Burnside Historical Society Inc.

NEWSLETTER
December 2017

Volume 37, No 4

Website: www.burnsidehistory.org.au

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From my Desk

Welcome to the December 2017 issue of the Society's Newsletter. We hope you enjoy the articles in this issue. Thank you to all who have contributed to the Newsletter this year and especially to Elizabeth Rogers and Colin Harris, the Newsletter's Co-editors.

The deadline for the March issue is **Friday 19 January**. Contributions should be sent to jlbrown@internode.on.net.

Judy Brown (Newsletter compiler)

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message	3
Program of meetings and events	5
Can you help?	6
Unveiling of the Malt Factory plaque	7
A visit to SunBEEm Honey	8
Dr Alexander Stewart Paterson - Colonial Surgeon	12
Meeting report - The well-travelled Warden Lionel C E Gee	14
The Burnside Ballroom	16
Link into history	17

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

Thanks to Ally Preiss for volunteering to organise an exceptional guide, Gill Symon, for the walk around parts of the Adelaide Botanic Garden on Wednesday 13 September. A handful of members and friends arrived for the walk despite the forecast inclement weather. They were impressed by Gill's knowledge about Dr Richard Schomburgk, the second Director, who had a great influence on the development of the Garden, both in design of the Garden and in selection of the trees and plants grown. The predicted rain and hail stayed away. The Friends of the Botanical Gardens have various guided tours for which you can book. I would encourage you to book now that the weather seems to be improving. Details about Dr Schomburgk's life and the Adelaide, Mt Lofty and Wittunga Botanic Gardens, Blackwood, can be accessed via the internet.

On the matter of visits to places and excursions: these events don't just happen. Ally offered to plan the latest visit. It takes time and effort and needs to be organised in advance so the visit can be publicised in a newsletter and at meetings. When something is planned it is disappointing if only half a dozen members arrive on the day. If you have an idea for an excursion/visit we would welcome your involvement in planning and publicising it. Why not work with a small group of members? Please remember to tell a Committee member and talk about the possible details because any Burnside Historical Society event has to be discussed by the Committee.

We do have possibilities for visits later in 2018. The really exciting news is that Colin Harris is willing to conduct another of our popular biennial regional tours to a destination yet to be announced. Please support this trip because, as you would realise, there is a lot of planning involved even for a two day and one night tour. To be viable cost-wise for all participants, there needs to be commitment from members. Friends are also welcome but to be covered by public liability insurance for the trip they have to join the Society. It is a cheaper option than taking out separate insurance and covers them for other events during the year.

The Quiz was fun and a wonderful way to conclude our annual program. Bob Stace, experienced in conducting quizzes about South Australia, added the history of the District and City of Burnside to his portfolio. Thanks to Bob, the Committee and other members for their strong support of this event and for inviting family and friends. We enjoyed meeting newcomers and would welcome any as new members. Please encourage them to join.

Your Committee and I wish you a relaxed and happy time through December and January until we meet to commence the 2018 Program in February. The diverse group of speakers and their varied topics are included in this issue. The Program Subcommittee hopes you find them stimulating.

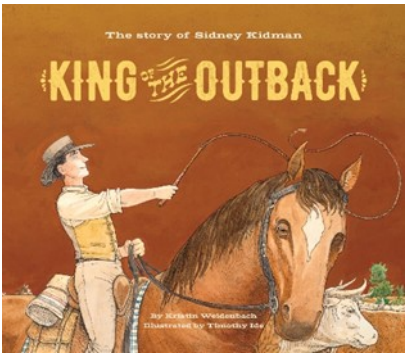
I thank every member who has supported the Society by coming to meetings and helping on the night and others who continue as members, enjoying the newsletters when they can no longer attend. Many members help the smooth running of the Society and I regularly thank them at meetings. Please thank them personally.

Finally – some advance notice. At the Annual General Meeting next April, after eight years as President, I will not be renominating in that position, but will stand for one more year as a Committee member.

