

Mitcham Historical Society Incorporated

June 2019
Volume 12, Number 1

MITCHAM MEMORIES



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Editorial

The MHS Newsletter is a wonderful collaborative effort. We strive to give you something well worth reading in every edition. This includes news on upcoming events, reports of past events, updates from the Brownhill Creek Association and historical articles about South Australia, with particular focus on Mitcham.

Mitcham Memories is managed by Geoff Sauer and the newsletter design and typeset by Annalise Hogan.

Disclaimer

Views and opinions expressed in articles in the newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mitcham Historical Society Inc. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of articles printed, responsibility is not accepted for any errors they may contain that are beyond the Society's control.

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Acknowledgement

The MHS gratefully acknowledges and thanks Nicolle Flint MP and her office for their assistance in the printing of the newsletters.

Coming Events For Your Diary

JUNE | Mid-Year Function

Date: Wednesday 19th

Time: 6.30pm (sold out)

Venue: Victoria Room, Edinburgh Hotel

NOVEMBER | Adelaide Hills Bus Tour

Date: Sunday 3rd

Time: 9am

Venue: Depart Mitcham Council Car Park

SEPTEMBER | Speaker Presentation

Date: Wednesday 4th

Time: 7pm for 7.30pm

Venue: Drawing Room, Scotch College

DECEMBER | End of Year Function

Date: Tuesday 10th

Time: 4pm

Venue: The Edinburgh Hotel

SEPTEMBER | Annual General Meeting

Date: Tuesday 24th

Time: 7pm for 7.30pm

Venue: Drawing Room, Scotch College

OCTOBER | Carrick Hill Tour

Date: Thursday 10th

Time: 10.45am for 11am start

Venue: Carrick Hill (house entrance)

Chairperson's Message

Welcome to you all,

Since our last newsletter we were privileged to be addressed by Associate Professor Ron Danvers who drew comparisons between the town planning of Adelaide and Paris. Thank you to David Cosh for organizing this event.

At the AGM we made the appointments to our committee. Thank you for your support at the meeting. The details of each committee member are listed within this Newsletter and the 2019 Program. If you did not receive a Program 2019 please make contact with our secretary Geoff Sauer. We thank Dr. John Newton, Patron of MHS and Principal of Scotch College, for his lively speech and support.

There was another delightful bus trip to the Langhorne Creek. We said thank you and goodbye to Peter Basedow as our driver of 10 years but he is now on board using his experience to help organize further bus trips.

There is a biennial event "Eastern Regional History Seminar" which in November was hosted by Mt Lofty Districts Historical Society Inc. On Friday 9th we attended a Remembrance Day address reflecting on the process of moving from armistice to peace. Dr. Richard Reid continued his reflections as part of the following day. Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea presented the opportunity for discussion and comparison with other historical societies. It was enjoyable in the afternoon to be guided through the highlights of the village of Mylor. I was reminded of the capacity of a small community to celebrate the heritage of their village and make it a place to visit with the completion of interesting projects. Thank you to MLDHS President Dr. Anne Herraman and her team for organizing the weekend.

I have been reliably informed by Dr. Geoffrey Bishop, Vice President of the East Torrens Historical Society, that they would be running the Eastern Regional History Seminar in 2020. There is a strong possibility that the venue will be Marble Hill.

Our last event for the year was “Christmas drinks at The Ed.” This event was so well attended that we overflowed from inside to the garden. We were joined by Nicolle Flint MP, Federal Member for Boothby, Sam Duluk MP, State Member for Waite and Andrew Tilley, Council Member for Boorman Ward. Thank you to Dave Cosh and Sandy Matz for organizing what must have been our best attended Christmas function. Thank you for your participation as MHS members.

With her passing, we have been reminded recently of the dedication of Cheryl Schneider as Secretary of the MHS. A number of us shared a service with Cheryl’s husband Richard, reflecting on her full life and caring nature.

Please ring me if you wish to discuss a matter or float an idea.

John Wood: 0402 781 601.

Corporate Membership

The MHS has a number of corporate members including Scotch College, The Ed, Colindale, Mitcham Antique Gallery and This Fine Day Gallery/Café. Corporate Membership provides the opportunity for a business to demonstrate its good corporate citizenship credentials through support of an active local association run entirely by volunteers for the benefit of the community.

