BURNSIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

The Monthly BHS Bulletin

October 2025

NEXT BHS MEETING

Our next meeting is on **Monday 20 October** at 7.30pm in the Community Hall, when our speaker will be Michelle Toft. She will speak on the topic ***What's Behind the Name? The Stories of Burnside's Suburbs.***

Full details of this meeting can be found in the flyer on page 4 of this Bulletin.

DON'T MISS THIS ONE!

Our final meeting of the year, on **Monday 17 November,** will be a triple treat. Firstly, our speaker for the evening will be Dr Julie Collins who is the Curator and Research Fellow at the University of South Australia's Architecture Museum. Her topic is: ***Going to Town: The History of South Australia's Department Store Buildings.*** This is sure to bring back memories of stores like Charles Moore's, Cravens, Peoplestores, Cox Foys, Charles Birks, John Martins, Myer, David Jones and Demasius.

The second part of the meeting will feature the much-anticipated launch and distribution of the 2025 edition of the BHS Journal, then the meeting will conclude with a celebratory supper to end another successful BHS year.

Moore's Department Store in Victoria Square, c. 1960; now the Sir Samuel Way Law Courts

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

SAVING THE PAST BY BUILDING A BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE refers to preserving history, culture, and memories while ensuring their relevance for the future. The bridge symbolises the connection between past experiences and what lies ahead.

On **Saturday, 28 February 2026**, the Burnside Historical Society will host the **17th EASTERN REGION HISTORY SEMINAR** in the Burnside Town Hall. The theme is **BUILDING BRIDGES**. Richard Venus will deliver the keynote address, ***Building Bridges Over the Torrens in the Early Days of Adelaide***.

In 1994 the East Torrens Historical Society organised the first seminar. Since then, history groups have taken turns to convene 16 seminars, many in historic venues such as *Lochend House*, Campbelltown and the Marble Hill Stables. The State Heritage Burnside Town Hall (not the ballroom) will continue the tradition in 2026.

The seminar is designed to foster inspiration and collaboration, facilitate the exchange of information and ideas, and build bridges between local history groups.

Anyone interested in history is welcome to attend. See the flyer on page 5 for further details.

Why not set the day aside and come?
Registration forms will be available at the October Meeting

A KEY TO THE PAST

It was reported in our August Bulletin that, following the successful *Show and Tell with a Bell* presentation in July, BHS had received the donation of an historic key from a lady in the UK. This key has now been placed on display in the "Burnside Treasures" cabinet in the Local History Room of the Burnside Library. The following article appeared in a recent City of Burnside Volunteers Newsletter.

A Key to the Past: Unlocking the Story of Knightsbridge School

The Burnside Local History Collection has recently welcomed a humble yet historically rich addition - a key that once opened the front door of Knightsbridge School in Leabrook.

Knightsbridge School, located at 28 Statenborough Street, operated within a church house and educated around 140 boys and girls from 1886 to 1921. Its co-founder, Mrs Edith Hübbe (nee Cook), holds a remarkable place in history as the first woman in South Australia to be enrolled at university (1876) and the first to matriculate in 1877. Her vision for the school was revolutionary: to provide girls with an education that could lead to university matriculation - a rare opportunity at the time.

Through her work, Edith Hübbe not only opened doors with this very key but also unlocked futures for young women, empowering them to pursue higher education and professional careers.

Donated by a descendant of Edith Hübbe to a member of the Burnside Historical Society, our wonderful Local History Volunteers (and members of the Society) recommended it be kept as part of the Burnside Local History Collection. It is now on display in our Local History Room for visitors to see during Library opening hours.

The small object serves as a powerful symbol of progress, equality and the enduring impact of education.

MEMORIES OF THE REGAL THEATRE

There was a very good attendance at our September meeting when the 53 present were treated to a most interesting and enjoyable account of the 100 year history of what is now the Regal Theatre. The Illustrated talk presented by Mayor Anne Monceaux and Steve Virgo, who has been the Theatre's manager since 2018, was interspersed with personal anecdotes and stories which triggered happy memories for many of us of times spent at the theatre in our youth 60-70 years ago.

The Theatre has undergone several name changes during its 100 years. It first opened as the *Princess Theatre* in November of 1925 and after a change of ownership became the *Marryatville Ozone* in 1928. During this next period, in 1941 it was substantially upgraded to its present attractive art deco style, and in 1951 it became the *Hoyts Ozone* when it joined the Hoyts Cinema chain.

Trouble was brewing in 1963 when the Theatre was nearly sold to a petrol company, with the Theatre to be demolished and replaced by a petrol station. Fortuitously the City of Burnside stepped in, and responding to community concern, purchased the Theatre preserving it for community use.

In 1971 Wallis Cinemas took over the lease and renamed it the *Chelsea Cinema*. Substantial upgrades then took place and in 1983 the *Chelsea* was placed on the S A Heritage Register recognising its architectural and cultural

significance. There was more trouble in 2008 when the Council considered selling the *Chelsea,* but strong activism from the community saved the day and the Council abandoned the sale process and opted to lease the *Chelsea* to a private operator resulting in another name change to the *Regal*.

Since 2017 the Burnside Council has taken over the management of the *Regal* from within its own resources with Steve Virgo as its manager. The future looks bright as our speakers showed us the master plan for a major development and upgrade of the Regal Theatre Precinct. As members of the Burnside community, we are indeed fortunate to have access to such an attractive and flexible facility where we can have a night out at the movies, enjoy a live performance, or attend a charity or community event. It's one of the many advantages of living in Burnside.

