Burnside Historical Society Inc.

NEWSLETTER
June 2019

Volume 39, No 2

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From my Desk

Welcome to the June 2019 Newsletter.

We hope you enjoy this edition, which features the second (and final) instalment of Valerie Comport's memoirs of her early life in Erindale.

The deadline for the September 2019 issue is **Friday 5 July.** 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

Thank you to John Thomas (whose AGM reports are in this Newsletter), Margaret Ford and David Monceaux for stepping in and very efficiently managing the Society during the last year. I thank you too for the honour of being elected as your President for this year and I will endeavour to maintain the high standard of leadership established by past Presidents. Your new Committee consists of myself as President, John Thomas as Treasurer, Margaret Ford as Secretary and general Committee members Bob Stace and David Monceaux. We meet every two months at a negotiable time and our focus is on the Society's core business of general meetings, the Newsletter and membership. Meetings last about an hour and a half and for ongoing organisation and management we use email. We would love to have at least two more members on the Committee. I am aware of people's commitments and would not expect you to take on a role in addition to one that you may already have.

Achieving our goals is helped by the active Subcommittees whose members continue to effectively ensure the smooth operation of BHS. We will regularly contact these groups at suitable intervals as we would like brief reports on their activities and progress. By having current information on these, we on the Committee can then support these groups where required and include their activities in my newsletter reports. I am a great believer that by valuing the history of Burnside Historical Society and the community we serve, we can more effectively build on what has been achieved. Hence, I will be looking at the overall structure of the Society to see if there are areas that can be enhanced to attract and maintain more members. I also welcome any ideas members may have to achieve this.

Our meeting on 20 May was a major event. It was listed in the SA History Festival programme of events and involved us hosting the year 7 students from Burnside Primary school, who completed outstanding research projects on the history of their school and community. I applaud Ally Preiss, Margaret Ford and Bob Stace who worked so hard to assist students and staff in this research. At this event we handed out an information brochure about the Society. This is to start publicising what an amazing organisation BHS is and what it offers potential members. I am sending everyone with email a copy. The use of an image of koalas and trees on the front of the brochure is deliberate on my part. It is to remind people that history is more than buildings. It is the many aspects of the culture and environment we live in and I plan to expand on this theme later.

I will finish with something to think about. History is the past which tells us what we are and how we got to the present. In turn, knowing this allows us to more effectively plan for the future. So is history the past, present and the future?

Derek Bransbury

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.

Monday 17 June 7.30 pm – Dr Kristin Weidenbach

Making history accessible for children: examples from picture book biographies

Award winning local author Dr Kristin Weidenbach will talk about presenting history for children, drawing on her non-fiction picture books: *King of the Outback: the story of Sidney Kidman*, *Tom the Outback Mailman* and *Meet Banjo Paterson*.

Kristin's adult titles include *Growing up Moonta*, *Mailman of the Birdsville Track: the story of Tom Kruse* and *Rock Star: the story of Reg Sprigg*. She has also written the official histories of energy company Santos, the Cruising Yacht Club of SA, and the pastoral company AJ & PA McBride Pty Ltd. Kristin is also a PhD immunologist who switched to a writing career after completing postdoctoral research at Stanford University in California.

Monday 15 July 7.30 pm – Michael O'Donoghue

Burnside's unrecognised Egyptologist: the career of Max Weidenbach

Abergeldie House in Glen Osmond was once the home of Max Weidenbach - an Egyptologist who was a member of the very significant Lepsius Expedition to Egypt in the 19th Century and who subsequently migrated to South Australia. Adelaide has been enriched by the gift of his Egyptology collection to the South Australian Museum. Among the collection was his previously unknown diary of the expedition which is soon to be published to an expectant international Egyptological community. What was his role during the expedition? Why did he come to Adelaide? What was his life like here? The talk will be richly illustrated with images.

Michael O'Donoghue has retired from lecturing in Religion Studies at the University of South Australia. As well as offering courses at the University in ancient Egyptian religion he had led ten study tours to Egypt, Syria and Jordan. He has been appointed an Honorary Research Associate in Egyptology by the South Australian Museum where he is involved in researching the Museum's Egyptian collection. It is this that led him to spend twenty years searching for the Weidenbach diary.

Monday 19 August 7.30 pm – Margaret Ford OAM

From the Buffalo to Beaumont: the olive in South Australia

The olive has been an essential commodity for centuries, a source of oil for medicine, food, and even waterproofing boots! Several olive plants came out on *HMS Buffalo* in 1836. One of those trees is said to survive in North Adelaide. There have been olive oil scandals, including SA oil sold as pure, but contaminated with cotton seed. Names such as Stevenson, Bailey and Davenport are part of the South Australian story. A tiny piece of paper, probably a label from an olive oil bottle of about 1890, claiming purity, no contaminants, was the impetus for this talk.

