Burnside Historical Society Inc.

NEWSLETTER
September 2018

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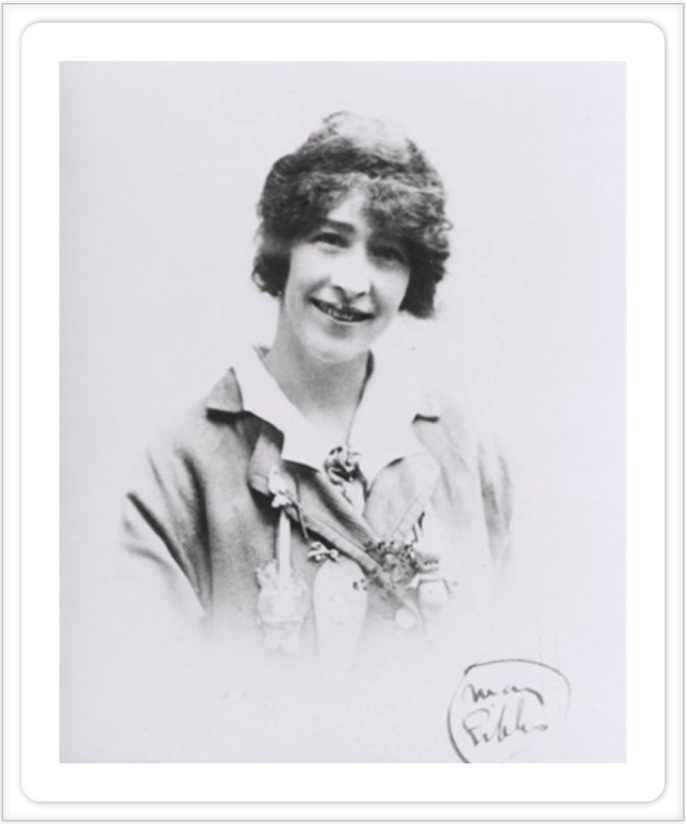

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From my Desk

Welcome to the September 2018 Newsletter. In this issue we feature the third and final instalment of Bernd Demasius' story of the history of the Demasius family and the establishment of the iconic former local department store, Demasius Ltd. You can read the first and second parts of the story in the March 2018 and June 2018 issues of this Newsletter respectively.

The deadline for the December 2018 issue is **Friday 19 October**. Contributions should be sent to jlbrown@internode.on.net.

Judy Brown
Newsletter compiler

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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

At its 26 April meeting, the Burnside Historical Society Committee decided that as the office-bearing positions were not filled (with the exception of Lorraine Sampson as Treasurer) the Committee would fill these positions. The outcome was that I stepped forward as Acting President for one year, Dave Monceaux as Secretary and Margaret Ford OAM to liaise with the National Trust of South Australia and History Trust of South Australia. I thank all of the members for their welcome and support for me as a new member of the Burnside Historical Society.

As I have only been a member for a short time, the position of Acting President presents some challenges in providing support for the various subcommittees such as the Newsletter Subcommittee, the Program Subcommittee, the Plaques Subcommittee, the Mines Subcommittee and the Wheal Watkins Steering Committee. It also provides opportunities to meet some very enthusiastic and capable members who do a wonderful job of carrying out the responsibilities of these various Committees and their competence makes my job a whole lot easier and very exciting.

I find it a bit of an anomaly that the Committees function very well with lots of help from members, but there is a reluctance to fill the officer positions, although this appears to be the case with many not-for-profit and professional organisations these days. It would be very helpful to reverse this trend in order to sustain the life of these organisations.

I am very impressed with the quality of the guest speakers at our monthly meetings and in particular the presentations by Dr Pauline Payne, *Alfred Treager: inventor and pedal wireless man*, Amy Fredman, *Hands on History: bringing the Centenary Armistice Day to life*, Professor Philip Payton, *Honest John Verran and South Australia's first majority Labor Government*, Rod Shearing, *Horrocks: a man of substance* and Legh Davis, *Her Majesty's Theatre renewal project*. It is very reassuring that the members are getting what they value most and that is high quality and interesting speakers at our monthly meetings.

One of the objectives of the Burnside Historical Society is to co-operate with similar societies and other bodies throughout Australia and on Sunday 29 July another Committee member, Margaret Ford, and I had the pleasure of attending a book launch organised by the Cummins Society Inc at the historic Cummins House. The book launch was held to celebrate the publication of the book *Sir John Morphett and Cummins House* by Keith Miller. The function was enhanced by guest speakers and the attendance of descendants of Sir John Morphett who made it a memorable afternoon.

