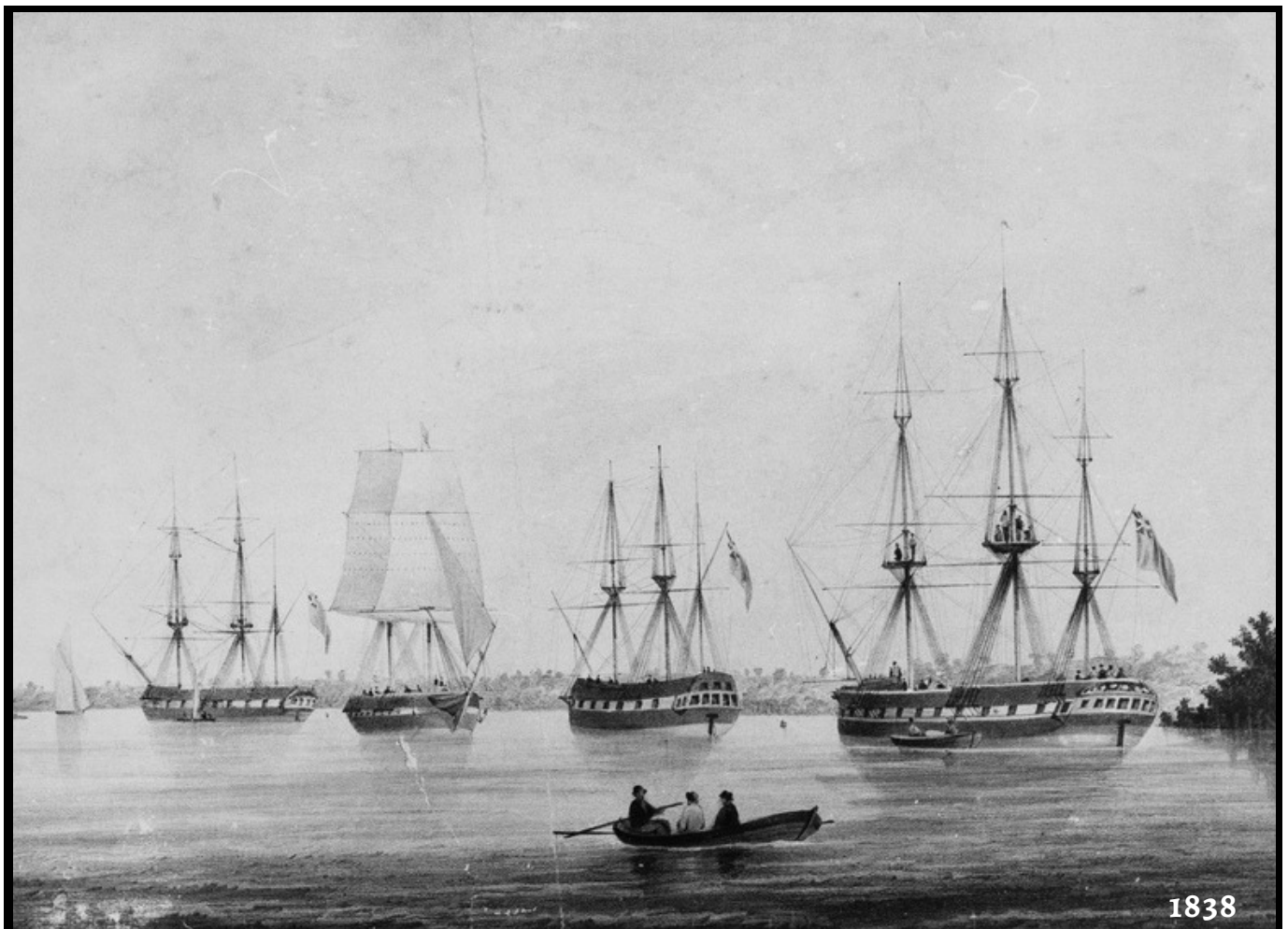


MITCHAM MEMORIES

VOLUME 10 THE MITCHAM HISTORICAL AUGUST
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MHS

EDITORIAL

This edition of the MHS newsletter has had the highest number of collaborators with whom I have ever worked. For that reason I am especially excited for you all to read this newsletter and hope the involvement grows in the future.