Meredith Ide, President

Enjoying the Botanic Garden visit (from l-r) Liz Silz, Meredith Ide, Ally Preiss, Gill Symon (guide) and Wendy McGuffog

Christmas Gift Idea



At our May 2017 meeting we were fortunate to hear Kristin Weidenbach read her children's book *The Story of Sidney Kidman, King of the Outback.* You can purchase a copy of this book from general bookstores or direct from Midnight Sun Publishing.

Program of Meetings and Events

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.

January – no meeting

Monday 19 February 2018 7.30 pm – Pamela Rajkowski OAM

How the Afghan cameleers helped establish Australia, 1860s-1930s

In the course of this lecture Pamela will address a number of key questions about camels in Australia, including the fundamental one of why Australia needed the animals. She will also look at who took the risks in importing them, how they were managed and what their contribution was to the transport and the opening up of key communication lines in the Australian Outback.

Pamela has carried out research on camels in Australia since 1980 and has produced three books on the subject, whilst pursuing simultaneously her career in secondary school teaching. She has been a consultant on the topic to university researchers, the SA Museum and Australian documentary film makers. Pamela has organised a number of community outback events and in recognition of her work she was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in 2009.

Monday 19 March 7.30 pm – Dr Pauline Payne

Alfred Traeger, inventor and pedal wireless man.

The remarkable Alfred Traeger, ‘electronic tinkerer’ and inventor, working with the Rev. John Flynn, changed the lives of isolated-Outback people by developing the pedal-powered wireless and a Morse keyboard. These transceivers aided social contact, the work of the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the School of the Air. Traeger’s early workshop was in Kensington Gardens followed by a larger one in Marryatville.

Dr Pauline Payne is a graduate of Oxford University and the University of Adelaide where she is a Visiting Research Fellow in the History Department. She is a historical consultant and President of the History of Science, Ideas and Technology Group (SA). Her publication topics include garden history and agricultural development, settlement history and the history of caravans and electric cars.

Monday 16 April - AGM

Amy Feldman - *Hands on History: Bringing the Centenary of Armistice Day to Life.*

Monday 21 May - SA History Festival

Professor Philip Payton - *The Cornish in South Australia*

Monday 18 June

Rod Shearing – *Horrocks: a man of substance*

Monday 16 July

Legh Davis – *Renewal of Her Majesty's Theatre*

Monday 20 August

Kelvin Trimper - *History of Roses*

Monday 17 September

Chris Durrant - *Early bridges of Adelaide and their stories: never a bridge too far*

Monday 15 October

Frances Bedford - *Muriel Matters*

Monday 19 November

Joint event at Beaumont House with the Burnside Branch of the National Trust

Can you help?

Jenny Stock is still interested in anecdotes re politicians Joyce Steele and Jessie Cooper. Please email them to: jenny.stock@adelaide.edu.au.

Professor Kay Whitehead would be pleased to receive information about early education (both public and private) in South Australia. She can be contacted at kay.whitehead@flinders.edu.au.

If you have any information about the history of the City of Burnside that can be added to the Local History Collection at the Burnside Library, please send to Ken Lewig at klewig@burnside.sa.gov.au.

Unveiling of the Malt Factory plaque

Thirty people gathered on Saturday 19 August 2017 for the unveiling of the Tusmore Malt Factory plaque on Tusmore Avenue. They were welcomed by the President of the Burnside Historical Society, who said it was pleasing to see Peter Cooper's immediate family joined by the Cooper's Brewery branch to recognise John Cooper's business endeavours, which Peter later started up again, repaired, improved and sadly had to close down.

The President explained that the current event, through a collaborative relationship between Council and Burnside Historical Society (BHS), happened through the perseverance of Colin Harris from BHS and the cooperation of Council's Mario Catalano. Colin prepared the wording for the plaque, while Mario organised its casting. Committee member Anne Both interviewed Peter as part of the Society's Oral History Project (she also interviewed Jo Cooper). Anne encouraged Peter to provide the history of the Malt Factory business he had written, covering the period 1921 to 1965. He agreed and Anne adapted it into two instalments, titled: *Malt Extraction: a sticky business,* featured in the June and September 2016 BHS Newsletters. The plaque was featured on the cover of our Society's June Newsletter.