Put this date and time in your diary – **Monday 19 November, 6.30 pm**. The Burnside Branch National Trust SA has invited the Burnside Historical Society to a joint function at Beaumont House, This means our normal monthly meeting moves venue for this special event. The evening starts earlier than usual at 6.30 and will be a garden party format with live music, food and drinks. From Beaumont House you will be able to watch the sunset over the sea. The lawns and verandah of this historic local treasure are high enough to see the coastline. While we hope to be outside and enjoy the garden, there are provisions for moving inside as required. The cost for the evening will be $10 for BHS members and $10 for non-members. We ask you to **please book your place** as soon as possible using the booking form on the last page of this Newsletter.

John Thomas AM
President

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.

Program of Meetings and Events

Monday 17 September, 7.30 pm

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

No sooner up than down was the fate of Adelaide's early bridges. From Hindmarsh to Hackney, the River Torrens soon defeated every structure, so this will be a tour of bridges long since vanished. But in their wake is a rich history, one that includes Frome's failure, Freeling's folly and the publican who went mad.

After a former life as an academic mathematician, Chris Durrant discovered South Australian history in retirement 15 years ago. Since then he has been collating documents that describe life in the early settlement of Adelaide. He has also researched the history of the Hack family, work which contributed to Iola Mathew's *Chequered Lives*, a biography of John Barton Hack and his younger brother Stephen.

Monday 15 October, 7.30 pm

Frances Bedford MP - *The Story of South Australian Muriel Matters*

They called her 'that daring Australian girl', and for good reason. An actor, elocutionist, musician, educationist, suffragist and peace campaigner, Muriel Matters used innovative and daring publicity stunts to promote her causes in a life very well lived.

Frances Bedford is the Independent Member for Florey in the South Australian Parliament and Secretary of the Muriel Matters Society, a body working to promote the life and works of a remarkable woman. Frances has been an active member of the Modbury community for over 35 years and has a strong interest in social justice issues.

Monday 19 November, 6.30 pm
Joint event at Beaumont House with the Burnside Branch of the National Trust

BOOKINGS REQUIRED: Please see last page of this Newsletter

Meeting Report

Alfred Traeger: Inventor and Pedal Wireless Man

Dr. Pauline Payne, 19 March 2018

Alf Traeger was born in 1895 to farmer parents who later moved to Balaklava. Showing early inventiveness he had, by age twelve, built a telephone from the farmhouse to a shed, making all of the components himself. At 16 he commenced studies in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering at the then SA School of Mines. Before graduation he had built his own radio transmitter and was exchanging Morse messages with other amateur radio operators.

In 1925 he was working in an Adelaide electrical workshop when the Reverend John Flynn, Superintendent of the Australian Inland Mission, came in to buy a high voltage generator made by Traeger, for use in remote area radio experiments. Flynn was setting up AIM hospitals and the Australian Aerial Medical Service and needed reliable radio Morse telegraphy to connect hospitals, homesteads and aircraft across Northern Australia (voice radio could not then cover such long distances).

Flynn employed Alf to develop and make that equipment. They made long trips to the Outback, experimenting with radios designed and built in Traeger's Kensington Gardens workshop. Remote homesteads had no high voltage power for a transmitter, so Traeger invented the world's first pedal generator-operated wireless or 'transceiver'. Morse keying remained difficult for homestead operators until Traeger adapted a typewriter keyboard to automatically transmit Morse when any key was struck. These inventions made a fundamental difference to station life by enabling immediate help in a medical emergency, and removing social isolation.

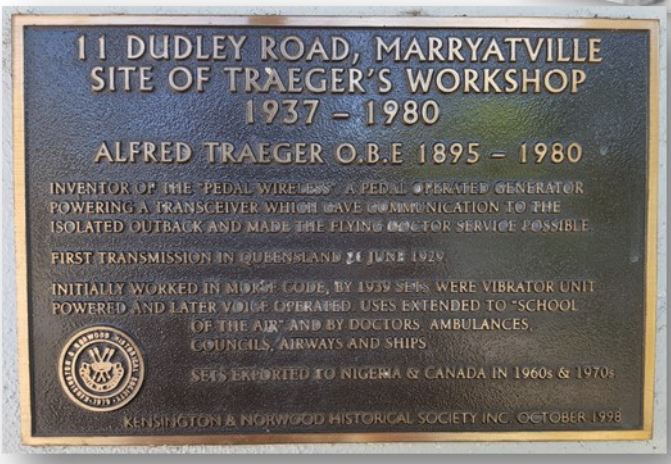
By 1935 Traeger had designed and was manufacturing long distance two-way voice radio sets for use in homesteads, AIM hospitals, and A.A.M.S aircraft. His radios also made possible the School of the Air, bringing education to outback children. In 1937 a new, larger workshop was built at 11 Dudley Road Marryatville.

