

# MITCHAM MEMORIES

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VOLUME 10 THE MITCHAM HISTORICAL FEBRUARY  
NUMBER 1 SOCIETY INCORPORATED 2017

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**VOL. 10 NO. 1 FEBRUARY 2017**

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MHS

THE MITCHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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## EDITORIAL

I must apologise deeply for the delay of the Newsletter. A series of unfortunate (albeit some also fortunate) events proved overwhelming and hindered the newsletter process. I hope you still find the Newsletter a good read and I owe a huge thanks to members of the committee who stepped in to help.

## 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 out of the Society's control.

## PRIVACY ACT

A member's personal information collected by the Society, for example name, address and telephone number, will only be used for forwarding of the Newsletter and relevant information concerning the Society. The information will not be shared, sold or given to any third party without the member's consent. Any e-mails will be treated as above. However, any information sent by e-mail will be at the sender's risk and the Society will not be held responsible for any unintended use or disclosure of this.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We gratefully acknowledge and thank Martin Hamilton-Smith. M. P., and his office for their assistance in the printing of this Newsletter.

# Chairperson's Message

On Tuesday 27th of September we held our AGM and we were honoured to have Dr John Newton, Principal of Scotch College, as our guest speaker. Dr Newton presented an enthusiastic presentation on the *Peter the Great* statue from Saint Petersburg, Russia and we look forward to hearing more of his presentations in 2017. Newly elected members are myself as Chairperson, Brian Angus as Treasurer, Sandra Matz as Secretary, John Dibben as Auditor, with John Wood, Tricia Cosh, Peter Basedow continuing on as Committee Members. We welcome Sandra as our new Secretary and she has already proven to have a high level of secretarial and organisational skills. Anyone wishing to join our committee would be more than welcome, as committee input is invaluable for the success of any event. At the AGM, Ron Bellchambers spoke about the *Connecting Communities: Cultural Heritage and Nature-Based Tourism Project*, which is centred around a 9.2km Wirraparinga Loop Trail. Ron commented that this trail will provide a focus for recreation, tourism, education, heritage and native re-vegetation and habitat restoration. He also stressed that the Connecting Communities Project will not only help promote and preserve Mitcham's natural heritage, but it will provide immeasurable benefits for present and future generations. As a commitment to our MHS motto "Proud of our history and committed to our future", the MHS voted to donate a further \$5,000.00 to the Brownhill Creek Association towards this project. These funds will assist in the development of interpretive signage for the cultural heritage trail.

The year 2016 was a busy one for the MHS with major events, such as hosting the 13th Eastern Regional Historical Societies Seminar in July. On our recent October bus trip, Glen Woodward shared his historical knowledge of North Adelaide, never failing to entertain us and showing more amazing stamina at the age of 88 than myself! We will be able to catch up with Glen again this year as our host for the March Twilight Walk, which will be focusing on the Unley area. Unfortunately I had to miss the MHS December Edinburgh Hotel breakup due to travelling overseas with my three adult children. It was a fantastic experience as the combination of snow and Xmas lights made Europe quite magical in winter. I hope you all had a safe and happy festive season and I look forward to our 2017 events.

*"Life is so good, and it gets better every day".*

This quote is from 103-year-old American George Dawson, a former slave's grandson who only learnt to read at age 98.

# Calendar

## Program for 2017

### **MARCH | Twilight Walk**

Date: Monday 20th March

Time: 6pm

Venue: Unley Park

For details see page 9.

### **APRIL | Bus Tour - Gawler and Kapunda**

Date: Sunday 9th April

Time: 9am

Venue: Gawler & Kapunda

For details see page 11.

### **May | Brownhill Creek/Ellison's Gully Historical Walk**

Date: Sunday 14th and Sunday 28th

Time: 1.30pm

Venue: Brownhill Creek & Ellison's Gully

For details see page 14.



