter.

In summary: The Committee is suggesting a reduction in and prioritisation of the number of activities so the Society can stay viable, effective and remain true to its long-held objectives. Committee members believe that the Society can still operate with fewer activities but are concerned at the current level of human resources especially the number of active members.

Active support is required to maintain what we have. Every offer of help no matter how small benefits the Society and its members. Have you met someone new in your area who you could invite to meetings? Burnside Historical Society can offer them knowledge of local history and a friendly atmosphere. They might become members and participate in activities.

At a Committee meeting there will be a discussion about surveying members for their opinions on the Society's activities and what is important to them. The survey will be conducted at a meeting and emailed to other members.

Meredith Ide
President

LINK INTO HISTORY

View fascinating historical photographs relating to the City of Burnside on the website of the State Library of South Australia at

collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/collection/Burnside+Collection

Vale Edna Bayfield

29/1/1925 - 1/12/2016

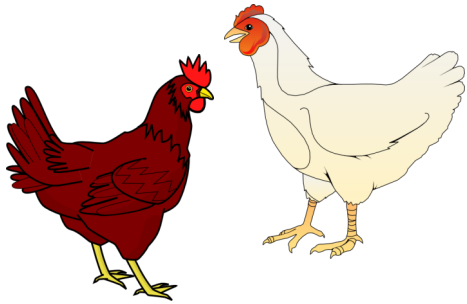
Edna Bayfield was a familiar attendee at our meetings despite failing eyesight. For many years she helped her husband Ted to set up audio taping to record meetings. She always enjoyed day trips and regional tours.

Edna was on the BHS Committee 1984-86 (with Ted) and contributed to the recorded history of the Burnside Council area by delivering short talks, with others, on aspects of local and State history. These included reminiscences about her youth in Kensington Park (November 1988), and a talk about her pioneer ancestors dating to 1836. With other members, including husband Ted, Edna participated in the Members Night (1992) titled *50th Anniversary: remembering the war against Japan with Reminiscences and Personal Experiences.* Edna's personal reminiscences were included in four of the 2008 editions of this Newsletter and her memories were captured on tape by Elaine Smyth.

Edna's funeral service was a celebration of her life. She loved poultry from an early age and her two hens were in attendance at the service! Edna's interest in history was emphasised and as late as last year she gave me some suggestions for the BHS program. She was always interested in life and fiercely independent.

Meredith Ide

Edna Bayfield



Program of Meetings

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

Monday 20 March 7.30 pm – Daniela Rose

Italian Migration to South Australia

Numerically, Italians are the largest group from a non-English speaking background in South Australia. Over 20 000 are first-generation settlers and around 90 000 South Australians are of Italian descent. The Italian language is the most common language spoken at home after English. This presentation will give an overview of the history of Italian settlement in South Australia in the context of Italian migration in the 19th and 20th centuries. It will consider the Italians' reasons for migrating to South Australia, their settlement patterns and the influence they had on Australian society.

Dr Daniela Rose is Senior Lecturer and Coordinator of the Italian Section in the Department of Languages and Applied Linguistics at Flinders University. Her primary areas of research are the history of Italian migration to South Australia and ageing in a foreign land. Her best-known publication, with Professor Desmond O'Connor, is *Caulonia in the Heart*. She has also published numerous scholarly articles nationally and internationally.

Monday 17 April - Sharan Northcott

The Inverell Kurrajongs of World War 1

On 12 January 1916 114 men left Inverell in northern New South Wales to fight in World War 1. The group was christened the *Kurrajongs* after the hardy native tree of that name common throughout the district. The local newspaper of the time referred to the event as 'probably the proudest day in Inverell's history', but many of the *Kurrajongs* made the ultimate sacrifice.

Sharan Northcott was born and raised in Inverell. Her parents always participated in the ANZAC day march and the family as a whole was steeped in the tradition. In January 2016 Sharan and her family returned to Inverell for a centenary re-creation and remembrance of the Inverell recruits who had proudly left the town under the banner of the *Inverell Kurrajongs*.

Monday 15 May - Christo Reid

The Extraordinary Life of Sir Sidney Kidman

Two films and a collection of photographs will celebrate the life of legendary outback cattleman Sir Sidney Kidman. The first film, *A Wild Birthday Party*, records a 1932 rodeo held for Sir Sidney Kidman's 75th birthday. Over 50,000 people attended, but not everything went to plan. The second film, *Murracurra*, documents a road trip with Sir Sidney Kidman, Mr Sidney Reid and Adelaide journalist Maurie Fisher, who wrote under the pen name 'Murracurra', in June 1928. Travelling by train to Broken Hill they embarked on a five week, 2160 mile motor trip though outback Australia to inspect Kidman properties in a year of extreme drought and hardship.