This very modest, practical man provided the radio system by which the Flying Doctor Service operated, giving a 'Mantle of Safety' to outback Australia. Alfred Traeger died at his Rosslyn Park home on 31 July 1980, aged 85.

Geoff Treloar

Right: Alfred Hermann Traeger OBE

Below: Plaque at 11 Dudley Road, Marryatville



George Demasius – the man behind "Demasius Ltd" Part 3 (final)

George and Pat Demasius' Emigration to Australia

In 1953 George and Pat Robinson decided to settle in Australia. Together with their adopted daughter Karin Peta they left South Africa aboard the passenger liner "Corinthic". They first set foot on Australian soil in Fremantle, Western Australia, before travelling to Kadina via Melbourne. Their arrival was announced by a notice in the *Kadina and Wallaroo Times* of 15.10.1953:

After five years absence from Australia, Mrs G. Demasius (nee Miss Pat Robertson) returned to Kadina last week from Johannesburg, South Africa, with her husband and baby daughter. Miss Robertson practised her profession of physiotherapy for her first two years in South Africa and then went to England, where she met her parents, Mr and Mrs J. A. Robertson, of Kadina, and travelled with them through England, Scandinavia and the Continent, afterwards returning to South Africa for her marriage. Mr and Mrs Demasius and baby Karin, plan to remain in Australia.

Successful Years in Business – *Demasius Ltd*

"In 1955 Mr. Jim Robertson suggested to his son-in-law and daughter, George and Pat Demasius, that they might like to join him in a new drapery venture. There was a shop becoming vacant in Greenhill Road (in the suburb of Glenside in Adelaide) next door to Johnson's Hardware". This was the beginning of a successful business which over time became known as *Demasius Ltd*, and is expertly related by Rosemary Brown, with information and material supplied by Pat Demasius.

The article tells how the business under the name of G & P Demasius started in humble beginnings in rented premises. In the course of time the business expanded into enlarged and self-owned premises and became a local business landmark. Guided by George and Pat Demasius, the business was incorporated in 1960 and floated as a public company on the Sydney Stock Exchange in 1974. Going from strength to strength, Demasius Ltd acquired Hopping Brothers of Port Lincoln in 1975, Young & Gordon of Port Augusta in 1981 and Pfeiffer's on Norwood Parade in 1984. By this time the company was at the pinnacle of success and elicited several takeover bids.

Finally, in 1985, an offer was accepted, which proved to be the downfall of Demasius Ltd and its associated businesses. The new owners were financial investors who had little knowledge of retailing and the requirements of department store trading. This led to a collapse of the business and Demasius Ltd was wound up in December 1988 and delisted on the stock exchange in 1990.

Throughout its history, the business was known for its excellent selection of merchandise, its sales, its service and its friendly and knowledgeable staff. Pat Demasius as Fashion Director and her father, Mr Jim Robertson, who accompanied the business in the background, instilled a working climate amongst its nearly one hundred employees, which made them part of a large family. Many testimonies remain of customers who came from near and far, and who preferred to shop at Demasius instead of the large department stores in downtown Adelaide.

Pat and George Demasius

The Late Years of George and Pat Demasius

Pat and George Demasius were divorced in the late 1970s. Pat remained in the business until it was sold, after which she retired in Adelaide. Pat Demasius passed away on 23 June 2009 and was laid to rest at Centennial Park Cemetery in Adelaide.

After the divorce George Demasius sold his shares in the company and moved to Sydney, where he married a lady by the name of Edith Alison. He remained active in retail organisations and became Chairman of the Electronic Fund Transfers Working Party of the Retail Traders' Association of New South Wales. He retired to his new home at 48A Junction Road, Wahroonga, Sydney, where he passed away on 25 August 2012.

Bernd Demasius
Schleswig, Germany

May Gibbs with her family in South Australia

Much-loved Australian author and illustrator May Gibbs called South Australia home from 1881 to 1885. BHS member Jane Brummitt has had a long-standing and active interest in May's life and has penned this fascinating and informative article.