PHOTOS AT AN ADELAIDE BEACH BY THEO BACHMANN, CIRCA 1915-1950. SOURCED FROM THE STATE LIBRARY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA IN THE [B 71826/201-300] COLLECTION.

# December Edition Notice

Dear loyal newsletter patrons,

As many of you are aware, our usual end of year newsletter was delayed due to unforeseen circumstances, for this you have our sincerest apologies. In the meantime this February edition will cover both December and March newsletters. The MHS brochure will be sent out in March to all members detailing our 2017 events.

Most of our members would be aware that our committee and sub-committees are largely made up of volunteers, all of whom work very hard and I am extremely grateful for their dedicated assistance. Following these recent events, it has come to my attention that further assistance may be required from time to time. Thus, I would like to ask if anyone amongst our community would care to volunteer and assist when the need arises.

Volunteers may register via our MHS email: [mitchamhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:mitchamhistoricalsociety@gmail.com) or by contacting me on 0430 472 262. Once again, our sincerest apologies for the delay of the newsletter and our further thanks to those willing to volunteer and help.

Julie Hogan  
MHS Chairperson



# Newsletter Notices

## RAAF Association – Mitcham

On November 18th 2016, the book launch of *The Mitcham AFA Family* took place at the Mitcham Community Court, Belair Road, Hawthorn. *The Mitcham AFA Family* contains a compilation of a 70-year history of the Mitcham Branch of the RAAF Association by Bernie O'Neil and Kevin Gogler, both authors of historical publications and both sons of former branch members. It was three years in the making and concerns an essentially post WW2 group, who formed a community branch of the RAAF Association, which was at one time, the largest in Australia. The book was officially launched by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Hon. Martin Hamilton-Smith, a long and loyal friend and local member for Waite.

Anyone interested in purchasing this book, please contact Kevin Gogler by email: [goglers@internode.on.net](mailto:goglers@internode.on.net).

## MOOCs Research Group

Scotch College is calling on participants to form a community group to research MOOCs (Massive Online Courses) in order to enrich the students from Years 7 to 12, who find their courses intuitive and can be challenged further. MOOC are online courses with diverse subject content, open to anyone with an internet connection. The course content is developed by staff from prestigious international and local universities. The aim of the community group is to create a directory of MOOCs for each subject area. Participants will evaluate these online courses as to whether they are suitable, beneficial, and constructive for students. There will be an introductory meeting in February 2017.

If you have sound IT skills and are interested in being part of this process, please contact Louise Laurendi, Information Services Co-ordinator, Scotch College  
Ph: 8274 4253, or email: [llaurendi@scotch.sa.edu.au](mailto:llaurendi@scotch.sa.edu.au)



# TWILIGHT WALK

*With Glen Woodward*

**Monday March 20**

**Meet: South end of Heywood Park car park, Unley Park**

**Time: 6pm**

**Duration: under 2 hours**

**Cost: \$2 coin donation**

**Optional dinner at Hyde**

**Park Tavern to follow**



**RSVP: Glenn Woodward by phone: 8272 9046**

**Or Julie Hogan by email: [julie.a.hogan@gmail.com](mailto:julie.a.hogan@gmail.com)**

## **Houses of the Rich & Famous**

*The walk will begin in Heywood park alongside Brownhill Creek near the home of Thomas Whistler and location of the movie "Shine". Continuing along Cross Road looking at the architectural styles of houses to Glen Avenue and then onto the mansions of Victoria Avenue.*

# **Dr. John H. Newton**

## **Principal of Scotch College**

The MHS was delighted to have Dr John Newton as our guest speaker for our recent September AGM. His presentation, “The Bronze Horseman – more than just a statue”, referred to the Peter the Great statue in St. Petersburg and focused on putting Pushkin’s famous poem into its historical and political context. Dr Newton gave a very entertaining and informative account of his educational background which allowed him to visit Russia on many occasions and thus gain a unique historical and personal knowledge of this country and the way the citizens think. He concluded by telling us that he will give at least three presentations during next year and we will advise members when and where these can be attended. For members’ information, I have included a summary of Dr Newton’s achievements.