Mayor David Parkin acknowledged the attendance of Councillors Peter Cornish, Anne Monceaux, Graham Bills and Di Wilkins. He summarised the history of the Malt Factory, which is little known to City of Burnside residents. Following the unveiling he read out the information on the plaque. In conclusion Mayor Parkin praised the Society for recording various places and people of local importance, reinforcing the long-standing partnership Council continues to have with our Society.

The President thanked Peter, both as a member of the Burnside Historical Society and for sharing the story about the Tusmore Malt Factory, indeed a unique business. People walking past the plaque will be able to read and learn about the business so it will become more widely known and recognised by the City of Burnside community. Indeed, a woman living nearby has seen quite a number of people already stopping to read the plaque. Peter said that he was walking down Tusmore Avenue recently when a man, well-informed from the plaque, started telling him (Peter) about it!

The Tusmore Malt Factory Plaque is situated on the verge outside 83-85 Tusmore Avenue, Tusmore.

Meredith Ide

A visit to SunBEEm Honey

In 1940 my mother, Jean Robinson, was in Leaving Honours at Presbyterian Girls College at Glen Osmond. As part of Leaving Honours Geography she was required to submit an original project. Her project was a geographical study of the Glen Osmond district, which at that time was still largely rural. Candidate number 7209 submitted 'a very fine piece of work … highly creditable.' Her study covered a number of local industries – Sunberry Laboratory (producers of SunBEEm honey and other products), Woodley Wines, Davenport's Olive Oil and Highfield Dairy. This article is what she wrote about Sunberry Laboratory.

We visited this laboratory on 18th April 1940. At that particular time, these buildings were being used for the manufacturing of honey. Eighty years ago the block was used by a blacksmith and a coach-builder for their important work. The Sunberry Laboratory is situated on the left-hand side of the Glen Osmond road when coming from the city. The buildings consist of the main laboratory, a brick store-house and several galvanised iron sheds. The laboratory, situated on one of the main highways of Adelaide, is in a good and convenient position for communication and transport.

Sunberry Laboratory 1940

Our best honey is obtained from the Mallee and Eucalypt trees. There are 380 different eucalypts in Australia and, of course, the grade of honey obtained from each varies and some are considered better than others. A secondary honey is obtained from Banksias, Tea-tree, and Wireweed. The lower grade honeys are darker in colour and may possess an unpleasant smell. In South Australia, most of the honey is obtained from the West Coast and the South East with a higher grade honey coming from the Lower North around Wirrabara. The higher grade of honey has generally a lower food value than does the secondary honeys. The lower grades are of higher mineral value. Honey contains an invert sugar, similar to grape sugar.

Sunberry Laboratory at present is buying all the raw honey it uses but there is one hive on the premises for experimental purposes. We saw the queen bee of this hive. She is a little longer in the body and is covered with different stripes to the other bees. On the hive slides we could view eggs, young brood, sealed cells and fresh honey.

When the honey arrives at the laboratory it is washed, allowed to settle and is then forced through a four-inch paper pulp filter into a still. This is heated by steam and the liquid inside during our visit was boiling at 130°F in a 26 inch vacuum. Another vacuum adjoining the still is used to draw off the oil and any unpleasant odours. The operators of factories are fined for adulterated goods thus during the distillation of the honey tests are taken to obtain the right density of the product. Experiments made in the laboratory do not always prove successful when applied in the commercial workroom.

The boiler from which the steam is obtained to heat the still is kept at 1500°F by the burning of coke. This is a more economical fuel than wood as it produces more heat and there is very little refuse. The purified honey is taken from the still to an overhead tank from which the tins are filled. The Union Can Co. tins each contain 60 ozs of honey, the only variation permitted is 4 ozs. Therefore, very accurate scales are needed. A sample of every batch has to be sent to the Export Department where it is tested and if found to be pure, a certificate for export is issued. The tins are packed in fibrous cartons obtained from Paper Products in Melbourne. The cartons arriving at the factory are flat and girls are employed to make up the cartons. Generally for overseas export two cartons are placed inside a wooden box. These boxes, or cases, are made by Stacey & Jarrett of Norwood.

As the business is only relatively new, it has no lorries of its own. The carriers that are used have the name ‘Nestlés’ on them. It appears that the carriers place the names of different firms on their lorries if that firm gives them a sufficiently large contract.