> I came to Australia when I was four by a sailing ship called the *Hesperus.* We had a lovely trip out and I remember it even though I was only four. We went to various places – Adelaide and on to an island where we had a very rough time – had to stay a whole month before we could get back to Australia.
>
> My parents were wonderful. They were so happy together. I never remember them falling out and they were awfully good to us children. I could draw almost as soon as I could talk and I loved drawing, so my father who was naturally wonderful started me right off.
>
> Interview with May Gibbs. Sound recording by Hazel de Berg.
> National Library of Australia Oral TRC 1/356, 25 May 1968.

Cecilia May Gibbs was born on 17 January 1877 in Lower Sydenham, Kent. She was the second child of artistic parents, Cecie and Herbert Gibbs. Herbert William Gibbs (1852-1940) was an accomplished artist, cartoonist, craftsman and draftsman - described by May as her 'best teacher and a brilliant man'. Cecilia (Cecie) Rogers (1851-1941) was the daughter of progressive, musical and artistic parents who wanted their daughters to have as good an education as their sons. Cecie was not only trained musically, but in 1872, when she was twenty-one, she and her twenty-six year old sister Emily enrolled at the Slade School of Art in the first year in which it was open to women. Cecie met Herbert when travelling to the Slade by train and they married on 24 October 1874.

Blinded in one eye while playing childhood darts, Herbert disliked earning his living indoors, as a clerk in London's General Post Office. Along with his younger brother George, he was attracted to farming in South Australia. The plan for Herbert, Cecie and their two children, Bertie (6) and May (4), to set sail with George on the Orient Steamer *S.S.Chimborazo*, was curtailed when May developed measles. The Gibbs brothers left on 14 April 1881 and while May recovered, Cecie and the children stayed with her lively family.

After arriving at Port Adelaide, Herbert and George 'paid necessary to secure about 3000 acres' at Franklin Harbour, present day Cowell. They went by rail to Wallaroo, taking only what they could carry. The rest of their luggage was brought by ketch a few weeks later.

From Wallaroo the men went across St Vincent's Gulf to Franklin Harbour with a fisherman. As there was no jetty, they had to get out of the boat 200

yards from shore and wade through mud, rocks and mangroves. In notes on his life, Herbert wrote,

> *If I had found a way of looking round the district I do not think I should have stayed there and wasted time and money but I had no horse and being new chums [we] were anxious to get to work.*

On the look out for goats, Mr Parapet, Franklin Harbour, 1881
Pen and ink, black and white sketch by May Gibbs' father, Herbert William Gibbs. Signed H.W.G.

In England, once May had recovered, she remembered her mother saying, 'Oh, I can't wait for them to tell me what it's like, I'm going'. On 22 July 1881, they set out on a three-masted barque, the *Hesperus*. May enjoyed learning to dance sea shanties with the sailors. On 24 October Cecie gave birth to baby Ivan and on 31 October the ship berthed at Port Adelaide. All his life Ivan relished calling himself '*The Wreck of the Hesperus'.*

Right: The Hesperus

Thanks to a letter of introduction, Cecie and her children stayed with Alfred and Emma Heath, a cultured couple who lived with their family at *Heath House*, in Wattlebury Road, Lower Mitcham[1]. Alfred Heath JP (1831-1902) signed Ivan's birth certificate. Ivan's middle name was Reynell, an acknowledgement that a member of the Reynell family had emigrated with each of Ivan's parents. May grew up hearing that these men had migrated 'to make a fortune in this wonderful land where grapes grew wild'. Herbert and George's Reynell friends were relatives of John Reynell (1809-1873), who in 1838 had acquired vine cuttings from John Macarthur in New South Wales and planted the first vines in South Australia, at what is now Reynella.

When Cecie and her three children set out to join Herbert at Franklin Harbour, it is likely that they travelled on the paddle steamer *Lubra* which called at Franklin Harbour every three months. May remembered her father greeting his family with a bunch of wildflowers. Herbert's lifelong reputation was that if he wanted anything he made it. May later sketched a two room log hut 'rough sort of hewn, very wide slabs' with 'a big square tank outside to hold water, which had to be carted'. And there was 'a swing made for us'[2]. A plaque beneath a sugar gum beside the Cowell Road, marks the area where the Gibbs family lived, which May remembered as 'on an island'.

Herbert realised that Cecie 'could not stand the harshness of the life' and three months later, she and the children returned by boat to Adelaide. She rented a stone house on the site of what is now 67 Queen Street, Norwood. Close to Second Creek, it had a garden with fruit trees and a well with a pump, very welcome after water-deprived Franklin Harbour. May recalled her mother as, 'homesick and lonely' until Herbert rejoined the family to work in Adelaide as a government surveyor[3]. On 26 January 1883, Herbert painted a watercolour of the back of their house in Queen Street, Norwood, but soon after this the Gibbs family needed to move again because the house had been sold to William Essery, founder of one of South Australia's leading building and construction businesses.