Dr John H. Newton was educated at Manchester Grammar School and graduated from Merton College Oxford with a degree in French and Russian. He achieved a Master of Arts at University of Oxford College, (Fellow of the College of Preceptors – College of Teachers) and a Dip.MS(Ed) Master of Education. Furthermore, Dr Newton obtained a PhD in the ‘Organisational Culture of Independent Schools.’ He was previously the Headmaster of Taunton School for 10 years. He has also worked at Eastbourne College where he was Director of Studies and later Housemaster, having previously been Head of Modern Languages at Bradfield College in Berkshire. He moved to Adelaide from the United Kingdom in January 2015 to take up the role as Principal at Scotch College. Dr Newton and his wife Catherine have four children – the youngest two of whom are attending Scotch College. Not only is he a talented musician and orator, he has also sung in school choirs and coached rugby, hockey, cricket, fives, rowing and football.



# **BUS TOUR**

## *Gawler and Kapunda*

### **Sunday 9th April**

Enjoy a tour of the heritage town of Gawler and the Anlaby Station via Kapunda – the former home of the Dutton family.

**Cost: \$79 members or \$89 non-members**

**Bus departs: 9am sharp    Meet: Mitcham Council Car Park**

**RSVP: John Wood by phone: 0402 781 601**

**or email: [johnwood@adam.com.au](mailto:johnwood@adam.com.au)**

**or Peter Basedow: 0417 809 227**

***Limited seats! Book early to avoid disappointment!***

### *Plan for the day:*

**House:** A tour of the house takes you on a journey through the principal rooms and the servants work rooms.

**Garden:** There are approximately 10 acres of garden. A walk through these historically listed gardens typically includes shade house, glass house, walled vegetable garden, rose gardens and terraced lawns.

**Morning tea and lunch are included.**



*The original carriageway winds past the front of the house, and down to the peacock aviary.*



# Brownhill Creek Environment and Heritage Action Day

A Brownhill Creek Environment and Heritage Action Day was held on Friday 21st October, with two hundred students from four schools enjoying a day out at the entrance to Brownhill Creek Recreation Park. Professor Chris Daniels was the keynote speaker and Kurna Elders Jeffrey Newchurch and Frank Wanganeen shared their cultural heritage. Thank you to the BCA Education and Revegetation Committee for organising the event, especially Ann-Louise Breeding (Urrbrae Wetlands Manager) and Jeremy Gramp (NRM Education Officer).

The Welcome to Country, performed by Frank Wanganeen, may have been the first indigenous ceremony held in the valley since early European settlement. There are two documented sightings of aboriginal ceremonies in the area. In 1837 the South Australia Company established Sheep Station Number 1 in Brownhill Creek Valley, as a source of meat for the early colonists. Drovers brought the sheep from the eastern colonies and Reverend William Finlayson was one of the first company shepherds. He wrote in his memoirs: "The banks of the creek at the place that it issued from the hills was a favourite camping and gathering ground with the natives, as many as one hundred and fifty being there". Ten years later the eldest son of Reverend Thomas Playford observed ..."a corroboree of 40 ochre ornamented male natives go through their capering performances to the accompaniment of a number of lubras who beat time on hollow pieces of bark by some, and others by striking two pieces of wood together".

The Environment and Heritage Action Day comprised six sessions, five covering aspects of environmental science, with one session devoted to Kurna and European heritage. It is fascinating to discover the heritage at the entrance to the park. The Tom Price Avenue of plane trees honours the first Labor Premier of South Australia (1905-1909) who led a successful and reforming coalition government. Tom Price planted the first tree at a Mitcham Council ceremony in 1907, near the stone monument. In 1954 the South Australian Tourist Bureau built the stone monument and opened the Brownhill Creek Caravan Park. The plaque on the monument marks the creation of a National Pleasure Resort in 1915 by the SA Tourist Bureau. Our aim is to place a plaque on the stone monument to inform visitors about Tom Price, a fitting location as he established the SA Tourist Bureau and was a stonecutter and master stonemason by trade.





