BURNSIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

The Monthly BHS Bulletin

November 2024

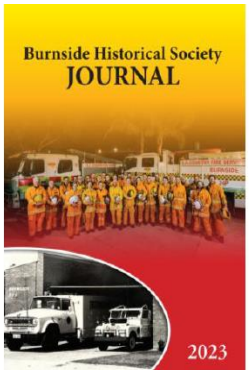
THIS MONTH'S MEETING: Monday 18 November at 7.30pm

Alfred Canning

Our November meeting will be our final one for 2024 and 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 1970s.***

Further details of the speaker and his topic can be found in the Flyer on page 4.

The meeting will also see the much anticipated launch and distribution of the 2024 BHS Annual Journal to all financial 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.



POPPIES TO COMMEMORATE REMEMBRANCE DAY

The City of Burnside's Historical and Cultural Officer Michelle Toft has advised us of the following:

In honour of Remembrance Day, a display of red poppies will be showcased from 9 AM to 5 PM on Monday 11 November on the lawns of Burnside Town Hall (corner of Greenhill and Portrush Road, Tusmore). Students from local schools, kindergartens, and childcare centres have created hundreds of red poppies using recycled materials for this meaningful display.

APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC BARN TO BE DEMOLISHED

BHS President Roger Bills brings the following to members' attention:

There are two barns at local heritage listed *Romalo House*, Magill. A developer has plans to demolish one of them. This matter is expected to be on the agenda and discussed at the **City of Burnside Council Assessment Panel** meeting on Monday 2 December at 6pm in the Council Chambers. Even though BHS is powerless to make a difference in this situation a strong presence in the gallery would demonstrate the concern of the Society that every time a significant historic building is destroyed, the City of Burnside is poorer for the loss. To preserve, protect, promote, and celebrate the history of Burnside is the reason BHS exists.

Background information on *Romalo House*

In the early 1850s, *Romalo House* commenced its life as a small stone cottage on a 20 acre block in an area called Home Park adjacent to Penfolds vineyards. Mrs Elizabeth Longbottom, the widow of the Colony's first Wesleyan (Methodist) minister William Longbottom, acquired the property in 1858 and had extensive additions made in 1870. Edmond Mazure, manager of the Auldana vineyard and winery, acquired the estate in 1909, made alterations to the dwelling, and renamed it *La Pérouse*. Following Mazure's departure, the property was renamed *Romalo* after the nearby winery of the same name. The house was later held by the Bonython family for approximately 90 years and was home to Warren and Bunty Bonython for 64 years before his death in 2012.

The property was sold to a developer in 2020. It has since been subdivided and 11 homes have been built on the western perimeter. Little appears to have been done as yet with the promised restoration of *Romalo House.* The first step seems to be this application to demolish one of the two original barns, one of which is reputed to be the site where South Australia's first sparkling wine was bottled.

REPORT ON OCTOBER MEETING

Talk on historic Burnside homes draws great attendance

Due to planned construction works, our October meeting was transferred from our usual venue in the Community Hall to the nearby Bill Deane Lounge where an excellent attendance of 56 members and 19 visitors gathered to hear ***Stories of three historic Burnside buildings: one gone but not forgotten (Fernilee) and two remaining (Clifton and Ivymeade).***The well researched and illustrated presentation was given by three BHS members Liz Silz, Dianne Wilson and Bob Stace.

Liz commenced with the story of *Clifton* which was built in the early 1850s. A grand home, it was constructed of local stone and slate with red brick quoins and designed to resemble an English hunting lodge. Amongst its many residents were the Sismeys, the Bonneys, the Knoxes and the Schneiders. Although its original 80 acres have been much subdivided, it still remains as a well-kept family home. Part of the subdivided land was purchased by the City of Burnside and developed into the beautifully maintained Michael Perry Reserve.

Dianne continued the stories with *Ivymeade* which too was built in the early 1850s as a four roomed cottage for Joseph Nias and his family. The property was acquired by Edward Laughton in 1857, and he named it *Bracklyn*. The Laughton family lived there for nearly forty years and added extensively to the original dwelling. In 1898 Henry Hancock, the retired Captain/Manager of the Moonta Mines, purchased the property and renamed it *Ivymeade*. In succeeding years, and under numerous owners, the

property was much subdivided. However, it is pleasing to know that this historic and gracious home still stands proudly today and is well maintained by its current owners.