Margaret Ford trained as a primary school teacher in 1964-65 and has been learning ever since. She has been principal of 4 primary schools, project manager for state-wide education areas like crime prevention, provided advice to the Minister for Education and written replies for Hansard. Her passion has always been history, especially the social history of South Australia. She has presented papers to state history conferences and associations on topics ranging from Spitfires to Crossley cars. Her passion for the study of olive oil began at Beaumont House, working as a volunteer with the National Trust.

Monday 16 September 7.30 pm – Howard Speed

South Australian Colonial Photography

South Australia has a rich colonial photographic history, including Australia's first landscapes, first Art society and first Royal photographer, all of which will be outlined. The works of Townsend Duryea, Robert Tennent, "Professor" Robert Hall, and the Nixon family will also be illustrated. We are fortunate that today's photography has been based on such a sound footing from our early colonists.

Howard Speed joined his first camera club in 1956, and over the years has used the moving image and still images in both black and white and colour. Twenty years ago, the South Australian Photographic Federation appointed Howard as its historian. He has organised two retrospective exhibitions, interviewed and been interviewed about photography and written four photographic histories.

Monday 21 October – Helen Stagg

Harnessing the River Murray: a journey of discovery: archives and voices from the past

Monday 18 November - End-of-year event

A special event is to be arranged to celebrate the end of the BHS year.

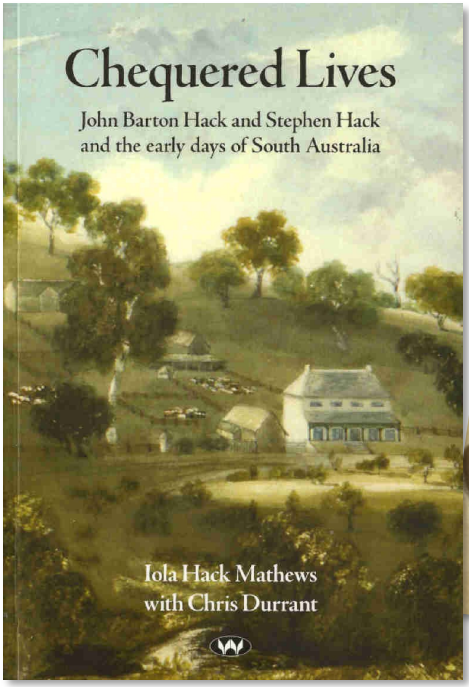
Dr Christopher Durrant

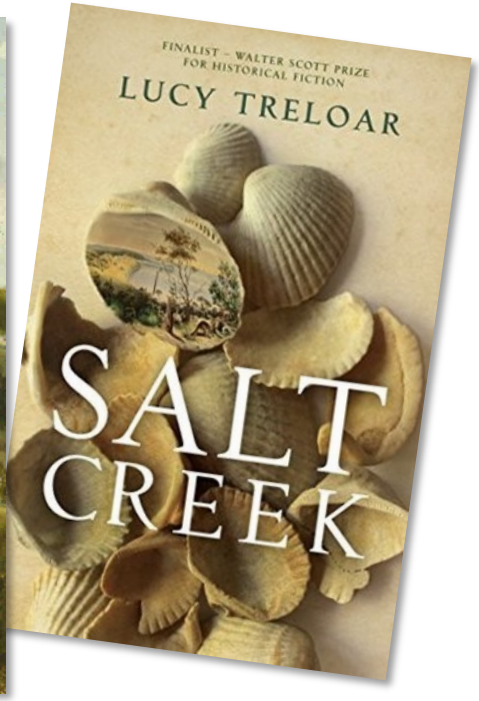
The Society has been saddened to learn of the death of member Dr Chris Durrant. As recently as September last year Chris gave a most interesting talk to the Society on the early bridges of Adelaide.

An academic mathematician by profession, Chris - in his own words - discovered South Australian history in retirement 15 years ago. Over that period of time he had been collating a wide range of documents describing life in early colonial South Australia, including the history of the Hack family. When he found that Iola Hack Matthews was also working on the Hack family history he generously made his work available and the culmination was their joint biography *Chequered Lives: John Barton Hack and Stephen Hack and the early days of South Australia* (Wakefield Press, 2013). The biography was an important reference for the BHS regional tour to the Coorong in 2014 and the inspiration for Lucy Treloar's award-winning novel *Salt Creek* (Picador, 2015).