Corporate Members have their logo/name included on the MHS website and in the twice yearly MHS Newsletter, and receive a framed certificate of membership.

MHS has around 80 members and all members are encouraged to use the services provided by Corporate Members. The Society hosts 6 -7 events each year to which Corporate Members are invited to send a representative (bus trips – discounted member rate).

If you know a business or organisation you think might be interesting in supporting the MHS, please ask them to contact the Chairperson, John Wood, on 0402 781 601.



Mid-Year Function June 2019

2019 is the 150th Anniversary of the opening of The Ed and the 40th anniversary of ownership of this iconic pub by Chris Codling and Danny Djurasevich.

Chris will be the guest story teller on the night. He grew up, and went to school in Mitcham. The stewardship of The Ed's heritage by both Chris and Danny is to be admired and testament to their commitment to the Mitcham Village. Chris will reflect on past events and some of the characters that have made both the Mitcham Village and The Ed the unique places that they remain to this day.

There was a time, in the 1970's, when The Ed was threatened with demolition. In 2019 the pub lives on and celebrates a very special birthday. So please join fellow guests for an evening of story-telling and lift a glass to toast such an auspicious occasion. Guests will enjoy a three-course meal (choice of 3 mains) with complimentary red and white wine. A full bar is available for further drinks at guest cost.

The Mitcham Historical Society presents

A 150TH BIRTHDAY DINNER ACCOMPANIED BY MITCHAM STORIES



The Edinburgh Hotel, 1914

When: Wednesday 19 June

Where: The Victoria Room, Edinburgh Hotel

Time: 6.30pm for 7pm

Enquiries:

John Wood: Phone 0402 781 601

E: johnwood@adam.com.au

Sandy Matz: Phone 0414 747 657

E: smhydepark@gmail.com

THIS EVENT IS SOLD OUT

2018 End of Year Function



Sue Pearce and Trish Cosh



*Bronwyn Cooter, Colin Cooter, MHS Committee
Members Ian Strout and Sandy Matz*

The MHS Christmas wind-up was held at the Ed On Tuesday 11 December. Attendees, and there were in excess of 40, including MPs and many of our corporate sponsors chose between the beer garden (it was warm!) and the air-conditioned High Street Bar. Several new members attended along with the usual suspects and it was a very festive occasion.

This year the Ed celebrates its 150th anniversary and our mid-year function will feature a dinner at the pub on Wednesday June 19 with guest speaker and Ed owner Chris Codling focussing on the history of this iconic Mitcham watering hole.

We will return to the Ed again on Tuesday December 10th for 2019 Christmas drinks. A fitting finale to what will be a very special year for the pub and hopefully a successful year for the Mitcham Historical Society.

Milang-Langhorne Creek-Strathalbyn Recaptured

History of Wine and food in the Strathalbyn and Langhorne Creek Region Bus Trip Sunday 4 November 2018

This region provides a panorama of history and activity which attracted a full bus of members to spend a day getting a mere glimpse of the wonderful wine and food produced in the region. The morning tea stop was at Rusticana Winery and along with the cakes supplied by Pat-a-Cake Bakery, we were able to sample the range of Newmans horseradish, mustard and condiments for which Newmans and Rusticana are famous. Most of the products are grown and produced locally.

The owners, Brian and Anne Meakins, provided an Interesting run down of Newmans history which has been in the Meakins family since 1947, and many condiments were purchased at very favourable prices.

Travelling on to Milang, an historic town on the edge of Lake Alexandrina, we were met by a representative of the Milang Historical Society, Alan McInnes, who



*Milang
Rotunda*

provided an informative commentary as we drove around the town. On the outskirts of Langhorne Creek, we had a delicious hot lunch at Angas Plains Winery.



Bleasdale Wines

Bleasdale Wines provided us with tastings and an insight into the history of the winery through a tour of the cellars - highlights being the red gum press built in 1892 and gigantic wooden beams made from local timber. We imagined how these beams would have been lugged and installed manually by local labour in the 1860s. Frank Potts, the founder of Bleasdale, came to South Australia on the HMS Buffalo when the colony was founded in 1836.

The trip concluded with a tour around Strathalbyn which is on the Angas River and has many old buildings, pubs and thriving businesses.

