ARRESTING STORY OF THE SA POLICE

(Meeting report based on information from Dianne Wilson)

The speaker at our July meeting Dr Barry Blundell gave a very informative presentation on the history of SAPOL, and the histories and functions of the Police Historical Society, the Police Museum, and the Thebarton Police Barracks. Barry is a retired Police Officer and Detective and is Secretary of The South Australian Police Historical Society.

Members of the SA Police Historical Society have a passion for History. Its mission is to collect and preserve historical and cultural material and to display this information for the education and enjoyment of the public. Much research is carried out by members; they have monthly meetings, publish a Quarterly Magazine, attend field trips and visit other museums.

The collection of The SA Police Historical Society is regarded as significant. The extensive list of items includes vehicles, uniforms, photographs, press clippings, movies/videos, badges, awards, medals, and artefacts, such as batons. In the Archive Collection are gazettes, manuals, files, annual reports, and Police Operations material. Vehicles in the collection include 14 cars, 11 motorcycles, a boat, a black Maria, and several pushbikes. The badge collection is the largest in Australia.

Sadly, the site of The Thebarton Barracks is now required for a new building for The Women's and Children's Hospital. The SA Police Historical Society is on the move to 361 King William Street, Adelaide where it is scheduled to open in late 2024/early 2025. The police horses and the dog squad are also on the move with both relocating to a site at Gepps Cross.