Chris was also active in the Pioneers Association of South Australia, Birds SA and the Royal Geographical Society of South Australia. His scholarship and research rigour will be missed and our sympathies are extended to his wife Kerry and their family.

Colin Harris





Marjorie Andrew
28 November 1918 – 11 October 2018

Clara Marjorie Walpole Andrew was the only child of Horace Walpole Andrew and Clara Denford née Black. Following the death of her father, a Department of Agriculture officer, when she was nine, Marjorie and her mother lived with her grandparents, botanist John McConnell Black and his wife Alice in Brougham Place. She attended St. Peter's Girls' School only a walking distance away (Kermode Street, North Adelaide). Her working life began with the Highways Department but, after her mother's death in 1943, she joined the Allied War Council in Alice Springs, transferring to Darwin in 1946.

Marjorie was a strong leader within the family of many cousins, offspring of J M Black's three sons. She travelled extensively and had an abiding interest in her forebears, researching among them the Blacks in Scotland and the Barhams in Devon.

She loved competitive sport and was among the first women full members of the South Australian Cricket Association and for several years its longest continuous member. She regularly played tennis and golf, the latter to age 89 and contract bridge for another decade.

She began an Arts degree before retiring in 1974 from her last employer, the Commonwealth Bank, and completed it two years later, majoring in Anthropology, an interest of her grandfather and uncle, Eustace Couper Black.

Her many interests included South Australian history, Art, Botanic Gardens and gardens generally and she was a member of the Lyceum Club, Pioneers Association of SA, National Trust and Burnside Historical Society. She volunteered with the Royal Adelaide Hospital Auxiliary and co-authored its history.

With other family members, Marjorie published the Memoirs of J M Black in 1971 but her enduring legacy was to edit and publish his diaries with cousin Shirley Clissold, daughter of Arnold Barham Black, Broken Hill Mining Engineer. Volume 1 appeared in 1986, Volume 2 in 1991 and Volume 3 in 2003.

Marjorie lived independently until September 2016 and died at the Helping Hand North Adelaide after a short illness.

Andrew and Robert Barham Black, with Penny Black Tiong and Steve Black

Meeting Report

SA Women serving in WW2 – 15 April 2019

Dr Janet Scarfe presented an informed, well-researched talk about *SA Women Serving in WW2 – Illustrations from St Peter's Girls' School Honour Board.* The following is an extract from the paper she delivered. I have included a former member of Burnside Historical Society.

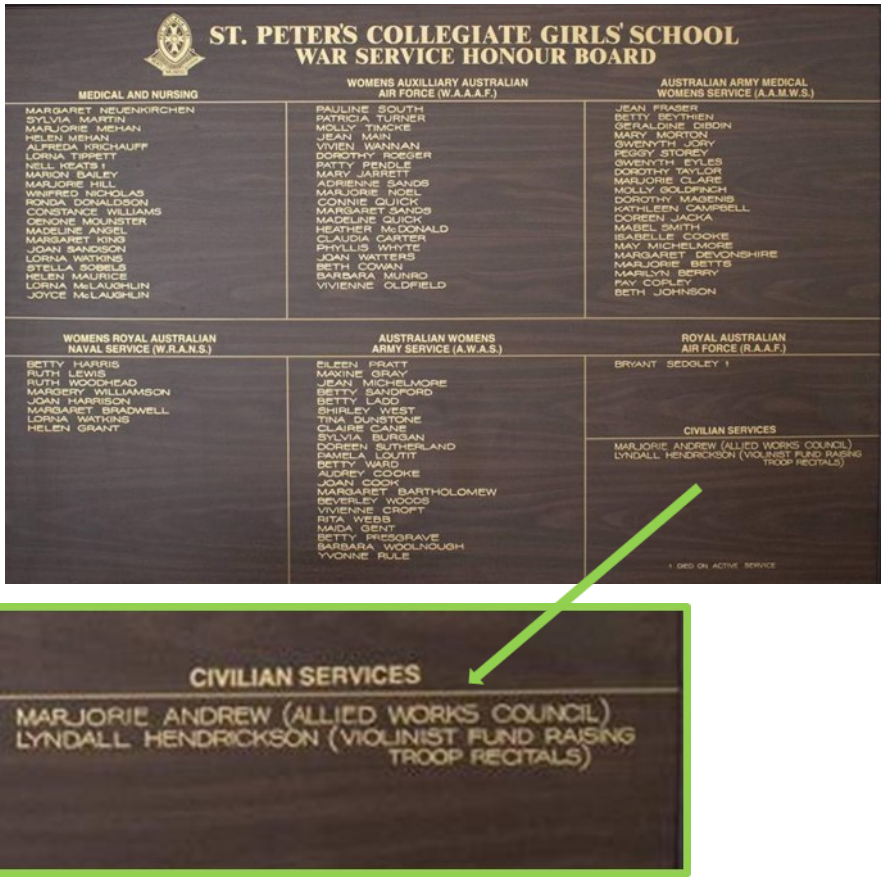
The WW2 Service Honour Board at the school at Stonyfell is a rare sight in a girls' school, certainly in South Australia. It was created to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the end of WW2 and dates from 1995. It hangs in the foyer of the school chapel. There is a wonderful collection of documents and photographs in the school archives about the war service of 94 women and one man on the Honour Board.

