BURNSIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

The Monthly BHS Bulletin

October 2024

Fernilee: **Gone but not completely forgotten**

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: Monday 21 October at 7.30pm

Our October meeting will feature three of our own members, Dianne Wilson, Liz Silz and Bob Stace presenting ***Stories of three rather grand historic Burnside homes; two remaining, and one gone but not forgotten.*** Further details of this presentation can be found in the flyer on page 4 of this Bulletin.

PRESIDENT'S THANKS TO DEPARTING CEO

Recently, the City of Burnside CEO, Chris Cowley, announced he will be leaving to take on new challenges at the Town of Gawler. His last day at the CoB will be 15 November. Chris has been the CEO since 13 January 2020, during which time he has been a great advocate for the preservation, protection and development of the history of Burnside.

During his tenure a great deal has been achieved to preserve, protect and promote the history of Burnside through a range of initiatives he has supported and facilitated.

- The Historical and Cultural Officers now post weekly on Facebook *Windback Wednesday* which highlights facts about the history of Burnside. Michelle and Hannah are available every Monday afternoon in the Local History Room to answer history enquiries supported by a volunteer researcher.
- A videographer was employed to make a series of history videos called *Our History*. These cover the rich heritage of Burnside. So far there are 16 and BHS members, Colin Harris and Susan Marsden made a valuable contribution to these. The State Heritage Wheal Watkins Mine is included.

- Chris has supported BHS' endeavours to conserve and repair the 2 tunnel entrances of Wheal Watkins.
- The Heritage Reference Group was established and their contribution to preserving the Moorcroft Bridge, erecting historic signage in parks and reserves, erecting blue Heritage Plaques on buildings, and generating a Stone Mine Reserve Report has been invaluable. May this group continue in the future.

Chris' quote on the CoB website, '*The culture at the City of Burnside is incredible and something we should all be proud of playing a part in creating and sustaining*' says it all. We at the BHS fully agree.

On behalf of the Burnside Historical Society, I wrote to thank Chris for his diligence, energy, enthusiasm and contribution to the history of Burnside.

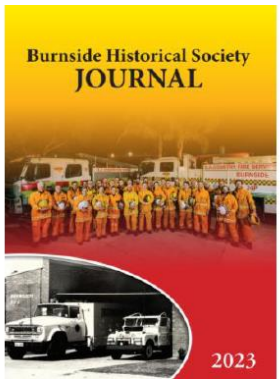
Roger Bills
President Burnside Historical Society

Alfred Canning

FINAL MEETING FOR 2024: Monday 18 November

Our November meeting will feature David Lyne as our speaker on the topic ***The Canning Stock Route, the story of Alfred Canning and personal experiences of traversing the route in the 1970's.***

The meeting will also see the much anticipated launch and distribution of the 2024 BHS Annual Journal to all members. So, make sure you are in attendance to receive your copy. A celebratory supper to mark the end of our year of activities will conclude the evening.



EASTERN REGION HISTORY SEMINAR

On Saturday 21 September the Campbelltown Historical Society hosted the 17th Eastern Region History Seminar at the historic Lochend House. Burnside, East Torrens, Mt Lofty, Mitcham, Tea Tree Gully and Campbelltown Historical Societies, along with the Pioneers Association of SA, were all present and showcased their activities of the past 12 months It was most interesting and enjoyable to learn of the achievements of our neighbouring historical societies and to network with them. Congratulations to the Campbelltown Historical Society for organising this very successful event.

Seminar participants outside Lochend House

BHS REPRESENTED AT WORKSHOP

[The following is a report from **Cathy Bransbury** who is our Society's archivist. Cathy was invited to attend a workshop entitled "Strengthening Disaster Resilience"]

On 26 September the City of Burnside (CoB) hosted a workshop which explained how to care for local history items/archives and preserve them in case of a disaster. Staff from other city and near city libraries attended. Burnside Historical Society (BHS) was pleased to be invited to send a representative to this workshop which was run by Art Lab in conjunction with the State Library. Those attending the workshop were interested to hear of the cooperation between the CoB and the Burnside Historical Society. We hold our archives within the Library, and we also donate items to the Burnside Local History Room Collection. This arrangement is covered by a Memorandum of Understanding which has been renewed this year between BHS and the CoB.