*continued*

A Kurna Shelter Tree and the Yurrebilla Trail draw our attention to Kurna Heritage, as this was their winter camping, hunting and ceremonial country called Wirraparinga. Yurrebilla is the Kurna name that identifies Mount Lofty and Mount Bonython as the two ears of Nganno (pronounced Nar-na). Nganno is a Kurna ancestral being who journeyed across this land, lying down to die following a battle. Nganno's body formed the Mount Lofty Ranges. The Yurrebilla Trail now links Brownhill Creek Recreation Park to the Greater Mount Lofty Parklands and likely follows a traditional route used for tens of thousands of years before European settlement.

The weir, with its cascading water, was built in 1929 by Mitcham Council to form a swimming 'pool', complete with rudimentary changing rooms and a diving board. It fell into disrepair in the 1940's and is now filled in and vegetated. At this site a rough stone wall was used to create a swimming hole in the 1890's. Nearby McElligott's Quarry opened in 1858 and continued until the mid 1930's. Stone from this quarry was used in the building of St Michael's Church (1848), Scotch College (1854), Mundy's Bridge/The White Bridge (c1870) and the Outer Harbour Breakwater (early 1900's). The South Australian Division of the Geological Society of Australia classified this quarry as a Geological Monument due to the uncovering of noteworthy folding and faulting and Precambrian (750 million years old) layers of rock. Remarkable heritage just at the entrance to Brownhill Creek Recreation Park!

Thank you for supporting our local heritage.

Ron Bellchambers

BCA Community Liaison Officer  
[brownhillcreek@gmail.com](mailto:brownhillcreek@gmail.com)  
[www.brownhillcreek.org](http://www.brownhillcreek.org)

IMAGE CREDIT:  
[HTTP://BROWNHILLCK.  
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**The Mitcham Historical Society proudly  
presents for the May History Festival...**

**14th & 28th May**

**Brownhill Creek/Ellison's Gully**

**Historical Walks**



**Walks conducted by Andrew Tilley**

**Time:** 1.30pm (duration: approx. 2 hours)

**Meet:** At the Manure Pits, Brownhill Creek Road

**Cost:** Gold coin donation

**RSVP essential:** John Wood 0402 781 601 or email: [johnwood@adam.com.au](mailto:johnwood@adam.com.au)

or Brian Angus [bvangelus@ozemail.com.au](mailto:bvangus@ozemail.com.au)

or Julie Hogan 0430 472 262 or [julie.a.hogan@gmail.com](mailto:julie.a.hogan@gmail.com)



# Italianate Style Mansion

## 22-24 Coromandel Parade, Blackwood

This local heritage place is a two-storey Italianate style mansion, designed by Rowland Rees and built for Member of Parliament, William Townsend in 1881 across two allotments. It is one of the larger mansions in the area and is likely to have been built in anticipation of the construction of the railway.

Philia Kambitsis is justifiably proud of the Blackwood home she's lived in for the past 50 years. After all, it was her keen eye that first spotted the property on Coromandel Parade when it came on the market.



“I loved the house and the garden and the hills,” she says. “The home needed a lot of work so it was a challenge to bring it around. It took two years from the time we commenced work to restore it to its former glory.”

From the gilt-edged cornices to the English wallpaper, in each of its substantial rooms, the home is indeed grand. The heritage-listed property, has 20 rooms and five bathrooms. It has been the venue for weddings, formal dinners and parties over the years, but it is also been home for Philia, her late husband Nicholas and their family.

The interior is colourful and lavishly decorated with ornate and collectible furniture, artworks and mirrors. Many of the pieces have been imported from England and Europe. Philia has spent a lifetime building up her collection of decorative vases, statues, lamps and art. Among her favourite pieces is an Egyptian buffet, featuring inlaid brass and marble. Her bedroom suite was found in a Scottish castle. The home includes two formal dining rooms, with a striking red and gold theme. One room has Egyptian statues standing watch, while the other features French carved gold furniture and an English buffet.