Janet examined aspects of women's service in WW2, illustrated by stories behind the names on the Honour Board, and reflected on Australia's participation in various wars and conflicts The talk also covered the social change in our history, illustrated by the roles of women in wartime. Women had opportunities to serve in uniform in the Women's Royal Australian Navy, the Australian Women's Army Service, the Women's Auxiliary Air Force, the Australian Women's Land Army and the Australian Army Medical Women's Service and as munitions workers.

Janet highlighted eight Old Scholars who gave valuable service abroad and at home. One you might remember. **Marjorie Andrew** (a BHS Member since 2006) served in Australia in the Northern Territory. Here is Marjorie's Home Service.

- Marjorie is included on the Honour Board (see next page). She is the one of only two listed on the Board who was still living at October 2018.
- Marjorie attended St Peter's in the late 1920s and early 1930s After school she trained at a business college and joined the Highways and Local Government Department. She had a rich social and sporting life and enjoyed parties, dances and holidays.
- She joined the Allied Works Council in 1944 and was sent to Alice Springs. The Allied Works Council built bridges, roads and aerodromes for the war effort in NT and Queensland. It was a civilian organisation but operated in close co-operation with the armed forces. Marjorie worked as a ledger machinist entering date for payments and payrolls on big NT Council projects.

- Marjorie was one of around two hundred women stationed there. Her living conditions consisted of accommodation in huts, a mess for eating, a canteen for supplies and so on. She did not wear a uniform.
- Each week she wrote to her grandfather in North Adelaide. Her letters were bright and breezy, full of her busy social life with Australian soldiers. There were dances and parties most evenings, picnics and sightseeing around Alice Springs and further afield in the NT at weekends.
- Much as she hated the war, she loved being in Alice Springs and part of the war effort. 'I am happy here,' she told her grandfather. 'After the war finished she took a position with the Council in Darwin. The evidence of Japanese bombing was clear to see and the town full of soldiers and sailors. Nevertheless she was thrilled to see more of Australia and continue the adventure. She returned to Adelaide, worked in a bank, travelled widely and became very active in the Friends of the Botanic Gardens.



Burnside Historical Society visits Mylor
Wednesday 20 March 2019

Thanks to an invitation from the Mylor History Group, the Burnside Historical Society had a delightful day out visiting the historically significant township of Mylor on the above date.

The weather smiled on us as we made our way, some members in private cars and others in a bus provided by the City of Burnside with one of its volunteer drivers, Richard, displaying his motoring skills. As we headed towards our destination we were greeted with the first red and gold touches of the coming Autumn season.

The happy travellers
(image: Derek Bransbury)

A distinctly country version of a morning tea welcomed us on arrival, followed by a Powerpoint presentation from Brian Barker, Chairperson of the Mylor History Group. We were intrigued with the amount of fascinating local history which was revealed. For many of us, Mylor had previously just been the name of a charming and picturesque town through which we passed en route to somewhere else. Now through Brian's presentation, including samples of audio oral history interviews with locals, we became aware of the intriguing story of the early days and efforts to value and recognise that heritage.

For instance, we learnt why the hall is named the Mylor Cotton Memorial Hall – and when Mylor was settled and how it developed – its original name and why – the Blocker's Movement and the connection to George Woodroffe Goyder. All this and more was reinforced for us by the fascinating display of photos and other illustrated material which was so professionally assembled on the surrounding walls.

Another superb example of country culinary skills was displayed for us with our gourmet lunch feast served with great hospitality by the Mylor branch of the Australian Red Cross (who supplied all the catering for the day). Gloria Howe and her helpers were a well-organised team in serving a vast array of assorted sandwiches, savouries and other treats to us. And a lovely touch was the table decorations of colourful Autumn foliage – glory vine leaves, Virginia creeper and Hydrangea heads, all complementing the colours of the delicious luncheon. We mixed and matched with our own Society members and got to know some of the Mylor History Group's members also.