City of Unley Walk



Led by guide Glen Woodward, 15 members enjoyed a walk on a beautiful late autumn afternoon in March around the area that was the original Unley village. This area is centered around the Town Hall, Unley Shopping Centre, Soldiers' Memorial Gardens, St Augustine's church, the old Institute building and the Cremorne Hotel. The village of Unley was originally part of Mitcham until 1871 and regarded as Mitcham's poor relation as much of the area was swamp. Also, Mitcham had many wealthy residents including Walter Watson Hughes, Thomas Elder and Peter Waite.

Glen provided much history of the development of the area pointing out things like where the Unley Shopping Centre is now were two cinemas, the Ozone and the Odeon, and that in 1921 the Council asked its residents whether it should spend money to acquire the land for the Memorial Gardens on the corner of Unley Road and Thomas Street. Did you know that the Sturt Football Club adopted

the colours of the Universities of Oxford (dark blue) and Cambridge (light blue) – Cambridge Terrace ends at the Unley Oval and Oxford Terrace is divided by Unley Oval.

This was Glen Woodward's eighth guided walk for the MHS which in the past have included Colonel Light Gardens, Lower Mitcham and Unley Park. The Society is very grateful for his knowledge, the research he carries out and his willingness to share both.





**BROWNHILL CREEK
ASSOCIATION INC.**

Conserving & Enhancing Environment & Heritage

N E W S P A G E

Wirraparinga Cultural Heritage Precinct

The vision of Carrick Hill becoming the tourism hub for a cultural heritage tourism precinct encompassing Carrick Hill, the Waite Campus, Mitcham Historic Village, Brownhill Creek Recreation Park and Ellison's Gully is one step closer to reality. Under the Federal Government's \$129 million City Deal funding announcement for Adelaide, \$3 million has been allocated for a new Carrick Hill visitor centre. This represents 50% of the anticipated build cost of \$6 million, following on from the \$2.6 million already raised to upgrade the existing Carrick Hill House. These investments are a vote of confidence in our local arts, culture and heritage, long supported by Mitcham Historical Society.



Apart from functioning as a visitor centre for Carrick Hill, the new Carrick Hill Pavilion and adjacent car parking will provide a wonderful trailhead facility for the 10km Wirraparinga Loop Trail. BCA and our partner groups are seeking \$100,000 to fund a contractor to complete a final steep section of trail,

support a Kurna Cultural Heritage Survey and install directional/trailhead signage. Once these works are complete the trail can be officially launched, coinciding with the opening of an upgraded Carrick Hill House in 2020. The Wirraparinga Loop Trail and integrated trails will link together Kurna and European heritage elements into one cultural heritage precinct or zone that could be heritage listed. Wirraparinga is the traditional Kurna name for this area, meaning place of forest and river. This certainly would be a fitting name for such a cultural heritage precinct.

Ahead of the official opening of the Wirraparinga Loop Trail, Mitcham Historical Society is proactively funding interpretive heritage signage and partnering with BCA on two heritage projects along the proposed trail. The initial project involves a plaque to honour Tom Price, the first Labor Premier of South Australia (1905-1909), who successfully led a coalition government with progressive Liberals to reform the state and leave many legacies that enrich our lives today. You may recall the enthralling presentation made by Tom's great-granddaughter Stephanie McCarthy to Mitcham Historical Society members in August 2016. Stephanie wrote a biography of Tom's life, *Tom Price from Stonecutter to Premier*, Wakefield Press, South Australia, 2015. Among Tom's many achievements was the establishment of the SA Tourist Bureau, which built the Stone Monument at the entrance to Brownhill Creek Recreation Park and caravan park facilities in 1954. Beginning at the Stone Monument is a beautiful avenue of Plane Trees planted to recognise Tom by Mitcham Council in 1907 (see pictured).

The second project is to research and install an interpretive heritage sign at the Kurna Shelter Tree, near the entrance to Brownhill Creek Recreation Park. This iconic 350-400 year old river red gum is an important asset to environmental and cultural education, connecting our community with its environment and cultural diversity. These projects demonstrate that built and natural heritage go hand in hand and should be preserved in harmony.