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 MHS, for example name, address and telephone number, will only be used for forwarding of the newsletter and relevant MHS information. The personal information will not be shared, sold or given to any third party without the member's consent. Any emails will be treated as above. However, any information sent by email will be at the sender's risk and the MHS will not be held responsible for any unintended use or disclosure.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The MHS gratefully acknowledge and thank Martin Hamilton-Smith MP and his office for their assistance in the printing of this newsletter.

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Calendar

Program for 2017

AUGUST | Speaker Presentation: Professor Robin Prior

Date: Wednesday 23rd August

Time: 7pm

Venue: Drawing Room, Scotch College

For details see page 7

SEPTEMBER | Annual General Meeting & Speaker Dr. Robert Stone

Date: Tuesday 26th September

Time: 7pm

Venue: Drawing Room, Scotch College

For details see page 10

OCTOBER | Southern Vale Regional Bus Tour

Date: Sunday 8th October

Time: 9am

Venue: Mitcham Council Car Park (bus)

For details see page 11

NOVEMBER | David Roche Foundation Tour

Date: Tuesday 14th November

Time: 10am

Venue: Roche Foundation

For details see page 22

DECEMBER | End of Year Function

Date: Tuesday 12th December

Time: 4pm

Venue: The Edinburgh Hotel

For details see page 23

Chairperson's Message

Greetings to you all

I hope our members and families are surviving the winter chills. Unfortunately, as many of you may already know, due to my combined load of university study and work, I have taken leave from committee duties this year. Dave Cosh kindly stepped in to assist in MHS events and duties and I give him my thanks.

However, I will provide a research article for each newsletter and of course I am still involved in events this year: the July Tate Museum tour and the upcoming August Speaker Presentation. The Tate Museum is a hidden gem in Adelaide, being one of the biggest and best geological museums in Australia and for its collection of artefacts from Sir Douglas Mawson's expeditions. For anyone who missed this insightful tour, I encourage you to visit the Tate Museum. It can be found in the Mawson Laboratories at the University of Adelaide.

This August at Scotch College is an event-must for all WWI history buffs. Speaker Professor Robin Prior is a renowned WWI and WWII writer who has written several historical books and is sure to deliver a compelling presentation. I hope to see our members' support at up and coming events.

On a separate note, for my Honours thesis I am focusing on migrant experiences (post WWII migrants into South Australia - especially British 10 Pound Poms if possible) and wonder if members/friends/family have any memoirs/biographies/diaries/letters that I could access for my research. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you are able to assist as it would be greatly appreciated.

I will leave you with this quotation from an anonymous source, about holding on to optimism and hope, especially in the face of adversity:

“A negative mind will never give you a positive life”.

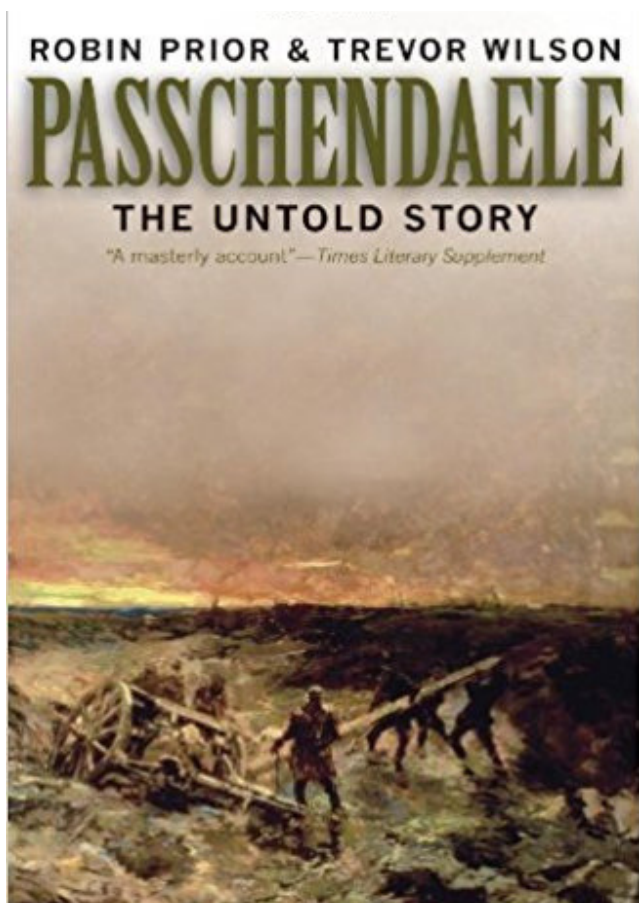
SPEAKER PRESENTATION

Professor Robin Prior

WEDNESDAY 23RD AUGUST

Visiting Professor of the University of Adelaide Robin Prior, co-author of riveting 'Passchendaele: The Untold Story', will be presenting the gripping historical talk of...