Left: *Back of our house in Queen Street Adelaide, SA 26 January 83*

Watercolour, signed H.W. Gibbs. Donated by Jane Brummitt, 2014, to the collection of the National Gallery of Australia

By June 1883, Herbert had rented a six roomed bluestone house from timber merchant William Pulsford[4]. It was built adjacent to the street at present day 25 Knightsbridge Road, Leabrook. The area was then known as Knightsbridge and had been named after London's fashionable Knightsbridge. Located between First and Second creeks, fine eucalypts made the area attractive. It was well served by shops, a post office, a dairy, a school, a maternity hospital, a blacksmith, a police station and Coopers Brewery in Statenborough Street. By October 1883, the Adelaide and Suburban Tramway Company had extended its horse tram service to Burnside, and May would have seen it turning into Knightsbridge Road just east of where her family lived[5]. It would have been their transport to the city.

George and Herbert's father had insisted that each of his sons acquire a manual training before emigrating - Herbert as a carpenter and George as a saddler. After he left Franklin Harbour, George obtained work with Holden, Wholesale Saddlers and Harness Makers, Grenfell Street, the forerunners of General Motors Holden Ltd. There he fell in love with Ellen, eldest daughter of his boss, James Holden, who lived at *Waranilla* on Osmond Terrace, Norwood. They later married.

On 27 June 1883, while George was still at Franklin Harbour, the Gibbs brothers each paid £2-15-0 for town blocks at Emu Bay on Kangaroo Island. A new township there, called Maxwell, was proclaimed in December 1882. South Australia was soon in the grip of Depression and few lots were sold. The township which later developed was named Emu Bay on 20 February 1941. The Gibbs family had never lived there[6].

During the family's time in Norwood, May contracted diphtheria and was treated by Dr William Hayward, whose surgery and house still stand at 102 Norwood Parade. She remembered a feeding tube being put down her throat and being 'blind for a month'. Subsequently Dr Hayward and his wife Florence invited her parents to dinner. Also there were Dr Henry Harvey and his wife Georgie, who lived in Auburn[7]. May described the dinner as 'the wonder meeting', for her mother and Georgie Harvey recognised each other as 'chums' from schooldays in Brighton, UK.

Furthermore the meeting led to a farming partnership in Harvey, Western Australia, between Dr Harvey and the Gibbs brothers in 1885, with Dr Hayward later investing. In the Nutcote museum in Neutral Bay, Sydney, is a first edition copy of *Nuttybub and Nittersing,* inscribed by May 'To my dear Aunt Georgie and Doctor with my very deep old love'.

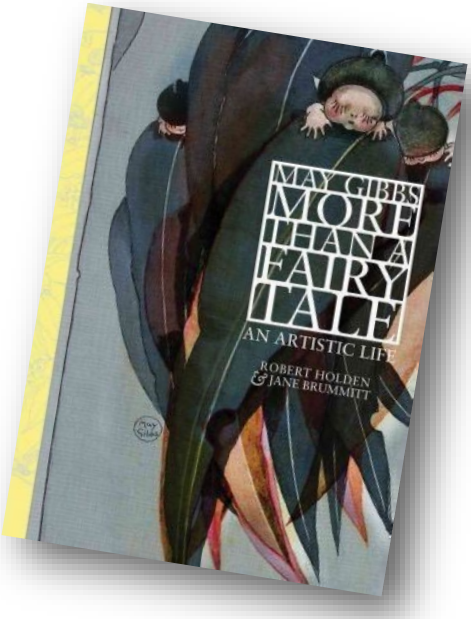
Throughout their time in South Australia, the Gibbs brothers retained their ambition for farming. John Young, an English engineer from Norfolk whose farming venture at Franklin Harbour had also failed, shared their dream. In early April 1884 George Gibbs and John Young went to Western Australia to view the 5,120 hectare Stirling Estate, on the Harvey River near Bunbury. The house had been built in 1830 on the banks of the Harvey River[8] for Western Australia's first Governor, Captain James Stirling, as the hunting lodge for one of his land grants.

Dr Harvey, whom Herbert had met at the Haywards, viewed the property in May, after which the four men formed the partnership 'Harvey, Young and Gibbs Pastoral Company' and acquired it. The working partners were Herbert and George Gibbs and they left Port Adelaide for Western Australia early in 1885, accompanied by ten year old Bertie Gibbs.