Mylor General Store
(image: Geoff Treloar)

After lunch the group was divided into one party of walkers and one that travelled on the bus, to view some points of interest including the Goyder Reserve, 'Warrakilla', Hack Bridge, 'Rockford, Mylor Oval, Sherry Park, the old Bootmaker's Shop, Cooper's Store, Mylor General Store, Uniting Church, Stevenson's Bakery, Roberts Tea Rooms, J Lapidge's Store, location of the first Methodist Service, the War Memorial and St John's Anglican Church. Where the original buildings are no longer standing, we were able to see the sites and envisage their past purposes.

Coopers Store
(image: Derek Bransbury)

And, of course, we could not leave Mylor without being offered more hospitality with the provision of a “yummy” afternoon tea.

Our thanks to the Mylor History Group for sharing their historical richness with us – and our congratulations for the superb job they are doing in preserving it for all of South Australia.

Meredith Ide and Elizabeth Rogers OAM

Wheal Watkins Tour

10 am Sun 7 April 2019

The Southern Gem and Mineralogy Club really enjoyed the tour and wondered why the historic mine was not yet open. BHS Guide Dave Monceaux is in the front row fourth from the left.

Can you help?

Earlier this year Laura Evans, Historical and Cultural Officer at the City of Burnside, spoke at a BHS meeting and asked if any Members were interested in assisting with the curation of the Local History Collection in the Burnside Library. If you would like to help, please fill out the Volunteer Application on the City of Burnside website here: https://www.burnside.sa.gov.au/About-Council/Careers-at-Burnside/Volunteering#section-3) and mark Preferred Roles as 'Curatorial Volunteer - Library Local History'.

Burnside Historical Society
May SA History Festival event

Four above-ground tours at Wheal Watkins Mine on 4 and 26 May, were again well-attended. A total of 56 adults and 15 children visited the site. They were interested in the history of the cluster of mines, the first metalliferous mines in Australia. Once again some asked why couldn't they go inside Wheal Watkins, the only Glen Osmond mine on public land, in Burnside Council's Wheal Watkins Reserve. The children enjoyed looking into the Lower Adit (tunnel) with some young ones overheard making up stories about imaginary creatures living in there!

Images:
Ally Preiss and
Meredith Ide

Dave Monceaux explains the history and levels of the mine

Left: An information sign at the mine, installed by Burnside Council

Below: "What's in there?" Curious children peer into the mine's lower adit

Memories

Valerie J. Comport
(nee Griffiths)

Part one of an extract from 'Memories' by the late Valerie Comport (reproduced with the kind permission of her husband 'Pip') appeared in the March 2019 issue of this Newsletter. In part two, Valerie shares memories of growing up in Erindale.

Part 2 - Valerie Growing Up

My father played the violin and was very fond of music. Consequently, we were always taken to concerts in town, mostly choral, and certainly the 1,000 Voice Choir every year in the Exhibition Building. I also remember being taken to vaudeville shows in the open, behind the Exhibition Building during the summer. As we grew older, we were taken to musicales at the Theatre Royal where I wore my first long frock made of beautiful mauve silk. My sister and I both learnt piano from a Mrs Angus down Myall Avenue and I enjoyed playing for some years. Our piano was really a pianola and we enjoyed gathering all the young people in the neighbourhood for "singsongs" while one of us pedalled furiously. Not only did we have a pianola, but my father was keen on playing *His Masters's Voice* gramophone, a beautifully made box-like instrument whose lid lifted upwards to enable the records and needles to be changed. The speaker was contained within, not on top, and there was a patterned fretwork design in front with silk material behind to enable the sound to emerge and be heard. Steel needles were changed every so often but occasionally a bamboo needle was used.* Records were considered very expensive, so there was great excitement when dad brought home a new record.

The gramophone was placed on top of a piece of furniture made especially for my parents, along with several other pieces including the dining room table and chairs and sideboard, called a settle I believe. It was sometimes used as a seat in the hall and as the back could be adjusted to form a table, it was moved to the sitting room and the gramophone placed on it. My mother had a coloured silk square or scarf edged in a fringe which was placed under the gramophone. I do not know what happened to that but it was very beautiful. She loved pretty things.

Sometimes on Friday nights when the shops in town were open, we were taken to the market or to the Norwood Parade. While we were shopping for fruit and foodstuffs my mother would be seeking unusual old things in antique shops and we nearly always came home with a pretty vase or trinket to be displayed in a china cabinet or on the high mantelpiece around our den, or hall which was panelled in wallpaper.