"THE MOST BRUTAL BATTLE: PASSCHENDAELE 1917"



*A not-to-miss session,
especially for World
War I history buffs!*

Time: 7pm for 7.30pm start

Venue: Drawing Room, Scotch College

Cost: \$5 (light supper included)

Contact: Julie Hogan

PH: 0430 472 262 or

E: julie.a.hogan@gmail.com

Recaptured: Twilight Walk

By Julie Hogan

The MHS has embarked on a variety of activities this year; commencing with the March Twilight Walk through Hyde Park, Unley. Glen Woodward, not only shared his extensive knowledge of his local area, but also treated us to refreshments at his home. After the walk, several of us enjoyed dinner and drinks at the Hyde Park Tavern.



Recaptured: Gawler & Kapunda Bus Tour

By Peter Basedow

Another successful day was held with virtually a full bus. We left Mitcham Council car park on time at 9 am, arriving at Gawler for a morning tea of fresh buns and coffee/ tea supplied by John Wood and Sandy Matz. Pity the weather was a bit blowy and wet, but we were sheltered by the rotunda in Pioneer Park. We then took a brief bus tour around Gawler taking in some of the main historic buildings. We were lucky to have Phillip Atkinson on board who spent his early years in Gawler and could add a local flavour and stories about the town.



Recaptured: Gawler & Kapunda Bus Tour

Another half an hour away we met with the local guide, Paul McCarthy at Kapunda (a member of the Kapunda Historical group) who provided an interesting commentary as we drove around the town. Thanks to Pat Oakshott who gave us an insight into her early years in the area, her father being a local Minister. Of interest were the old copper mines and the Kidman house, where Sydney Kidman lived. Kapunda is a town of over 2000 residents and, with wealthy early origins, has wide streets, a big Historic Museum and an ambience of grandeur. We even drove past the former home of the infamous former magistrate Peter Liddy who had restored it from its earlier life as a girl's refuge.

Arriving on time, at the highlight of the day, Anlaby Station, we were greeted by the owner Andrew Hayward, starting with a delicious lunch of country sandwiches and cakes. Sorry Alexandra for the bumpy ride on the corrugated road! Lunch was held in the magnificent Clydesdale Pavilion.

After lunch, we were provided with a guided tour of the homestead, giving us a real feel of life on an operational sheep Station in the early years (founded in 1839 by Frederick Dutton and employing about 100, including 14 gardeners. The grounds included extensive gardens, and various residences). We were provided a wonderful commentary on the building and superb furnishings. The Station is a bustling enterprise and working farm operating on a sound business plan to enable its appreciation into the future. We slowly returned to Adelaide via Greenock, visiting Kalleske cellar door for a wine tasting, the end to a full and successful day.



It is anticipated that next year our bus trip will incorporate Gawler in much more detail, the historic town of Riverton and a look at the church at Hamilton.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE MITCHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY INCORPORATED

This year's AGM welcomes local and renowned archaeologist Dr. Robert Stone as its guest speaker. He will be delivering an insightful presentation on:

**"The Role of Archaeology in History
with Particular Reference to Australia,
South Australia and Mitcham"**

When: Tuesday 26th September

Time: 7pm for 7.30pm start

Venue: Drawing Room, Scotch College

Contact: Sandra Matz

PH: 0414 747 657 or

E: smhydepark@gmail.com

Light supper provided

BUS TOUR:

History of Wine & Food in the Southern Vales



When: Sunday 8th October

Time: 9am departure

Meet: Mitcham Council Carpark

Cost: \$85 members or \$95 non-members

**RSVP: John Wood PH: 0402 781 601 or E: johnwood@adam.com.au
or Peter Basedow PH: 0417 809 227**

Limited seats! Book early to avoid disappointment!



Come and enjoy!

Wirraparinga Loop Trail Update

After one and a half years of negotiations, the Wirraparinga Loop Trail Agreement (MOU) is close to being finalised. Carrick Hill Trust, the owners of Springwood Park, Mitcham Council and the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) are working together in a spirit of cooperation and goodwill to make this agreement possible.