In May 1885 Cecie, who was pregnant, May aged eight and Ivan now three, left for Western Australia in the saloon cabin of the *South Australian.* From Bunbury they travelled overland by coach to meet Herbert at the Harvey River Cattle Station, the new home of May Gibbs and the much loved and already much travelled family, for whom her precocious artistic ability was inspirational.

May Gibbs' love for Australian flowers is now celebrated by a garden in her name leading into the Story Book Walk at Carrick Hill – for the young and the young at heart.

Jane Brummitt



Endnotes

1. *Heath House* still stands at 64 Price Avenue, Lower Mitcham. It is now called *Sunridge.* After many subdivisions it is more than half a kilometre from Wattlebury Road. The two storied stone house was built for the Heath family in 1862. It looks out over the Adelaide plains to St Vincent Gulf ten kilometres away. Eucalypts remain from the original ten acre allotment.

2. Sketches and notes in the State Library of NSW, May Gibbs collection.

3. Herbert Gibbs is listed in the Assessment Book at the Norwood Council for the period November 1882 to October 1883 as renting a house owned by a widow named Mrs Radford. The house stood on the site of present day 67 Queen Street, Norwood, and has since been demolished and replaced by a block of flats.

4. H W Gibbs rented from timber merchant William Pulsford. The house stood on the site to the left hand side of the present house at 25 Knightsbridge Road, Leabrook. In the Burnside Council rate records for 1883-84 it was valued at £30. It is thought that the house occupied by the Gibbs family may have been demolished to make way for the present house but there is no proof of this. The present house on the site of 25 and 27 Knightsbridge Road was originally two semi-detached houses built in 1910 but later converted into one house with the address of 25 Knightsbridge Road. There is now no 27 Knightsbridge Road. The suburb of Knightsbridge ceased to exist on 20 February 1941, having been absorbed into the suburbs of Hazelwood Park and Leabrook.

5. Warburton Elizabeth, *The Paddocks Beneath: A History of Burnside from the Beginning,* The Corporation of the City of Burnside, South Australia, 1981 p. 304.
   Steele, Christopher, *The Burnside Lines,* Australian Electric Traction Association, Sydney, 1981.
   Preiss Margaret, *Knightsbridge, Tour Guide No 2,* Corporation of the City of Burnside, 1981.

6. Herbert Gibbs sold his block on 5 March, 1940. Ownership of George Gibbs' block was transferred to the Commissioner of Crown Lands after his death in 1921.

7. Dr Henry Frederick Harvey was in medical practice at Auburn, SA, 1880-1921. He had visited Perth in May 1884. On 18 October 1887 Harvey arrived in Bunbury per *Flinders* with his wife Georgie. In 1889 he became Resident Medical Officer at the Perth Public Hospital.

8. The Harvey River was not named after Dr Henry Harvey. It was explored by Major Harvey in 1834 and the town and river were named after him. The Aboriginal name was Korijekup. A replica of the house has been built in Harvey as a restaurant and tea rooms, with a room set aside to honour May Gibbs.

SA History Festival – Burnside Historical Society Events

Wheal Watkins

It was beautiful sunny weather on Mother's Day 13 May and again Saturday 19 May for four successful Wheal Watkins above ground mine tours at Glen Osmond. In total 65 adults and 4 children participated. They were impressed with the tours and wondered why Burnside Council kept Wheal Watkins closed. Thanks to guides Dr Ross Both and Dave Monceaux and backup team Anne Monceaux and Meredith Ide. More tours will be conducted in Spring and hopefully with students from Burnside Primary School as part of the Grade 5 curricula.

Historic panel unveiled in Moorcroft Reserve, Burnside

This panel celebrates the natural history and the human history of Indigenous people and Europeans along Second Creek. The historic panel and graphic design work was funded by Burnside Council and the text was researched and written by member Colin Harris who also sourced the images. A special event was held at 10.30 am Wednesday 30 May with City of Burnside Councillor Graham Bills unveiling the panel with two students from nearby Burnside Primary School. A Year 5 class, previously talked to by Colin Harris and Meredith Ide, walked to the unveiling. Four students read poems - an Indigenous one and one about the environment – birds and trees. The students are studying relevant topics in history/geography, about colonisation, for instance. Cr Anne Monceaux also attended, along with Burnside Mayor David Parkin. In his opening remarks Councillor Bills reminisced about his childhood living opposite *Erindale House* (formerly *The Waldrons*) and the influence of the creek. Read his talk on the opposite page. Some local residents joined Burnside Historical Society members for the event and the rain held off! Around fifty people attended.