The films were the work of Christo Reid's grandfather, Sidney Reid, who had joined Kidman's business after marrying Kidman's middle daughter Elma in 1911. Reid went on to manage the vast Kidman enterprise until 1935 and his son Reg – Christo's father – also worked in the business until his early death at 56. Christo is the author of two contrasting books, *Cactus: Surfing Journals from Solitude* and *Kidman: the Extraordinary Life of Sir Sidney Kidman*.

Monday 19 June

David Rogers – *Cobar and Western NSW: South Australia's connection*

Monday 17 July

David Buob – *Glenside Hospital: then and now*

Monday 21 August

Jenny Stock – *'A Woman's Voice': the parliamentary careers of Joyce Steele and Jessie Cooper*

Monday 18 September

Professor Kay Whitehead – *Mrs Hübbe has been 'teaching on and off ever since 1874, but it is a pleasure to me almost always'*

Monday 16 October

Judy Fander – *From Teetulpa to the Tanami: around South Australia's goldfields 1882-1911 with Warden Lionel C E Gee SM*

Monday 20 November

To be advised

David Mattingley awarded Legion of Honour

David Mattingley DFC, (current member and former Committee member of the BHS), was made Chevalier (Knight) in the Legion of Honour in 2016 and received the award from the French Ambassador to Australia in a special ceremony in the Queen Adelaide Room at the Adelaide Town Hall on 30 September. The award was made for David's service in the liberation of France in World War 2 when he, a Lancaster pilot in RAF Bomber Command, flew 23 sorties over occupied Europe.

On David's 23rd sortie, over the Ruhr, Germany's industrial heartland, his plane was shot up three times and severely damaged. David himself was severely wounded, with a fractured skull, severed tendons in his right hand and an injured right shoulder and right knee. Yet he managed to bring his precious plane and crew back to base in Lincolnshire without his crew realising the extent of their skipper's injuries. He received an immediate award of the Distinguished Flying Cross for gallantry and spent many months in hospital attended by the King's surgeon.

When war broke out in Iraq and young Australians were sent there to fight, David, realising the nightmares they would live with if they were lucky enough to survive, agreed to his wife Christobel writing his story. *Battle Order 204: A Bomber Pilot's Story* (Allen & Unwin, 2007) went into reprint before publication and is now in its 6th printing. It was launched at Prince Alfred College, where David taught history for 32 years, and in Lincoln Cathedral, a welcome landmark for weary crews returning from ops. All royalties go to the Cathedral and help pay for upkeep of the Airmen's Chapel.

Christobel Mattingley AM

Wendy McGuffog

Community Volunteer of the Year

BHS member Wendy McGuffog was awarded the City of Burnside's Community Volunteer of the Year Award at the 2017 Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremony. Other Society members were there to see her receive this award. Wendy developed skills in listening and supporting others while a social worker at Elizabeth. She visits people in the local community and writes to a female prisoner. She has been a member of women's groups and for over forty years has attended conferences worldwide highlighting the importance of education to improve women's chances in life.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 36th Annual General Meeting of the Burnside Historical Society Inc. will be held in the Burnside Community Centre on Monday 17th April 2017, at 7.30 pm.

A G E N D A

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 18/04/16 (ratified at 16/05/2016 general meeting)
4. President's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Determination of Subscription Fees for 2017 -18
7. Election of the Committee for 2017 -18
8. Election of the Auditor for 2017 -18
9. Any other business
10. Close of Business

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

President	* Meredith Ide JP
Vice-President	VACANT
Secretary	VACANT
Treasurer	* Richard House OAM

Other Members (six):

Anne Both
* Judy Fander
* Ally Preiss
* Geraldine Treloar OAM
Geoffrey Treloar
Dave Monceaux

Note: since the 2015 AGM there has been no Vice President or Secretary.

In accordance with Paragraph 8.1 of the Society's Constitution, all of those marked with an asterisk * above – the President, Treasurer and three other Committee Members – must retire, but are eligible for re-election.

Regarding Committee Members - Judy Fander, Ally Preiss and Geraldine Treloar will not be seeking re-election.

We would welcome two more committee members. Please talk to any of those listed if you have an interest in joining the Committee.

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 2017 and 2018)

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.*

TUSMORE PARK GATES

The wheels of government can grind slowly at times and a notable example involving our own City of Burnside has surfaced recently.