I reported to participants that our members assist the CoB as Local History Room volunteers and they work on a roster assisting the Council Historical and Cultural Officers with local history inquiries on Monday afternoons. Some of the library staff who attended the workshop from other areas said that in their area they did not have a local Historical Society to assist them, and they considered that Burnside Council was fortunate to have this assistance.

THEATRE GOERS IN COLONIAL TIMES AN UNRULY & ROWDY LOT

Over 50 members and visitors attended our September meeting when Ian Sellick (at left) gave us a new insight into life in Colonial Adelaide when he spoke about the early theatres, actors and patrons of the first 20 years of theatre life in Adelaide. At the outset Ian painted a vivid picture of the unruly behaviour of some of the patrons who attended. The drunks straight from the pub, the troublemakers, and the prostitutes often needed the intervention of an attending policeman. Ian's account provided colourful information about the first 14 theatres to be established in Adelaide during the period 1836-1856. Most of these theatres did not survive long as their owners/managers usually encountered financial difficulties. It was a risky and sometimes lawless business. If you were intrigued by Ian's presentation then you should read his book ***Early Theatre Life in Adelaide, SA 1835-1856.***

BHS WEBSITE BUSY & A GREAT RESOURCE

Have you checked out our Website recently? As can be seen from the "traffic" data below It has been a popular and useful resource for many people in the past 12 months Our website provides a wide range of information for those interested in the history and heritage of Burnside. It is a very valuable resource.

BHS Website data for the past 12 months:

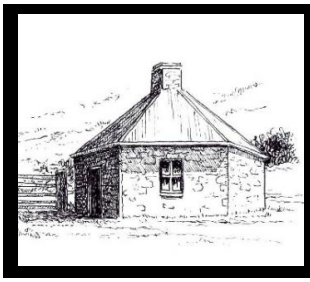
- 6,700 web page views
- 18 views per day
- 2,800 website visitors
  (i.e. each visitor views avg. 2.4 pages)
- 82% traffic from Australia

BHS Website:
https://burnsidehistory.org.au

AN ENJOYABLE & INTERESTING DAY AT STRATHALBYN

Twenty members and friends enjoyed our recent outing to Strathalbyn. The day commenced at *Glenbarr* with a delicious morning tea of freshly baked scones with jam and cream followed by an interesting and entertaining guided tour of the historic homestead which was built for early Scottish pioneer William Rankine and his family in 1842. A convivial lunch followed at the Victoria Hotel (1860s) in the heart of old Strathalbyn. We then visited the National Trust Museum of Strathalbyn in nearby Rankine St for a fascinating tour. The museum, which is housed in the old Police Station and Courthouse (1858), has an extensive display of historical items from the Strathalbyn district. BHS member Henry Krichauff was particularly delighted to find a camera on display which was used by his great uncle Frederik in the late nineteenth century. We were all intrigued by "Curly" who was asleep in one of the prison cells and the prisoner who was "occupying" the prison long drop. Thanks to Liz Silz, Neville Lawrence and Bob Stace from the Programming Subcommittee for organising this very enjoyable and interesting outing.

The *BHS Bulletin* is edited by Bob Stace with support from Helen Bills. Email distribution: Roger Bills



Burnside Historical Society

Active in the Burnside Community for 44 years

OCTOBER Meeting

Stories of 3 historic Burnside homes:

two remaining, and one gone but not forgotten

Monday 21 October @ 7.30pm

Burnside Community Centre Hall, (adjacent to Burnside Library)
401 Greenhill Road, Tusmore, enter off Fisher Street

Clifton

The Speakers: Three members of the Burnside Historical Society: Dianne Wilson, Liz Silz and Bob Stace will tell the stories of *Clifton, Ivymeade* and *Fernilee,* three grand historic Burnside homes each clustered close to the centre of the old Burnside Village. Stories of the families who lived in these homes will also be told.

Ivymeade

Fernilee

Non-members - a $2 donation is appreciated

Further information

WEBSITE: www.burnsidehistory.org.au
PHONE: 0422 705 916
FACEBOOK: Burnside Historical Society, South Australia