People were very impressed with the information and illustrations on the panel. If you could not attend this event you can visit the reserve, entering from Warren Avenue, Burnside (a walk along the creek with some uneven surfaces) or from a lane off Chisolm Avenue (a much better surface).

Oliver Mayo is a cousin of BHS member Antony Simpson. Before the event Meredith rang Antony to ask if he knew of any poems written about Second Creek. He was on a sailing holiday at the time but said he'd contact Oliver. Meredith received this poem soon after from Oliver.

Oh to be in Burnside was very apt for the ceremony. It was read by a Year 5 Burnside Primary School student.

For Margaret

'Oh to be in Burnside'

Then May follows April
And the magpies still call
As the yellow leaves under the apple,
The first yellow leaves,
Turn into mud,
And the yellow wattle honey and gold,
The first yellow wattle,
Sneezes awake.

© Oliver Mayo

From Oliver Mayo's collection of poems
All We Like Sheep
Sydney, 2002 Fastbooks

Moorcroft Interpretative Panel Unveiling

Speech by Councillor Graham Bills

Ladies and gentlemen, teachers, children. I welcome you to this location on this occasion and before we start I wish to thank some special people who have assisted in this process.

To the school children and their teachers, thank you for making the effort in finding out more about Burnside's heritage, its values, interesting places and those who resided in them.

To the teachers for making something like this interesting and history related.

To the parents for coming to see how things progress and the value of informing the youth of how it was, how important it is, how we can preserve it and how this can lead into an environment and ideology of preservation, respect, retention and value to what we are in this place and how our input and footprint can assist in that goal.

To members of Council staff who have assisted to get to this point and to the author of the information advisory, Colin Harris, for having the information and facts to clearly identity how important this spot is.

I used to live right here, for seven years, and prior to that I was born and bred at Erindale and lived my whole life in this area, other than for 17 years when I served with SAPOL all around SA. I came back in 1987, bought a place in Erindale and then moved here in 1995.

I recall as a young lad I used to walk past when it was then renamed *Erindale House*, originally *The Waldrons*, and being on Moorcroft Ave, it also was known at *Moorcroft*. It was last used as a respite and recovery location for elderly ladies and had huge gates at its then Moorcroft Avenue entrance [the gates originally fronted then Burnside Road near its junction with Knightsbridge Road – Eds.] and they would run down to the gate and want to talk but it was scary for us as timid youths. The gardens and grounds were magnificent, the wildlife wonderful and the tranquillity, something now lost in modern living, valued. Peacocks abounded, massive trees, some still remain, and the stunning home all enmeshed in peace and beauty (albeit for loud birdsong), orchards, vegetable plots, chickens, self- sufficiency were there. The stone and brick bridge leading to the house can still be seen. The house was bulldozed in the late 1960s, a very sad day for history.

The term 'Burnside the Beautiful', now used by the Council, was coined at this location by the land agent Nathaniel Hailes in a sales brochure in 1849 and Burnside means 'alongside a creek' as Burn is Scottish for creek. With the majesty of location the term was so right.

When I lived here I took great pride in maintenance of the swales, I watered the reserve, dug out the creek bed to ensure free flows and lessen the impact and frequency of floods, and did a lot of planting, including this area here, most of which is now, sadly, not visible.

I could go on with sightings of kookaburras breeding in the huge gums next to the creek and flying over my house, watching the young birds gain their wings, listening to the frogs in the creek, watching the tortoises in the depression up the creek (now gone) and during summer still enjoy the burbling, slow meandering of the creek over the waterfall just at the back of my old property. Nothing is more soothing than the sound of water finding its natural way to an outlet without human interference although there is a story that a young son of one of the owners found the water to be a raging torrent which claimed his life a long time ago and for which a memorial grave surround and old stones is still in situ. I was told this by a long-time resident when I moved there in 1995 but there is no proof of this [some other possibilities are mentioned on the panel – Eds.].

I respect all this, as we all should.

Thank you

Councillor Graham Bills

The Marsden Szwarcbord Foundation and The History Council Future Fund

Earlier in 2018 The Marsden Szwarcbord Foundation made a significant donation to support history in South Australia by contributing $10,000 to the History Council Future Fund. The Foundation was established in 2014 to help enrich Australian cultural life in the fields of history and music. The founding board members are: Dr Susan Marsden, co-founder; Michael Szwarcbord, co-founder and Secretary; Michael Constantine, the Foundation's lawyer; Swai Phie, the Foundation's Public Officer; and Elizabeth Wilson.