Ron Bellchambers
BCA Community Liaison Officer
brownhillcreek@gmail.com
www.brownhillcreek.org

Founding of Scotch College

What if? Scotch College and Torrens Park

*By Geoff Sauer**

In his Report *Planning and Development of Towns and Cities in South Australia* (Parliamentary Paper no 63/19) prepared in 1919 for the South Australian Parliament about town planning, Charles Reade (of Colonel Light Gardens fame) wrote:
PART OF TORRENS PARK. A MAGNIFICENT HISTORIC ESTATE RECENTLY “GRIDIRONED”:

The application of modern principles of “planning” as opposed to “subdividing” to this area could undoubtedly have given a better result to the owner and to the council, as well as provision for an alternative motor route to the Unley Road from Mitcham, without the whole of the traffic having to pass through the dangerous street junction and narrow neck adjoining the “Torrens Arms” as at present. No provision was made for dealing with the Brownhill Creek which will now pass through 16 backyards without regard for future considerations of surface drainage, no corners (acute or otherwise) are rounded off, and there is no provision for parks, sites for public purposes ...

He was describing much of the land formerly part of the estate attached to “Torrens Park House” bounded by Ayr Avenue, Lochwinnoch

Road, Carruth Road, Rowallan Road and Unley (Belair) Road. The property on the south eastern corner of Ayr Avenue and Belair Road was the Lodge (or gatehouse) for the estate.



Aerial picture of Scotch College, 1929

Reade was a person much ahead of his time – 100 years ago he identified two issues that are now matters of major concern: traffic on Belair Road and Brownhill Creek.

If the Presbyterian Church in Adelaide had bought the whole of the Barr Smith estate before it was subdivided, Scotch College would have had grounds almost as spacious as those of St Peter’s College in Hackney.

But, what if? What if Mr JW McGregor, Presbyterian Church Elder, had not personally spent £15000 of his own money purchasing “Torrens Park House” and its remaining grounds from the executors of the Barr Smith

estate? It is possible that the house would have been demolished and the grounds subdivided for housing, in the same way that in 1972 “Birksgate”, the grand home of Sir Thomas Elder, and later Tom Barr Smith, was demolished and the land subdivided for housing.

Scotch College celebrates its centenary this year – how did the College come into being? Before (Kyre) Scotch College began in 1919 there were four previous unsuccessful attempts in 1881, 1896, 1904 and 1913 by the Presbyterian Church to establish a Presbyterian school in Adelaide. In 1913 a Presbyterian Men’s League was formed, and always the major obstacle to starting a college was money. Yet, any notion of creating a school were ended in August 1914 with the outbreak of World War 1. After a hiatus of 5 years, the minutes of a May 1918 League meeting record:

The question of starting a high school was opened up and freely discussed and promises of over £200 were received from the members present.

Another six months passed and in November 1918, not long after the Armistice, Professor Darnley Naylor said that “the time was ripe for starting a boy’s college that was connected to the Presbyterian Church”. Furthermore, the Presbyterians were determined to create a memorial to honour those ‘sons of Scotland’ who had died in the war to end all wars. It

happened that Kyre College in Unley Park was for sale and the League agreed to lease it for two years.

The League’s financial situation was somewhat parlous however it was fortuitous that philanthropists JG Balfour, HB Thompson and JW McGregor promised to assist to ensure that the leasing of Kyre College could occur. The same month the lease was signed and Kyre’s furniture was purchased and Kyre Scotch College opened its doors in February 1919.

During 1919 and after the death of Joanna Barr Smith, the executors of the Barr Smith estate determined to dispose of Torrens Park House and its grounds. The Kyre Scotch Committee decided to conduct an appeal for £10,000 and at this point, Mr JW McGregor took the bold step of personally purchasing Torrens Park for £15,000 confident that he would be reimbursed (£15,000 in 1918 is approximately equivalent to \$1,500,000 today). The rest is history, as they say, and in February 1920 Scotch College was at Torrens Park with Kyre removed from its name.

So, what if Scotch College had not been established at Torrens Park House and grounds? It is likely that a significant property and part of South Australia’s colonial history developed by Sir Robert Richard Torrens, Walter Watson Hughes and Robert Barr Smith may have vanished in the cause of subdivision and development.