On **Sunday 9 November** @ 2pm the Regal Theatre will **Celebrate 100 Years.** Tickets cost $15, which includes gourmet treat box, a live performance, a lucky door prize and the screening of Baz Luhrmann's dazzling classic, *The Great Gatsby* (M) **Book at** **https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1444321**

NORTH ROAD CEMETERY: SO MANY STORIES TO TELL

Our final BHS outing for 2025 was a guided tour of the historic North Road Cemetery. Our guide for the morning, Cemetery manager Andrew Boucaut, met us in the 1904 Chapel with a welcoming morning tea and a brief history of the Cemetery. Established in 1853 by Augustus Short who was Adelaide's first Anglican Bishop, it remained an Anglican cemetery until the late 1980s when it was opened to all Christian denominations. It is still a working cemetery with 80-120 burials annually over the past few years.

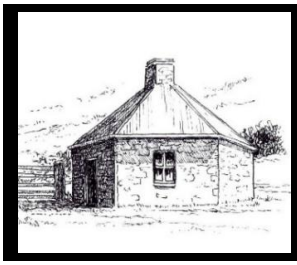
The North Road Cemetery is the resting place for so many significant South Australians including Governors, politicians, explorers, remarkable women, sporting greats, and aviators as well as some unsung heroes. Our guide Andrew's detailed knowledge and sense of humour made our walk both informative and entertaining. The stories of each grave and each person or family came to life.

At right is our guide Andrew at the grave and impressive monument of aviator Captain Henry John (Harry) Butler (1889-1924). Harry was a charismatic young South Australian pilot who, amongst many deeds, made the first Australian mail service flight over water from Adelaide to Minlaton on the Yorke Peninsula.

As we walked amongst the graves we were also impressed by the many significant, unusual and ornate headstones and monuments which are a major feature of this State Heritage listed cemetery.

An enjoyable lunch at the nearby Walkers Arms Hotel followed our memorable morning visit to the Cemetery with several of our group declaring they would return to the Cemetery for a follow up visit. There are many more stories to tell.

Bulletin Editor: Bob Stace, Editorial Support: Helen Bills, Email Distribution: Roger Bills



Burnside Historical Society

Active in the Burnside Community for 45 years

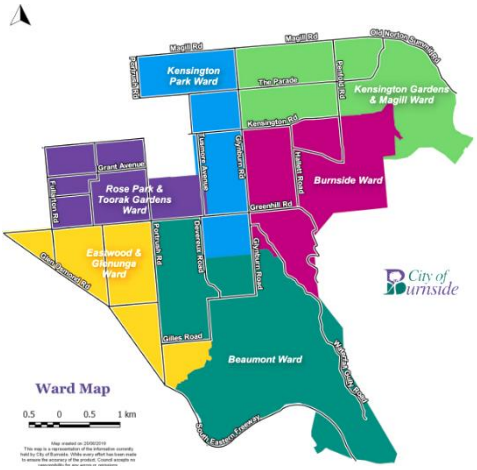
OCTOBER Meeting

What's Behind the Name?

The Stories of Burnside's Suburbs

Monday 20 October @ 7.30pm

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



TOPIC The speaker will explore the stories behind the names of some of Burnside's 26 suburbs. She'll explore how people, local events, and different cultures have influenced these names over time, and outline what the names really mean and the interesting tales behind them. This will give us a new way to think about the suburbs where we live.

OUR SPEAKER **Michelle Toft** completed her Master of Cultural Heritage in 2016 and began working as a curator at the History Trust of South Australia. During her three years there, she worked at the Centre of Democracy, Migration Museum, National Motor Museum and Maritime Museum. In 2018, she was appointed Local History Coordinator at the City of Holdfast on a short-term contract. The role suited Michelle's passion for history, and she pursued similar roles at the City of Port Adelaide Enfield. In 2019 she was appointed Historical and Cultural Officer at the City of Burnside.

VISITORS - a $2 donation is appreciated

Further information

WEBSITE: www.burnsidehistory.org.au
PHONE: 0422 705 916
EMAIL: burnsidehistorysoc@gmail.com
FACEBOOK: Burnside Historical Society, South Australia

17th EASTERN REGION HISTORY SEMINAR

Saturday 28 February 2026

10am – 3pm

Burnside Town Hall

401 Greenhill Road, Tusmore
(Accessibility friendly)

Hosted by the Burnside Historical Society

THEME: BUILDING BRIDGES

The seminar is designed to foster inspiration and collaboration, facilitate the exchange of information and ideas, and build bridges between local history groups.

Keynote Address, Richard Venus

Building Bridges Over the Torrens in the Early Days of Adelaide

COST $30 includes lunch

PROGRAMME

REGISTRATION & MORNING TEA

SEMINAR LAUNCH – by Anne Monceaux, Mayor of Burnside

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

SHORT PRESENTATIONS - by Historical Societies

LUNCH

SHORT PRESENTATIONS continued

TOUR OF THE BURNSIDE LOCAL HISTORY ROOM

ANYONE INTERESTED IN HISTORY is welcome to register to attend. A registration form is on BHS website https://www.burnsidehistory.org.au or in the Burnside Library Local History Room

City of Burnside
Generous Sponsor

Burnside Historical Society