On the day of our visit, Sunberry Laboratory was sending a load of 30 tons for export overseas. Since the outbreak of war, firms are given a very short notice as to when a shipment of their products can be arranged. Shipment charges and insurance are paid at this end but are refunded when the ship docks at its destination. Honey is being sent to London, Glasgow and Liverpool but prior to the war quite a large amount was sold interstate. The main reason for this change is the shortage of sugar in England and the increased demand for honey. There has been a subsequent rise in the price of honey. Before the war, cordials and not honey were being produced by this firm. The chemist left when he enlisted and there was a change over from SunBERRY to SunBEEm goods.

Lemon juice and oil

During our visit (on 13th June 1940) lemons were arriving from the Torrens Valley and the Marion district. To save on cases, they are brought in old wheat bags. The lemons used vary in size and quality and it is advantageous to the growers to sell surplus fruit to this firm. The fresh market will only take good quality and sized fruit and, in many instances, lemons are left on the tree to rot due to their inferior quality. The growers receive a lower price for the surplus fruit.

On this particular day, there were six girls working at Sunberry Laboratory. They are paid according to Trade Regulations, doing a certain number of bags each day. They make their own timetable. The girls are provided with rubber gloves and high boots to protect them from the juice and water. The lemons are put through a machine which cuts them into two pieces. The girls then stand facing a small rotating block onto which they push the half lemon. The juice is thus squeezed out and runs down an aluminium trough into a small aluminium tank. From this container the pure lemon juice runs down into a wooden tank while the pips enter a bucket on the other side. The juice is pumped into a vat where a preservative – SO_2 – is added and mixed in by machinery.

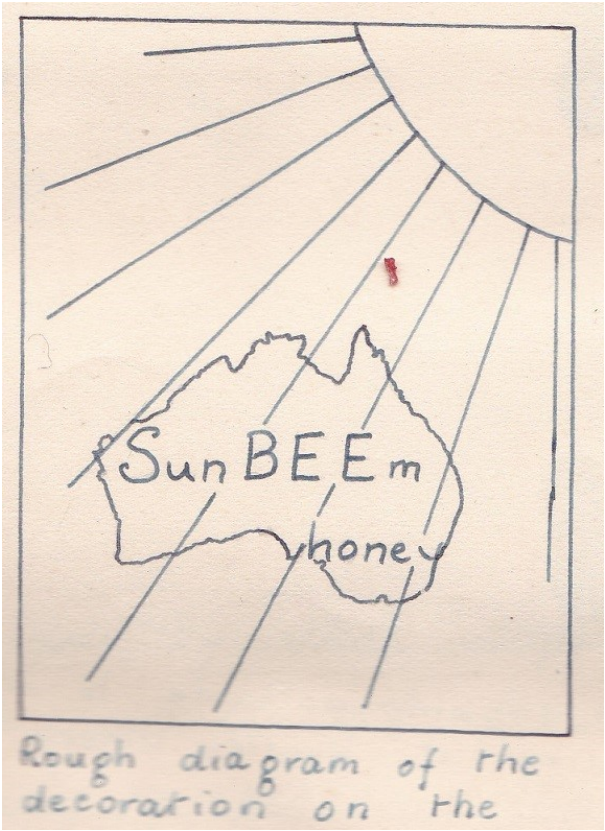
The juice is then ready to leave the factory. W. Woodroofe & Co. at Norwood takes all of the lemon juice that Sunberry Laboratory produces to use in the making of their Lemon Squash and Lemonade. Woodroofes collect the barrels of lemon juice from the factory. The rinds are put through a pulper or mincer. Distilled water is added to the mixture which is drawn up into an overhead still and heated to boiling at 96°F. The oil and water vaporise and come over to the receiver in a condensed form. The residue of the skins is left in the still until this is emptied at the end of the process. Some of this material along with the pips is bought by gardeners as a fertiliser or used for the extraction of pectin. After this, the residue is carted away and dumped.