*Geoff Sauer is a Scotch old collegian, and a member of Mitcham Historical Society Committee

Joseph & Catherine Boase

Reprinted with permission from SA Genealogy

By Marleen Carver (nee Paynter)

Joseph Boase was an outstanding man who married into the Paynter family. He made his name in the business of horse breaking, dealing, selling and exporting stock interstate. He was active in Local Council, several Lodges, Temperance Society and cricket. In his younger days he was known to have ridden in horse races. At the height of his prosperity he owned several prominent properties around Adelaide.

Joseph was born in St. Ives, Cornwall in 1841 to parents Joseph Boase and Mary Pascoe. The family came to South Australia in 1848 in the "Westminster", and settled at Nairne. He had two brothers and two sisters, but one sister died in infancy. Joseph tried various types of work including postman at Nairne.

It was while working as a miner at Wheal Ellen Mine, Strathalbyn, he met and married Catherine Paynter at Strathalbyn on 22 July, 1863. Catherine was the eldest daughter of William Arundell Paynter, a well-known and respected Mine Captain, first at the Wheal Ellen Mine, then at Moonta Mines.

Joseph started as a stableboy at a Horse Bazaar in Gilles Arcade, Adelaide. Because of his exceptional ability in handling and

judging horses, he rose up to become a partner in the business of Formby and Boase. The Horse Bazaar at Gilles Arcade had previously been the Queens Theatre, the oldest purpose built theatre on mainland Australia circa 1841. The Queens theatre has had numerous uses over the years, including as a Supreme Court, city mission and Formby and Boase Horse Bazaar. The hitching rings can still be seen on the building today.

Life was very good for the Boase family and they had eight children, but two daughters died in infancy. Their residence was at Rowland Road, Hilton, and Joseph was a Councillor on the West Torrens Council. The horse and stock business was very prosperous and Joseph owned 19 blocks of land or properties around Adelaide. He was active as a Freemason, in the Rechabite Lodge and The Leopold Lodge of which he was a founding member.

During this time Joseph chartered coastal steamers and had numerous trips interstate selling sheep, cattle and horses. In 1896 he objected, along with Mr. Kidman, to harsh new quarantine regulations of the Western Australian Government that would have impacted significantly on their export profit margin.



Granville – the Boase house demolished in the 1960s. The house was located where the Margaret Tobin Centre now stands at Flinders Medical Centre.

In 1893 Joseph bought a large property of 350 acres, on South Road at Sturt, now Bedford Park. Here he built a 10 roomed two storey stone house, which he called Granville House. Having done very well in business, Joseph was by this time retired.

However, he had made some unfortunate investments and about 1897, he and Catherine moved to Ballarat, Victoria, where he became a partner in the business of Coghlan Boase & Co. stock agents. After only a year his health failed and he died of heart attack and chronic nephritis. He was buried in Ballarat Cemetery.

Joseph Boase can be remembered as a colourful character who brought energy and enthusiasm to all that he was involved in.

After several other owners, the Bedford Park property was sold to the Government in 1914 and opened as the Bedford Park

Tuberculosis Sanatorium in 1917. The 2 storey house was used as the Administration building and other buildings were added to house the patients. There was also an orchard and market garden, pigs and poultry. This land is now the site of Flinders University and the Flinders Medical Centre.

The Queen's Theatre was saved from demolition in the late 1980s due to discoveries of historical artefacts and dressing rooms during an archaeological dig. It has now been restored to a state where it is being used again as a theatre and was recently used in Adelaide's Fringe Festival.

While the Queens Theatre/Horse Bazaar building lives on, the elegant family home at Bedford Park is now just an interesting piece of history to add to the Family History.

Port Adelaide Bus Trip Report

Sunday 7 April saw 20 members and friends visit historic Port Adelaide which is currently undergoing major change and development. First stop was the Port Adelaide Historical Society Museum in Peterhead where the Society has a substantial collection of framed pictures, photographs, maps, books, artefacts, printed ephemera and maritime memorabilia dating back to the 19th Century and originally put together by the late Keith Le Leu OAM. The Society has been working to preserve and protect the history of Port Adelaide and environs area since 1972.