For a long time there was no means of transport unless we walked all the way to Kensington Gardens or down to Marryatville to catch trams. I think it was during or just before World War II when buses were brought up Kensington Road from Adelaide through Marryatville. Most of our shopping was done at Marryatville where I remember the Kittos who ran the picture theatre and a sweet shop. This was where we asked to see the half-penny or one penny tray for our sweets. I remember the Linns at the bakery, Miss North who had a tiny shop which sold haberdashery and many small items, and her father who was the bootmaker in the little house next door. I remember the Pettmans, the greengrocers, Mr Bishop the chemist, Mr Hughes the butcher, and Mr Linquist the grocer around the corner in Shipsters Road. There was an “Eggyman” who called on my mother about once a week or fortnight. He sold fresh eggs and butter.

On Guy Fawkes Day I can recall the young boys dressed as “guys” tramping up from Marryatville singing “Guy, Guy” all the way. Also, on summer days and evenings, I remember the ice cream man calling on a tricycle with his ice cream filled container, madly ringing a bell.

My grandfather, being in the drapery business for years, kept his account with Goode, Durrant and Murray and there he would choose our Christmas and birthday gifts, such as beautiful Celanese pyjamas, and yards of gorgeous silk. My mother, being good with a needle, would make the materials into smart clothes for us. Being a good needlewoman and liking smart clothes, shoes and hats, she used to buy a hat and it would hardly be home when it was to pieces and she would be remaking it to her liking. She always looked very well dressed.

I believe my father completed all his Law exams at the beginning of WWI and was still very young. He had to wait to be called to the Bar before he could practise. In his heyday he was a partner in a well-known law firm, and for many years he had his lunch of a sandwich and a pot of tea for about 1/6d on the balcony of the King William Street Balfour’s, where he met all his friends every day. He was very well known and liked in Adelaide at the time. Then the firm broke up, he decided to practise on his own and was one of the first tenants of the CML (Colonial Mutual Life) building on the corner of Hindley and King William Streets (built 1934 and remained Adelaide’s tallest building at eleven stories for over three decades). My sister and I both worked there for him at different times, my sister carrying on for a long time after she was married and until my father died.

When my sister and I were growing up my parents realised that the house which they built after World War 1 (and I suppose it was all they could afford) was too small and, rather than move house, my father employed an architect who planned and had built an addition of a large bedroom, shared by my sister and me, plus a large sleepout.

These sleepouts were very common at the time. They frequently were enclosed verandahs, flywire from about 3-4 feet to the roof; the wall below could have been built of brick, wood or asbestos. Our new sleepout was built of brick, and I must say we spent a lot of time there, sleeping or sitting doing odd jobs and chattering. The floors were polished jarrah, though inside the original house the floors were Tasmanian Oak. Our new sleepout had very good striped canvas blinds on the outside which could be pulled up and down from the inside when the weather was inclement. I was often delegated the job of doing all the polishing of the new floors. They looked beautiful when completed but it was hard work.

I remember being taken to my parents' friends at Prescott Farm in Prescott Terrace (Toorak Gardens) – a lovely old rambling farm with hay sheds and barns. I am not sure what they had in the way of animals: cows or horses – probably both.

Other friends with whom we had afternoon tea on Sundays were Dr Ramsay Smith and his maiden daughters at Belair, and Mr Otto von Rieben and his niece, Miss Engelhardt, who looked after him at Toorak Gardens or Pomona at Stirling and sometimes at their beach house at Henley Beach South. I think if we walked out the back door there across a sandhill or two, we were on the beach. My father was Mr von Rieben's solicitor and arranged the gift of land and eventually his home *Attunga* for Burnside War Memorial Hospital.

Erindale was still wide-open spaces when I went to Girton School. We walked long distances and rode horses. In fact, a number of girls rode their ponies to Girton. Slacks were not "in" in those days but most of us owned and wore riding breeches or jodphurs.

After leaving Girton and not being university material, which really upset my father, I was sent to Miss Mann's Business College in Pirie Street where I learned typing and shorthand etc. From this College I had several office jobs which I enjoyed, including a year or so in my father's office and where I gleaned a mixed bag of experience. Being a small office, one had to know how to do everything and also to be an accurate typist and a good proof reader. Being legal, everything had to be correct – the Trust Fund being sacrosanct. From this office I applied for a job at an insurance broker's office.