After sitting for 24 hours the oil is floating on top in the receiver and can be skimmed off and filtered. Certain chemicals are added to absorb any moisture (water) present and then the pure, clean oil can be drained off. Different types of lemons give differently coloured oils. The oil is sent to the Commonwealth Customs Department where it is examined for its purity after which it is sealed to guarantee that it is pure lemon oil produced in Australia. It is sold as ‘Australian Oil of Lemon’ under a given excise number. The lemon oil is mainly sold interstate; it is sent to Sydney, Melbourne and Perth by rail or boat and is used mainly for the manufacture of lemon essence.

Some companies have attempted to produce lemon oil from Lemon Grass, a plant native to Africa. The oil has a very similar smell but is much poorer in quality, going off soon after the extraction process finishes. The excise seal has prevented competition from such profiteering manufacturers.

The project report did not mention that Jean was stung on the lower arm by a bee during the visit. Her arm was sore and swollen but fortunately the swelling did not affect her hand as on the following day she had to go to the Elder Conservatorium of Music for her piano examination!

Geoffrey Bishop



Jean's sketch of the SunBEEm Honey logo

Does anyone know who owned the SunBEEm Honey factory or exactly where it was located?
We would love to know!

Dr Alexander Stewart Paterson – Colonial Surgeon

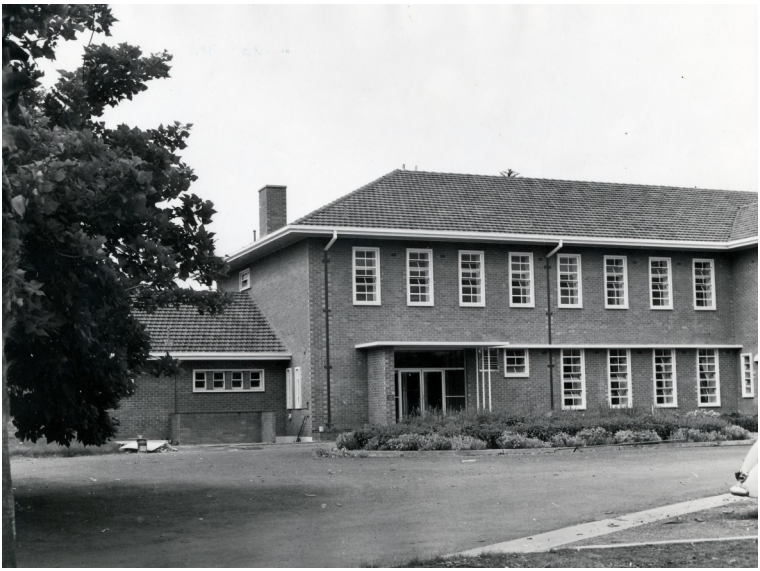
Birth: 3 December 1833 - *St Cuthberts*, Edinburgh Midlothian, Scotland

Death: 6 January 1902 - *Airlie,* Carrington Street East, Adelaide, SA

Following his education in Edinburgh and as dux of his High School, Alexander Paterson entered the study of medicine. At twenty-three he was made a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, and received his MD degree the following year. He served as Surgeon on several P & O steamers for five years and in 1863 spent some months in the Ovens Goldfields in Victoria Australia before accepting an appointment as Resident Medical Officer at the Yarra Bend Hospital.

From 1867 he served as Colonial Surgeon of the Adelaide Gaol and superintendent of country hospitals. In 1895, following six months holiday in Europe, he returned to Adelaide and built the handsome residence *Airlie* where he lived for the remainder of his life. He was appointed Medical Officer of the Adelaide Lunatic Asylum and Chairman of the Medical Board. Three years later he became Colonial Surgeon of the Lunatic Asylum at its Glenside location, where a building was named in his honour.

Delia Kennett (Great granddaughter of Dr Paterson)



Paterson House, Glenside (1963)

DEAF MUTES.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—The able report of the Resident Medical Officer of the Lunatic Asylum must convince everyone that he is a man who, if his attention were turned to the subject, would treat the deaf and dumb as successfully as he is doing the insane. For such unfortunates we must someday have an Asylum, and it would be far more economically and properly managed under the care of a truly first-class man like Dr. Paterson than under any less-experienced person whom the small funds at command might obtain for the separate service.