Sources: Catherine Clifton. 2016. *Downton Abbey in Adelaide: Inside a grand manion*. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/downton-abbey-in-adelaide-inside-a-grand-old-mansion/story>.

Excerpts from Blackwood Historical Walk brochure, City of Mitcham, 2013.



# Glenn Woodard *Treasured Story Presentation*

**Written by Grace Chiang**  
**Program Coordinator, Circle of Friends**  
**St John Community Care**

*St John Treasured Story Presentation* for Glen Woodward took place on Saturday 12th November at Unley Town Hall, commencing at 4pm with an afternoon tea, followed by the official presentation. Lord Mayor Martin Haese of the City of Adelaide and Mayor Lachlan Clyne of the City of Unley were both in attendance and each made a brief speech of congratulations and kind words for Glen and his work.

*St John Treasured Story Project* is one of the St John Community Care Programs with the aim to honour and celebrate the contribution and achievement of our older members through the gift of their stories to family, friends and community. By doing these presentations in the form of events we wish to express our gratitude towards our older members involved in the process. It obviously highlights its social value by transforming their stories into social resource with accumulated knowledge, experience and wisdom.

*TRUE TO FORM, GLEN BEAUTIFULLY  
DECORATED THE TABLES IN CHINESE  
COLOURS, USING PLANTS FROM HIS  
OWN GARDEN.*



## **continued**

Glen Woodward is our very remarkable member who has written about his life story with his Chinese friends as a part of *St John Treasured Story Project*. Now is the time to share his knowledge and life experience with the Chinese in our community. Glen's unique story is one of diversity, wisdom, kindness and social responsibility. He spent many years of his life helping and living together with the Chinese people. Glen has proved he has a love for humanity and his story is one of modesty, humility, open-mindedness and hope. His enormous contribution to the community is recognised and appreciated with the presentation of the World Harmony Medal from Adelaide Lord Mayor for his 20 years of guiding people.