During my later teens there was always a charity ball of one sort or another on Friday nights in winter at the Palais in North Terrace. This often called for a new long evening frock which my mother usually made. I loved dressing in these backless frocks with long full skirts and being called for by young men who drove me off to the ball. Most of these young men owned real "jallopies" and we thought it was fun, even if it broke down or allowed the rain to come in. But before I had my 21st birthday, all these boys had volunteered for the Services and were whisked away – so my birthday party consisted of women only. At this time, our lives were very social and we all enjoyed those colourful charity balls. Those were the days! The girls today do not realise how exciting it was to wear those lovely frocks to a big ball and actually dance on a large smooth floor to beautiful music and listen to jazz.

Edited by Meredith Ide, typed by Joy Taplin

'Goodbye to all that'

As an Inaugural Member of Burnside Historical Society (BHS) I have seen its history develop through the knowledge, skills and commitment of members, those on committees, others assisting at meetings and with planned activities. My baptism of fire as a young mother from Rosslyn Park was as Newsletter Editor (1988-89) and on the Committee (1986-90) with older and wiser members. I learnt from them and discovered more about Burnside's history. I was a Councillor for the Kensington Gardens and Magill Ward for two terms (1989-93) and I learnt about Local Government. I was coerced, perhaps, back onto the Committee as Vice President (2009-11), becoming President (2011-2018).

With Colin Harris I was a member of the Plaques Subcommittee and with Dr Ross Both and David Monceaux on the Mines Subcommittee, am still helping with above-ground mine tours especially during SA History Festival. In 2016 I addressed Council about the potential of the re-opening of Wheal Watkins at Glen Osmond as a Heritage Mine. Since 2013, with Anne and Ross Both, I have supported Osmond Gilles' Grave Restoration seeking advice and funding. I have sourced articles for the Newsletter, including the Demasius story by Bernd Demasius, cousin of George, the co-owner of Demasius Department Store. I am still finalising the Oral History Project (OHP) now part of the Local History Collection housed with other items BHS has donated. Last April I addressed Council about the urgent need for a Historical and Cultural Officer and Laura Evans was selected.

Funding from a Burnside Council Community Grant paid for graphic designer Jeremy Carter to develop and manage the Society's excellent website, which Judy Brown now ably manages. I wrote four grants to fund the OHP and another grant for the Beulah Park Walk compiled and with photos, thanks to Angela Steinberner's generosity. Publicity is essential for any group wanting to 'sell itself'. I have recently relinquished this role. I endeavoured not just to contact BHS members with Burnside-related information but other historical societies, groups and Burnside Councillors so they can discover the rich history in Burnside. In this regard I congratulate Burnside Primary School on their 150 Anniversary. In May 2018 Colin Harris and I enjoyed our interaction with a year 5 class from that school, culminating in the unveiling of the Moorcroft Reserve interpretive panel.

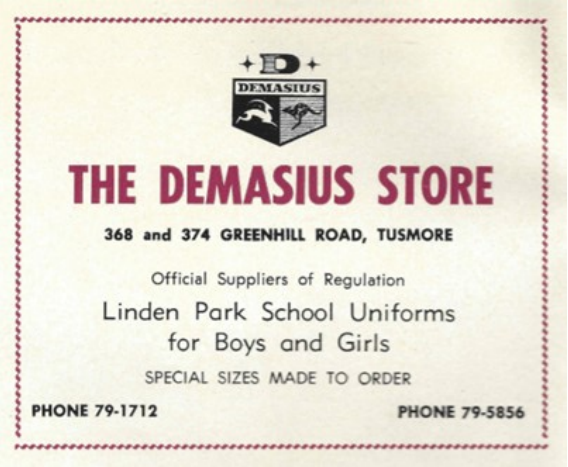
Members can support their Committee by getting to know them, helping with tasks at meetings and participating in activities like you did at Mylor. Remember BHS will be celebrating 40 years in 2020 so we need to start planning! Thanks to members who have mentored, encouraged and supported me in my roles. I was proud to be awarded Honorary Life Membership November 2016.

Meredith Ide

Some Demasius ‘gems’

This advertisement appeared in the 1963 Linden Park Demonstration School Yearbook. I have fond memories of trailing after Mum through the Demasius store as she purchased the fabric to ‘home sew’ our Linden Park school uniforms!

Judy Brown



And look what BHS Member Margaret Sando found in her linen cupboard. It is a large flat sheet, unused and bought locally at Demasius, a much appreciated local department store that sold a wide variety of goods. Bernd Demasius, living in Germany, near Hamburg and cousin of George and his wife Pat, who owned the store, will be emailed this Newsletter. Bernd's three articles written about George can be read in BHS newsletters March, June and September 2018.

Burnside Historical Society

President's Report 2019

It has been my great privilege to have the opportunity to volunteer to be your Acting President for the last year and, in doing so, to represent a dedicated group of people who give up much of their time to fulfil the objectives of this society and provide a valuable service to their community. This society, like many other similar not for profit organisations, relies heavily on a small group of enthusiastic people to carry out functions over many years that allow the organisation to survive and prosper.