As the whole of the lunatics are soon to be removed to the new building, I suggest that the old one or a portion of it should be devoted to "deaf mutes," and that Dr. Paterson, with suitable assistants, should be placed at the head of it. The question of salary is one into which I need not enter; probably all the doctor would care for would be the means of frequent transit. But even if there were some little increase of expense, it would be far less than would be involved in separate management.

I am, Sir, &c.,

THE FATHER OF A DEAF AND DUMB BOY.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA: 1869 - 1912), Saturday 11 March 1871, page 3

Alexander Stewart Paterson (image: http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/161828074)

Meeting Report – Monday 16 October

The well-travelled Warden Lionel C E Gee

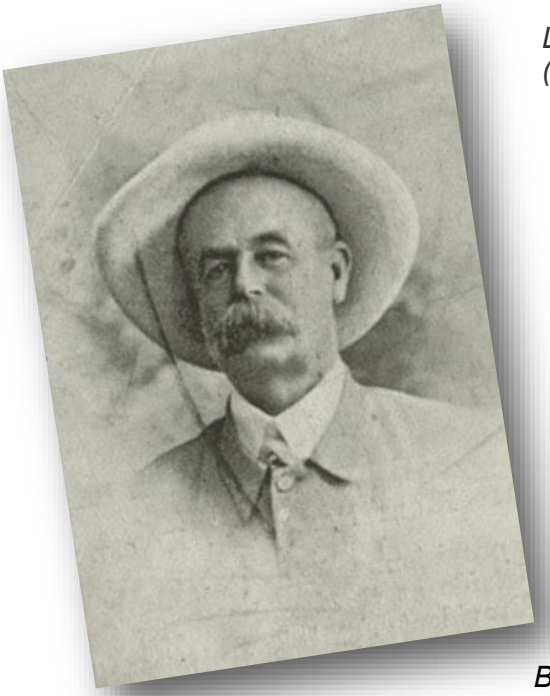
Member Judy Fander delivered an account of Lionel C E Gee (1854-1936) and his achievements in the Public Service over a career of 54 years. He started as a cadet under George Woodroofe Goyder and William Christie Gosse in the Survey Department. Gee's first survey map, of Beltana, was dated 1873. He served as Chief Registrar and Recorder of The Mines Department (1912-1924). Gee travelled widely throughout South Australia, which then included the Northern Territory. Gee's responsibilities as Warden of Goldfields were defined by the various mining Acts of the time. Judy explained the wide range of roles he performed as Warden of Goldfields (1882-90) and (1896-1911), with a focus on Teetulpa, Tarcoola, Arltunga and the Tanami. In particular, Judy detailed his trips to Teetulpa (1887), north of Yunta (SA). In June 1904 Gee was given additional powers to that of Warden and Justice of the Peace – as Special Magistrate at Arltunga (NT).The hardships the miners faced at inhospitable locations and the failed workings with the Depression at the end of the 19th century contrasted with Gee's strength of character. He was well respected where he went. He was interested in locating the elusive Princess Parrot and used camels to access the north. Following his marriage Gee resided in in the Burnside district for 55 years.

Gee sang the praises of Burnside, writing in *The Register* (20 Jan, 1927 p.10), "Burnside is the most beautiful and picturesque suburb of the fair city of Adelaide**."** He remembered childhood church picnics held in Hazelwood Park. Gee was very civic-minded and was involved in the movement in 1913 to secure Hazelwood Park for the general public when threatened by subdivision. He helped plan and steer the completion of the War Memorial and Pavilion in that park, built to commemorate sacrifices of Burnside soldiers in World War 1.

What would Lionel Gee think of the subdivision of public land happening today (on the site of the former Glenside Hospital) and the replacement of the War Memorial by the George Bolton Swimming Centre? Our Society initiated the installation of an historic marker with wording included below.

Judy's biography of Lionel Gee will emphasise the significant part Aboriginal people played on the goldfields. Members will be advised in the Newsletter when the book is published.