Members at the Port Adelaide Historical Society Museum

A guided tour of the Port followed with most knowledgeable guide, John Butler, from the Port Adelaide Historical Society where many aspects of the Port's colourful history and architecture were pointed out. Considerable development is occurring at the Port with consequent impacts on the streetscapes, visual amenity and the waterfront. New housing is being constructed literally at the wharves' edges, there is a campaign to save the last remaining saw tooth roof warehouse and many old buildings are undergoing restoration. After visiting the site of the original Port Misery (northern end of West Lakes), Semaphore, Largs Bay and a drive along the coast to Outer Harbour, lunch was taken at the Birkenhead Tavern which has spectacular views across the Port's inner harbour.



"old anchor, new bridge"

The tour of the Port concluded with a visit to the South Australian Aviation Museum – this is one of Adelaide's hidden gems featuring a variety of aircraft from a range of eras, including an F111 (in remarkable condition), a DC3, a PC3 Orion and many more.



Philip Menzel makes a point about perspex at the Aviation Museum. Mary Sauer, John Pannell and guide listen intently.



Aviation Museum Port Adelaide - vintage Sea Venom jet from the RAN Fleet Air Arm

One of the displays has a Mitcham connection - David Leicester was born in Mitcham on 30 June 1923. He enlisted in the RAAF in late 1940 and after training was sent to England where he flew heavy bombers (Halifaxes 31 missions in 158 and 640 Squadrons, Lancasters 37 missions in 35 PFF Squadron). He was awarded a DFC and Bar, and in 2007 an OAM for "For service to the community through ex-Service, heritage and local government organizations".

A circuitous route back to Mitcham was followed in order to see the demolition work being undertaken at what was Football Park. A special thankyou to our new driver, Mitcham community volunteer, Peter Williams for an excellent job.

Glanville Hall

During the tour of Port Adelaide, we stopped at Glanville Hall (built 1856). A lavish family home for Captain John Hart; a retired mariner, cattle merchant, significant land owner, keen politician and three times Premier of South Australia. Named after Captain Hart's mother, Mary Glanville, the manor was constructed from stone transported almost 200km from Port Vincent on SA's Yorke Peninsula. The house is an excellent example of Victorian Tudor style architecture, the features give a fascinating glimpse into life in colonial South Australia. A gracious home and a fine example of English design adapted to the warm and dry Australian climate.

In 1946, Father Percy Smith purchased Glanville Hall on behalf of the Anglican Church to provide accommodation for young Aboriginal boys from remote areas who were attending school in the local area. It was renamed St Francis House and over the next 14 years, more than 50 children found at home there. Its alumni include Dr Charles Perkins AO (civil rights activist), Dr Gordon Briscoe AO (academic and activist), Dr John Moriarty AM (the first Indigenous graduate of Flinders University, a Churchill Fellow, the first Indigenous person selected for the Australian National Soccer Team, and his company Jumbana provided the Aboriginal artwork designs for two QANTAS planes), Mr Les Nayda AM (public servant and activist), and Mr Bill Espie (Queens Medal for Bravery). Notable sporting identities include Vincent Copley, Richie Bray and Ken Hampton who played football for Port Adelaide, while Wally McArthur became an accomplished track and field athlete. Glanville Hall is now a wedding and function venue.



Annual General Meeting Notice



SEPTEMBER | Annual General Meeting

Date: Tuesday 24th

Time: 7pm for 7.30pm

Venue: Drawing Room, Scotch College

Supper: wine and cheese, tea and coffee provided

Bookings: Sandy Matz 0414 747 657

smhydepark@gmail.com

Speaker: Mr Michael Lennon, State Planning Commission

Speaker Presentation

SEPTEMBER | Speaker Presentation

Date: Wednesday 4th

Time: 7pm for 7.30pm

Venue: Drawing Room, Scotch College

Cost: \$5 (light supper provided)

Bookings: Sandy Matz 0414 747 657

smhydepark@gmail.com

Speaker: Mr Sam Duluk MP, Member for Waite



MHS guided walks in Ellison's Gully and Brownhill Creek Valley

The MHS hosted two walks in Ellison's Gully, Brownhill Creek as part of the 2019 History Festival, led by Mitcham Councillor and 5th generation local resident, Andrew Tilley. A third walk in Brownhill Creek was led by BCA Community Liaison Officer, Ron Bellchambers. More than 70 people attended across the three walks. Andrew Tilley detailed the history of the post-colonial settlement of the Brownhill Creek area as well as information about the Kaurna people who lived in the Brownhill Creek area before 1836. Ellison's Gully is part of the Leawood Gardens estate and the owners generously allow visitors to explore the area. It is more accessible than it used to be with blackberry bushes cleared from most of the area. A number of old mines in the area can be accessed (with care) by visitors, but you need a good light source.