On 11 June 2008 Mr Ron Layton of Crafers wrote to the Burnside Historical Society about some incorrect historical information on the plaque attached to one of the Tusmore Gate columns at Tusmore Park. Many of our members will be aware that in 1970 the City of Burnside relocated the gate columns from their original position at the Tusmore Gate Shops on Greenhill Road to the southern entrance of nearby Tusmore Park on Stirling Street.

Ron's letter was addressed to the Burnside Historical Society, but he did not have the Society's post office box number and instead addressed his letter to the Society c/- the Burnside 'Civic Centre'. The letter was scanned on its receipt at the Community Centre, but neither the original nor any copy was sent to our Society. It appears the correspondence was filed in the Burnside Library and it was not until late 2016 that the letter was rediscovered and a copy sent to our Society.

Our Society's indefatigable President then set about tracking down Ron Layton and – perhaps surprisingly in view of the passage of time – managed to make contact with him. In an understanding and good-humoured vein, Ron has summarised for our Newsletter the content of his 2008 letter (below). His summary sets the historical record straight and the Society will take up with the City of Burnside the need for a replacement plaque.

The Society thanks Ron for his interest and his patient understanding and we can only hope that correcting the record will take considerably less time than it took for his original correspondence to reach us.

More recent history has shown that there is often a need to re-write some aspects from a previous period for all sorts of reasons. One of the problems is that history writing is very much the product of the writer, particularly around what is seen as important and what is not. This can often lead to mistakes.

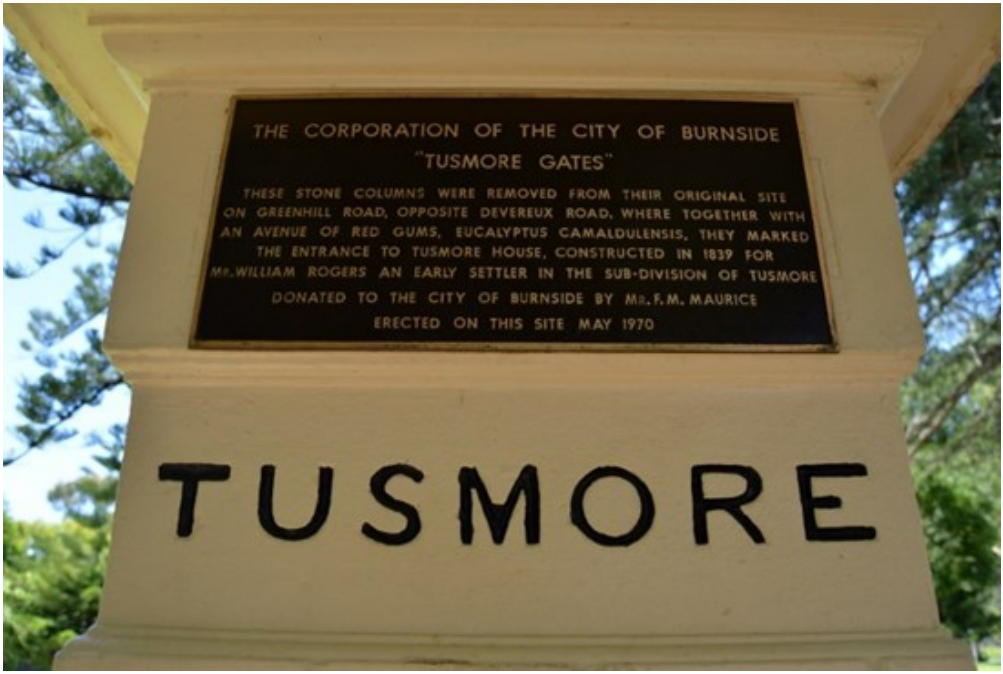
One such revelation picked up some years ago has been the plaque on the old Tusmore Gates, now located in Tusmore Park off Stirling Street. Amongst other things it states that they were removed from the "…entrance to Tusmore House, [c]onstructed in 1839 for Mr William Rogers…". This was the Tusmore House that was originally located at the bend in the road in what is now Tusmore Avenue (a BHS and City of Burnside plaque marks this site, Eds.).

Where the story goes wrong is that Mr Rogers never lived in this Tusmore House nor did he have any relationship to the property. There were two houses of such name, and he only lived in the one that was located in what is now Stirling Street. He died there in 1854, seven years before his widow, Ann Rogers, bought the second property from one Frederick Howard, farmer and contractor, in May 1861.

How do I know this? Frederick Howard was my great-great grandfather and Land Titles and copies of other records are in family possession. He arrived in SA before 1846 and initially lived on the Edgeton estate, which is now Kensington Gardens. A short while later he built two houses on several acres in Kensington, before purchasing the above property which is roughly bordered today by Northumberland Street, Tusmore; Hazelwood Avenue, Hazelwood Park; Greenhill Road, and, just south of Knightsbridge Road.