Meredith Ide



Lionel Gee
(image: SLSA 326/4/189L/1)

Below: the Gee family home in Chapel St, Norwood, where Lionel lived from 1857-1879
(image: SLSA 326/4/176/4)

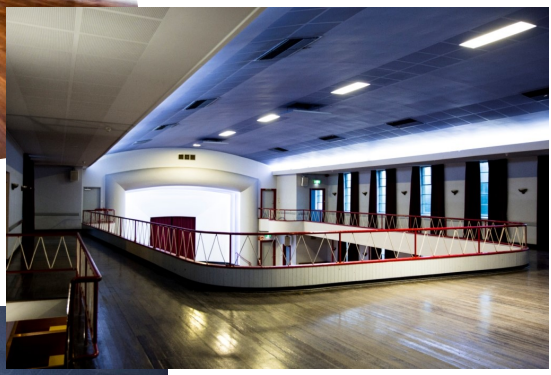
The Burnside Ballroom

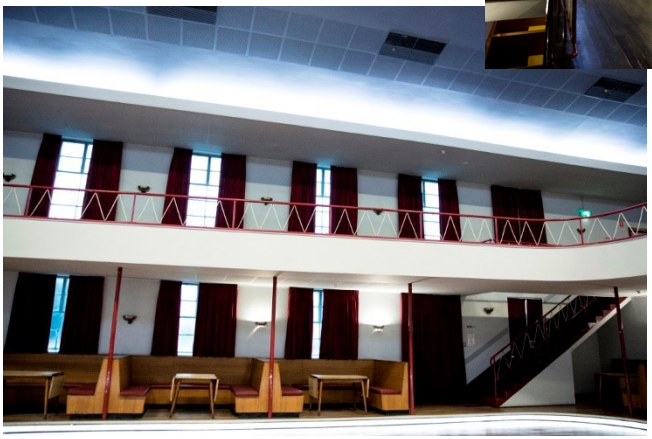
The State Heritage-listed Burnside Ballroom opened in 1954 and offers a unique and charming atmosphere, with ground floor and mezzanine entertainment areas, many original fittings and decades of beautiful memories.

"An excellent example of a 1950s interior demonstrating characteristics of a modernist design. There are no other known examples of this style of interior intact."
The Department of Environment and Heritage

(*Information from the 2017 Music in the Burnside Ballroom series brochure.)*

Do you have memories of events at the Burnside Ballroom? Please email them to jlbrown@internode.on.net or bring to a meeting.





Images: City of Burnside

LINK INTO HISTORY

South Australians in France Project

Researchers at Flinders University are collecting stories about World War One, memorabilia, souvenirs and material objects such as trench art, badges, diaries, pictures, coins, cards, calendars, postcards, letters, and parts of uniforms, to remember South Australian service in France.

If you have anything to contribute or for further information visit:

news.flinders.edu.au/blog/2017/04/25/southaustraliansinfrance/

If you are interested in viewing Local Heritage submissions made to the National Trust of SA, please follow this link:

https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/advocacy-sa/local-heritage/

Interested in information about the Pioneers Association of SA? You can find it here:

www.pioneerssa.org.au

Correction

There is mention in the article 'The two-way benefits of Burnside Historical Society's website contact page' (BHS Newsletter September 2017) of Arthur Hardy as winery owner. As far as I am aware this was not so. He built *Birksgate* on land acquired in 1845 from Surveyor General Frome. He owned stone quarries on *Birksgate* land and it was to keep workers of the quarry from public houses that he became involved in setting up the first Glen Osmond Institute. He built *Mt Lofty House* and it was there he planted vines and orchards in 1860. The house was a summer retreat. Hardy was a lawyer and Crown Prosecutor and one of the founders of the Unitarian Church and first President of Glen Osmond Institute.

Anne Both

Welcome

Mrs Catherine Boros has recently become a member of the Burnside Historical Society. Please make her welcome.

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 $45 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, Geoff Treloar, Dave Monceaux, Delia Kennett

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: Ally Preiss, Anne Both, Bob Stace

Plaques Subcommittee: Colin Harris PSM (Chair), Ken Lawson, Dave Monceaux (co-opted)

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

Publicity: Meredith Ide

Recordings of Burnside topics: Geoffrey Treloar

Audio: Dave Monceaux

Front cover:

A load of honey ready for shipment from the SunBEEm Honey Factory on Glen Osmond Road, 1940

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