Fernilee was not so lucky! Bob commenced with images of the present-day housing estate which replaced *Fernilee* after it was demolished in 2003. *Fernilee* was built in the late 1870s by local builder Dennison Clarke. He and his family lived there for a brief time before selling it to James Gartrell who lived there with his family for the next 45 years. Gartrell, who was a highly successful and well-respected businessman, turned *Fernilee* into a gracious and substantial family home of 20 rooms with 4 acres of fine gardens. From 1926 - 1957 the Stanley Cooper family, of the Leabrook Cooper brewing family, owned and lived at *Fernilee* with the property then sold to Hal Morgan who, with his wife, repurposed it into a reception centre which became known as *Fernilee Lodge.* Bob recounted stories of family weddings and celebrations held at Fernilee Lodge and how these memories have lived on after the building's controversial demolition in 2003.

[A more detailed summary of this presentation has, like all our meeting presentations, been included in the annual BHS Journal which will be distributed to financial members at our November meeting.]

PROGRAMME NEWS

The Programme Subcommittee

The role of the BHS Programme Subcommittee is to organise and manage all aspects of our meetings and speakers, our yearly outings, and our History Festival events. In recent months, our subcommittee of Judy Fander, Liz Silz, Dianne Wilson, Neville Lawrence, and Bob Stace has been busy preparing the 2025 Programme. Our thanks go to this group for the enjoyable and interesting programme they have presented to us in 2024.

Programme '25

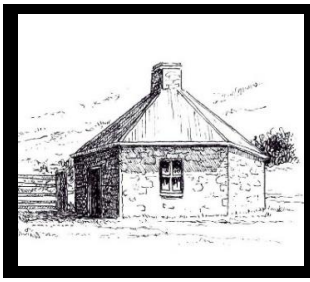
The full programme for 2025 should be available to members by January next year. In the meantime, you can put the following details in your diary for 2025.

- **Pub Lunch** at the Kent Town Hotel on **Wednesday 15 January** at 12noon.
- First **BHS meeting** for 2025: **Monday 17 February** at 7.30pm.
  Speaker: Dr Jenny Tilby-Stock, visiting fellow in Politics, University of Adelaide.
  Topic: ***Jennifer Cashmore, a life of service.***

Further details of these first 2 events for 2025 will be announced in future BHS Bulletins and at the November meeting.

Show and Tell with a Bell

Responses at the recent October meeting to Judy Fander's announcement about the proposed "Show and tell with a bell" which involved members bringing along an item of Burnside historical interest to the 2025 August or September BHS meeting have been promising. The last time BHJS held such a session was in 2011 when items as varied as a cloak, War medal, cookbook, and a recitation from a book of elocution poems were presented by members. Please contact Bob Stace or Judy Fander at our next meeting with your offers to ensure an instructive and entertaining evening in 2025 .



Burnside Historical Society

Active in the Burnside Community for 44 years

NOVEMBER Meeting

The Canning Stock Route

the story of Alfred Canning
and personal experiences of traversing the route in the 1970s.

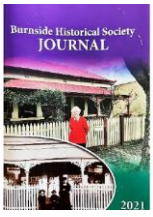
Monday 18 November @ 7.30pm

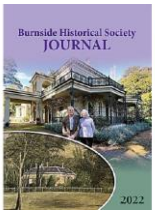
Burnside Community Centre Hall, (adjacent to Burnside Library)
401 Greenhill Road, Tusmore, enter off Fisher Street

The speaker, **David Lyne,** worked in the mining industry which gave him the opportunity to travel extensively on remote roads and tracks across Australia, at times crossing or following the routes of early (and some later) explorers.

In Western Australia at the start of the 20th century, following the development of cattle stations in the Kimberley and the Kalgoorlie goldrushes, both in the 1890s, there was a need to move cattle from the north of the state to markets in the south. As trucking and refrigeration were yet to be commercialised, **Alfred Canning**, a surveyor, was commissioned to develop a stock route through the desert from Halls Creek to Wiluna, some 1500km.

This **presentation** will provide the historical setting and will be illustrated by photos from one of the earliest motor vehicle traverses along the Canning Stock Route in the 1970s.





Followed by the launch of the
2024 BHS Journal
and an end of year
Celebration

Non-members - a $2 donation is appreciated

Further information

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