Howard and his extended family owned many properties in what became the Burnside Council area as well as nearby. Although well incorporated into the histories of neighbouring regions, they barely rate a mention in the 'The Paddocks Beneath', despite together owning well in excess of several hundred acres. This can be put down to many reasons including difficulties in tracking down the details. Perhaps not of much concern, unlike the wrong details on a public plaque!

Ron Layton



Because of a misunderstanding over dates the speaker for the Society's August 2016 meeting did not arrive. At very short notice, Society stalwart John Love gave a short address on archives. It was very well received, no doubt a reflection of the fact that for many years John was in charge of archival records in the State Library of South Australia. The following is a summary of John's talk.

ARCHIVES

From Babylon to Burnside

Aids to memory Like most inventions, the art of writing arose out of necessity. Aids to memory became necessary when the amount of information that had to be kept in a community became more than could be carried accurately in people's brain boxes. If those aids consisted of marks on wood or stone, it is easy to imagine how the marks became pictures of things, then more stylised pictures representing ideas, and then symbols representing the sounds of words. That process has happened in different parts of the world, independently at different times, most notably for us, in the valleys of the Nile and the Tigris/Euphrates rivers about 5,000 years ago.

Technology In the Mesopotamian lands, the most readily available material was mud. The use of clay tablets became very widespread, even as far west as Greece. Some have been found in rooms specially built for their storage. These formed the community's extended memory and their custodians were in effect archivists. In one place archaeologists have found a room with channels in the floor. It is thought that water flowed through the channels, maintaining a high level of humidity so the clay did not dry out before it could be used – ancient air conditioning.

The Egyptians made a form of paper with the pith of the papyrus reed, abundant in the Nile swamps. Egyptian hieroglyphics are beautiful to see but laborious to write, so a simplified form was devised for common use, and from this the alphabet evolved about three thousand years ago. Scholars are agreed that this development has happened only once, and all other alphabets are descended from that form of Egyptian writing. The Egyptians had an elaborate bureaucracy to govern the country, particularly the Nile Delta, the most productive part. When the river came down in spate each year, the flood waters spread silt over the whole area, maintaining its fertility but obliterating land marks. So it was necessary to record who owned what land – lands titles registration long before the Torrens system.

Historians Between the two super powers, Egypt and whoever was dominant in the east, were some insignificant little kingdoms that became the corridor and battle ground of world trade and politics. Two of these were Israel and Judah, whose Hebrew culture has had an influence on the world far beyond its numerical strength.

Modern archives In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries the keeping of archives developed as a profession in its own right and principles were formulated for the management of archives on a rapidly increasing scale. The invention of digital records is having a major impact and archivists are now involved in coping with the huge quantity of records that are 'born digital'. The technology is changing but the basic principles are still valid.

Burnside South Australia was the first state in Australia to appoint a full-time archivist. G.C. Henderson, Professor of History in the University of Adelaide, was ahead of his time in encouraging his students to write on South Australian topics and he saw a need to retain original source material. Accordingly, G.H. Pitt was appointed in 1919 as State Archivist. South Australia was the first state to enact legislation controlling the disposal of public records, in 1925. Closer to home, the Burnside Historical Society has audio-recorded the talks accompanying its monthly meetings. Those directly relevant to the Burnside area are preserved on DVDs which the Society gives to the Burnside Library, forming a valuable resource on local history. In return, the Library has made space available for the storage of the Society's archives. The recordings and the archives are available for use in the Library.

Why? Sometimes we hear regrettable stories of how Aunty Mavis burnt all Grandpa's old rubbish but the really surprising thing is how much has survived. Why? We all keep things: for practical purposes establishing civic rights and property ownership, as good business practice, for sentimental reasons reminding us of people, places and good times. Such reasons are generally not clearly formulated in our minds but they meet a basic need of a sense of continuity with the past. This is one of the things that distinguish humans from other animal species.

I sometimes pause to think that we archivists belong to a fellowship that goes back five thousand years. Those men busy with their clay tablets and papyrus rolls were serving basically the same function as archivists today: as custodians of the community's extended memory; facilitating public administration, business, religion, recreation, etc; preserving the records of the past so historians can reinterpret them for their own times; and meeting to some extent that basic human need of a sense of continuity with the past.

John Love

FINNISSBROOK WATERMILL
A United Kingdom Connection

Burnside Historical Society members will be aware that in recent years the Society has invested substantially in the creation and on-going maintenance of a website (www.burnsidehistory.org.au).