The Mitcham waterworks

After Colonel William Light surveyed the City of Adelaide in 1837, he concluded that the River Torrens would provide a sufficient water supply for many years, but as the population grew the Torrens could not meet the demand. Thorndon Park Reservoir was constructed in the foothills and was progressively expanded so that by the mid-1870s, Adelaide and its surrounding suburbs had sufficient water.

In the meantime, Mitcham Village was missing out. At an elevation too high to receive water from Adelaide's water network, it was reliant on flows from Brownhill Creek and water carted from Adelaide to sustain its population. The creek's flows diminished due to horticultural activity upstream. The villagers lobbied the State Government for the establishment of a permanent water supply. In the mid-1870s the Parliament agreed to the installation of such a supply along Ellison's Creek (the branch of the creek that extends from the base of Tilley's Hill Road). This site was selected for its unspoiled water purity.

Work began on the scheme in 1878 with the construction of the pipe track and a well towards the head of the gully. Six-inch pipe was imported from Scotland and laid from the well through Ellison's and Brownhill gullies, crossing Brownhill Creek and then uphill to the Mitcham water tank next to McElligot's Quarry. This tank had a storage capacity of 1.2M litres and is recognised on the State Heritage register for its unique construction. The original piping is still visible at several locations and take off points were used by market gardeners to irrigate their crops. The scheme was completed, at a total cost of £11,860, and officially opened on 25 November 1879. It ceased operation in 1930.

The Ellison's Creek well became severely overgrown with blackberries. It was not until 2002-2003 that the well was rediscovered and surveyed by the Mitcham Council, Flinders University and local volunteers. A comprehensive post settlement history of the Brownhill Creek area can be found on the Mitcham Council website at www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/brownhillcreek and www.walkingsa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Brownhill-Creek-Heritage-Trail-Final-31-July-2017.pdf

CARRICK HILL TOUR

Thursday 10th October

**An ideal time to visit as the gardens
will be in full bloom!**

A fully guided private tour will commence at
11am (1 hr duration)

Meet at the entrance to Carrick Hill House
at 10.45am



Cost: \$15

Bookings:

Ian Strout 0400 027 117 istrout@bigpond.net.au

Or Sandy Matz 0414 747 657 smhydepark@gmail.com

*Please make your own booking at the cafe for lunch if
you wish to stay after the tour.*



Brownhill Creek circa 1939, State Library of South Australia [PRG 287/1/8/9]

Are you interested in the local history of Mitcham?

Have a look at <http://www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/localhistorybrochures> where there is an enormous range of accessible resources about not just the Council wards and suburbs but also such things as “butchering in Mitcham”, tram lines around Mitcham, churches, reserves and schools in Mitcham. You will find self-guided walks for the Brownhill Creek Heritage Trail, Blackwood, Colonel Light Gardens heritage walk, and Mitcham Village heritage walk to list a few.

The Mitcham Local History Service which was established by the City of Mitcham in 1986 to preserve and promote the history and heritage of the Mitcham district. Located at the Mitcham Heritage Research Centre within the Mitcham Cultural Village, the local history service is an excellent resource for anyone interested in the history of City of Mitcham. Knowledgeable staff and volunteers are available to assist you with personal and curriculum-based research, guided tours and history related events. Located in the Mitcham Cultural Village, 103 - 105 Princes Road Mitcham, Phone: 8372 8261 and open Tuesday 9.30am to 4pm, Wednesday 9.30am to 4pm and Thursday 9.30am to 4pm.

Walks for Lung Cancer

Mitcham Historical Society Members Rick & Helen Irving will host six historical walks in September to raise funds for research into lung cancer and other lung diseases.

Please see the following two websites:

<https://lungfoundation.grassrootz.com/shine-a-light-on-lung-cancer/historical-walks-in-beautiful-mitcham>

AND

<https://www.weekendnotes.com/guided-historical-walks-near-mitcham/>

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