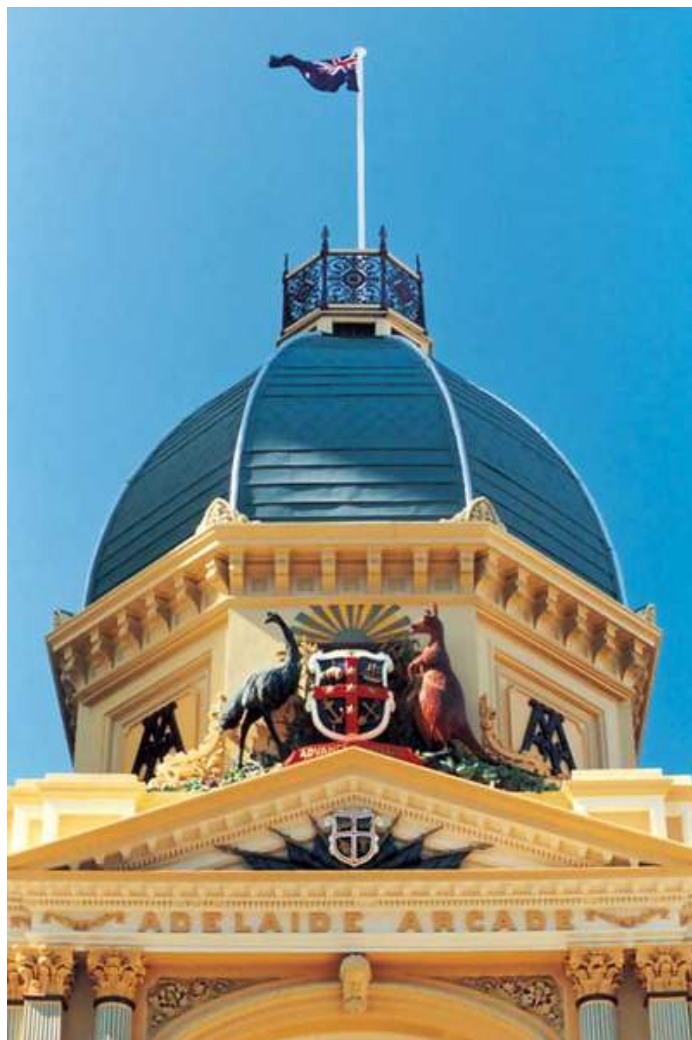


*Thank you Glen*

# The Charm of Adelaide Arcade

Rundle Mall celebrated their 40th Birthday in 2016, yet Adelaide Arcade is much, much older. In fact, Adelaide Arcade was built in 1885, before the federation of Australia. It was built in a surprisingly short time, only five months, and took an amazing 50,000 square feet of glass and over two million bricks to complete. Adelaide Arcade was also one of the first buildings in Adelaide to use electric lighting. The front page boasts a transparent picture of Rundle Street (Mall) from 1888 as well as a picture of the completed interior of Adelaide Arcade from 1886.

One of the distinct features of the Adelaide Arcade is its Coat of Arms, which is unique to the Arcade itself. At the time when Adelaide Arcade was being built, multiple competitions for the Australian Coat of Arms were being held. The promoters of Adelaide Arcade decided to adopt the Coat of Arms that they thought would eventually win.



Unfortunately, the promoters were mistaken in which design would win. Fortunately though, Adelaide Arcade gained a historical piece that would identify it for decades to come.

Presently, Adelaide Arcade hosts a number of unique specialty shops and is an iconic part of Adelaide CBD. It arranges various displays throughout the year and even organises tours for its resident ghost! If you feel like indulging more into the charming history of Adelaide Arcade, there is now a Museum dedicated to the Arcade on the balcony level of Gay's Arcade. There is no charge to wander through and it is open at the same time as Adelaide Arcade's shopping hours.

Source: Adelaide Arcade. 2016. *History*. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://adelaidearcade.com.au/history/>. [Accessed 21 December 2016].

# BHS program

For those looking to add more to their calendars, listed below are the Burnside Historical Society programs.

Meetings are held at 7.30 pm in the Coralie Soward Hall (main hall) Burnside Community Centre, 401 Greenhill Road, Tasmore, corner Greenhill and Portrush Roads. Enter carpark off Fisher Street. Everyone is welcome to attend.

- **Monday, 7.30 pm, 20 February – Alison Painter**  
*Coopers on Statenborough*
- **20 March – Daniela Rose**  
*Italian Migration to South Australia*
- **17 April – Sharan Northcott**  
*The Inverell Kurrajongs; World War 1*
- **15 May – Christo Reid**  
*The Extraordinary Life of Sir Sidney Kidman - films*
- **19 June – David Rogers**  
*Cobar and Western NSW: South Australia's connection*
- **17 July – David Buob**  
*Glenside Hospital: Then and Now*
- **21 August – Jenny Stock**  
*'A Woman's Voice': the parliamentary careers of Joyce Steele and Jessie Cooper*
- **18 September - Professor Kay Whitehead**  
*Mrs Hubbe's been 'teaching on and off ever since 1874, but it is a pleasure to me almost always'*
- **16 October - Judy Fander**  
*From Teetulpa to the Tanami: Around South Australia's goldfields 1882-1911 with Warden Lionel C E Gee SM*
- **20 November**  
*To be advised*

No charge required. Refreshments provided - a gold coin donation appreciated.

For further details you may contact:

BHS President Meredith Ide by email: [meredithide@gmail.com](mailto:meredithide@gmail.com) or phone: 0439 478 352

# Corporate Memberships

It is with pleasure that we present here, the names of our  
Corporate Members,

Namely:



This Fine Day Cafe



David Cosh