I refer to the:

Committee members Derek Bransbury, Margaret Ford OAM, David Monceaux, Bob Stace and Meredith Ide for their support over the year

Newsletter Subcommittee: editors Colin Harris PSM, Elizabeth Rogers OAM and compiler Judy Brown; mailing and distribution organisation Liz Silz

Meeting Planning Subcommittee: Ally Preiss and Bob Stace

Plaques Subcommittee: Meredith Ide, Colin Harris and Ken Lawson

Mines Subcommittee: David Monceaux, Meredith Ide and Ross Both

Emergency Wardens: Sharan Northcott, Ally Preiss, David Monceaux, Sandra Lachlan and Geoffrey Treloar

Information Handbook maintained by Richard House OAM

Supper Roster organiser Sharan Northcott.

As you can see from the above list the eight Subcommittee groups form the basis for the effective functioning of the Burnside Historical Society and I thank all of these members for their invaluable contribution to the society. Whilst there seems to be some reluctance among members to put up their hands to join the main Committee, perhaps for fear of getting some onerous task or responsibility to perform, it may be much easier to follow a specific interest and involvement in a Subcommittee. In turn I encourage Subcommittee members to consider accepting an invitation to make a brief report at the bimonthly general meetings to inform members of their activities and in particular when some target goal has been reached.

The objectives of the Burnside Historical Society are:

- 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 other things as are conducive or incidental to the attainment of any of the above objectives.

When you look at the activities of the Subcommittees it is easy to see that the objectives of the Burnside Historical Society are being met and this is all due to the hard work of the Subcommittee members.

I step down from the position of Acting President, and hand over to your new President, Derek Bransbury, who has been an enthusiastic member for more than nine years. I wish Derek and the incoming Committee every success and I am confident that the objectives of the Burnside Historical Society will continue to be met in foreseeable future.

John D Thomas AM
Acting President

Treasurer's Report 2019

It is my pleasure to report an excellent result for the 2018/2019 financial year. This year we had an overall surplus of $6,009 derived from a number of successful activities. At the end of the year the surplus was disbursed as follows:

- $3,615 to the Osmond Gilles Grave Restoration Fund made up from a donation of $1,000 from the City of Holdfast Bay, a donation of $2,000 from the Margins of the Good Earth guided bus tour surplus, a $500 donation from the Royal Geographical Society and three smaller donations from generous members
- $1,442.56 made up from term deposit bank interest of $792.56 and $650.00 income from Glen Osmond Mines tours
- $952.12 remaining balance to the General Accumulated Fund.

The Margins of the Good Earth guided bus tour led by Colin Harris generated, in addition to the amount mentioned above, a further surplus of $1,806.40 enabling donations of $500 to the Pichi Richi Railway and $500 to Steamtown Peterborough Tour. Colin very generously donated his own expenses for the tour.

The efforts to gain the support of the City of Burnside for the restoration of the Glen Osmond Mines is ongoing and the Mines Subcommittee, led by David Monceaux, is hopeful of a better outcome in the coming year.

The Osmond Gilles Grave Restoration Fund has created some interest this year with some sizable donations described above. This Committee, led by Ross Both, advises that the target sum of around $21,000 is within striking distance.

Other activities included a visit to Mylor enjoyed by 46 members and led by Meredith Ide (this tour made a small deficit). We are grateful to the City of Burnside for two grants, being $1,540 towards the Oral History Project and $660 towards the cost of producing the Newsletter.

Membership numbers have continued to decline and now stand at 124 down from last year's total of 132. This issue is high on the agenda for our incoming President, Derek Bransbury, and the incoming Committee. We look forward to arresting and reversing this decline in the coming year.

John D Thomas AM
Acting Treasurer

SUBS RENEWALS FOR 2019/2020

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 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.

New Members

Three new Members have joined the Burnside Historical Society –

Heather Gough, Tony Ryan and Elizabeth Sawyer.

Please make them welcome.

Burnside Historical Society Inc.
PO Box 152 Glenside SA 5065

OFFICE-BEARERS FOR 2019-20

President: Derek Bransbury
Vice-President: Vacant
Secretary: Margaret Ford OAM
Treasurer: John Thomas AM
Public Officer: To be advised
Committee: Bob Stace and David Monceaux
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: Margaret Ford

Facebook management: Amy Ide

Recordings of Burnside topics: Help wanted

Audio: Dave Monceaux

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Image SLSA [PRG 1708/4/14]

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