The global reach of this website through internet technology has been nicely demonstrated recently with an enquiry about Burnside's old Finnissbrook Watermill coming in from the United Kingdom. Chris Page, an active member of the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology, used the contact form on our Society's website to advise that he had recently completed a research paper on a steam flour mill in Lincoln UK that had been built by one Edward Howitt, a miller and baker who emigrated to South Australia with his family in 1851-2. In 1853 Howitt took out a lease on the Finnissbrook Watermill that had been built in 1840 on the banks of First (Waterfall Gully) Creek near the intersection of present day Waterfall Terrace and Glynburn Road. Erratic creek flows and the movement of grain growing away from the Burnside district ensured that his venture would fail and by 1856 he was bankrupt.

Interestingly, he later recovered from this financial setback (which had mirrored his lack of success in Lincoln) and established a successful store and bakery on High Street Kensington, later taken over by his son Charles.

In contacting our Society Chris Page was hoping that we could check the Australian content of his research paper and, happily, we were able to oblige. In 2008 James Potter – a retired maths and science teacher – had carried out an important piece of original research on the Finnissbrook Mill and lodged a copy of his work with the Burnside Library (*Section 269: Burnside's Industrial Heartland*). James was scheduled to address the Society on this work, but in the end he deferred to the Society's (then) Vice President Colin Harris and Colin summarised James' research in a History Week lecture on 20 May 2013 (*Down by the Creek: Burnside's First Industrial Zone*, see BHS Newsletter pp. 14-15 vol. 33 no. 3).

Utilizing the Potter research, and his own knowledge of the Finnissbrook Watermill, Colin was able to go through the Page research paper and provide a number of corrections and comments. The Page research paper itself is a very careful and good piece of research and we will look to publish some relevant extracts from it in a future Society Newsletter.

Interestingly, in the course of email correspondence with Chris about his paper he was able to provide some very interesting insights into why the gear wheels and cogs of watermills were still made out of wood well into the 19th century.

This is a question often pondered by visitors who gaze at the massive wooden gear wheel on display in the foyer of the Burnside Community Centre – the only know remaining relict of the Finnissbrook Watermill. We will also include that information in a future edition of the Society's Newsletter.

All in all, this was a nice co-operative effort between historical researchers on opposite sides of the globe, illustrating in the process the power of the World Wide Web and the importance of the Society's Website.

Gear wheels in situ on the banks of First Creek, circa late 1940s

(photo from James Potter Report)

SUBS RENEWALS FOR 2017/2018

All subscriptions fall due on **1 April each year**: Subscriptions may be paid at our monthly meetings, by direct bank transfer, or posted to the Treasurer, Richard House, at the Society's address indicated on the inside back cover.

Subscription Payments by Direct Bank Transfer

Bank Name	**BankSA**	Account Name	**Burnside Historical Society**
BSB	**105 086**	Account No	**330298840**
Your Name	Ensure that this field shows **your name** clearly		
Amount	$30 for a single member or $40 for a family		
Message/Reference	Please also enter **your name** in this field		

Please **never** pay your subscription as an over the counter deposit.

The Society welcomes donations made by members. These extra contributions to our funds will be put to good use in our ongoing projects to record the history of the City of Burnside.

Burnside Historical Society Inc.

PO Box 152 Glenside SA 5065

OBJECTIVES - The objectives of the Society shall be:

- To arouse interest in and to promote the study and discussion of Australian and South Australian history and, in particular, the history of the City of Burnside
- To promote the collection, recording, preservation and classification of works, source material and artefacts of all kinds relating to Burnside History
- To co-operate with similar societies and other bodies throughout Australia
- To do all such other things as are conducive or incidental to the attainment of any of the above objectives.

OFFICE-BEARERS FOR 2016-17

President: Meredith Ide JP 0439 478 352
Vice-President: Vacant
Public Officer: Meredith Ide JP 0439 478 352
Secretary: Vacant
Treasurer: Richard House OAM 0403 774 596
Committee: Anne Both, Judy Fander, Ally Preiss, Geoff Treloar, Geraldine Treloar, Dave Monceaux

Newsletter Subcommittee

Judy Brown (compiler), Colin Harris PSM and Elizabeth Rogers OAM (Joint Editors)

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

Distribution Organiser Liz Silz 8364 0855

Program Subcommittee: Meredith Ide (Chair), Ally Preiss, Anne Both

Plaques Subcommittee: Meredith Ide (Chair), Colin Harris PSM, Ken Lawson

Mines Subcommittee: Dr Ross Both (Chair), Meredith Ide, David Monceaux

Publicity: Meredith Ide

Recorders: Ross Both, David Monceaux

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