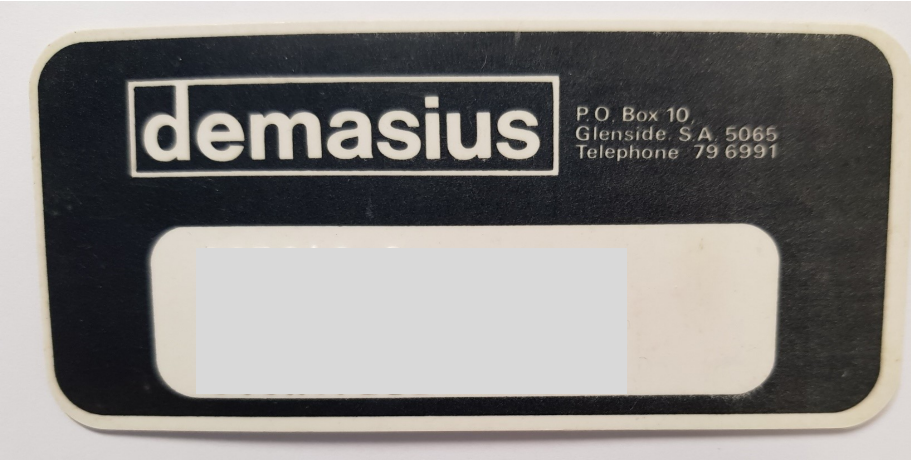
Susan Marsden writes "Michael Szwarcbord and I have been happily immersed for most of our lives in music and history, and know that a little much-needed money goes a long way to support the great work of not-for-profit historical and musical organisations". She continues "Our Foundation aims to help build the capacity of such organisations; offer opportunities for the training and employment of emerging historians and musicians/ composers; support the creation of history and music works; and encourage activity in these fields by government and the private sector. We also hope that, by donating to significant organisations such as the History Council of South Australia and Musica Viva, their own members and other supporters will also donate to them".

Donate to the History Council's Future Fund via the Australian Cultural Fund at:
australianculturalfund.org.au/projects/history-council-sa-future-fund/

Dr Susan Marsden is the Immediate Past President, History Council of SA.

Susan was very supportive of the recent bid Burnside Historical Society made for inclusion of a Local History Officer in the Burnside Council's 2018-19 Budget. Susan attended the 10 April Council meeting and gave valuable suggestions to assist with this essential cause. She also attended the Moorcroft Reserve panel unveiling on 30 May, held as part of SA History Festival.

Do you remember?



Do you remember owning a Demasius credit card?
One of our members has kept this little gem for many years.

SUBS RENEWALS FOR 2018/2019

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 assist in the protection and preservation of buildings, works and sites of historical significance in the City of Burnside;
- to co-operate with similar societies and other bodies throughout Australia;
- to do all such things as are conducive or incidental to the attainment of any of the above objectives.

OFFICE-BEARERS FOR 2018-19

President: John Thomas AM
Vice-President: Vacant
Public Officer: Meredith Ide
Secretary: Dave Monceaux
Treasurer: Vacant
Committee: Margaret Ford – Liaison with NTSA, HTSA
Meredith Ide – Immediate Past President
More help welcomed

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, 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: Help wanted

Audio: Dave Monceaux

Front cover: *May Gibbs in 1916*
May and Herbert Gibbs Collection, City of South Perth

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.

Monday November 19th
from 6.30pm

Beaumont House, 631 Glynburn Rd Beaumont

(in place of our normal meeting)

With the advantage of daylight saving, we will sit outside at tables in the beautiful garden. Come along for a special night of fun as guests of the Burnside Branch of the National Trust. Enjoy food, drinks and live music (probably ukuleles with a potential sing-along). Inspect the house and hear a short history of Beaumont House. In case of poor weather there will be provisions to sit inside. The Committee and Burnside Branch NTSA would love to see you there.

Cost: BHS Members $10, Non-members $20

We ask you to pre-book and pay so we can manage catering. Please book and pay at either the September or October meetings or:

- online at BSB 105 086 Account Number 330 29 8840 (include your surname in the reference field) or:
- send a cheque to the Acting Treasurer, John Thomas
  PO Box 129 BLACKWOOD SA 5051

Names of people attending:

_____

Number attending _____ Member(s)

_____ Non-Members)

Contact phone number _____

We hope to see you there!