Much has already been achieved along the proposed 9.5km walking trail: The five-month \$200,000 Green Army project for Brownhill Creek Recreation Park has begun! Nicolle Flint MP, Federal Member for Boothby, secured this project for our community with the support of Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham. The nine team members and their supervisor, Jodie Bambridge (see photo), are doing a magnificent job; protecting and enhancing our natural heritage. The Department of Energy, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) are hosting the team from Conservation Volunteers Australia and Brownhill Creek Tourist Park and Carrick Hill are providing support facilities. The Green Army team are learning valuable skills while being involved in weed control, native revegetation, trail construction, ecological surveys and heritage activities.

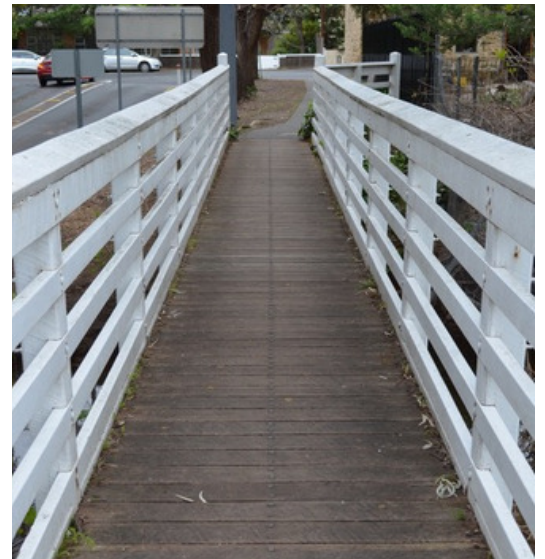
THE GREEN ARMY



Wirraparinga Loop Trail Update

Thanks to Martin Hamilton-Smith MP, State Member for Waite, we have been successful in our budget bid for \$200,000 to construct a dedicated heritage pedestrian bridge adjacent to The White Bridge. DEWNR are currently funding the repairs to The White Bridge and Mitcham Council are project-managing the works. Once the repairs to the road bridge are completed, the pedestrian bridge will be built. The White Bridge was constructed in 1870 and was first known as Mundy's Bridge, named after the Mundy brothers who ran a nearby quarry. The bluestone used in the construction of the bridge came from this quarry. After the Mundy brothers left the valley around 1900 the bridge became known as The White Bridge, because of its white timber safety railings (see current photo of The White Bridge). The new pedestrian bridge will not only provide a much needed safe crossing for walkers, but hopefully will reflect the original heritage of the bridge (see photo of the Muggs Hill Road footbridge in Mitcham).

BCA received a \$20,000 grant from the Federal Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development to develop infrastructure along the trail. Our contractor Matt Forte is building three stone creek crossings, one boardwalk footbridge, in addition to designing, supervising (the Green Army) and constructing sections of walking trail. BCA, The Friends of Brownhill Creek and the Rotary Club of Brownhill Creek have matched the grant in cash and in-kind labour.



THE WHITE BRIDGE

Wirraparinga Loop Trail Update

BCA's Education and Revegetation Committee, in partnership with the Kaurna Nation Cultural Heritage Association, DEWNR/NRM and other key stakeholders, is facilitating an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Survey for the trail and environs. Wouldn't it be wonderful if one day there is an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Trail Officer and employment for indigenous tour guides and artists! Education is a key aspect of the trail and local schools are increasingly running heritage excursions in our area. On the 29th June I had the privilege of leading a history walk for around fifty Clapham Primary School children in Brownhill Creek Recreation Park. Mitcham Councilor Andrew Tilley made a guest appearance to talk about our Market Gardening heritage (see photo).

Mitcham Historical Society has been a constant and influential contributor to our local heritage and we appreciate the \$5,000 that MHS has donated for interpretive heritage signage at key heritage sites along the trail.



CLAPHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Thank you for supporting our rich local heritage.

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

Recaptured: Ellison's Gully Historical Walk

By Dave Cosh

Sunday May 28th saw more than 40 enthusiasts brave cold and wet weather to walk with Brownhill Creek resident, Historical Society member and Mitcham Councillor, Andrew Tilley, on the third of his Brownhill Creek Ellison's Gully walks.

Given the weather on the day it took some imagination to reflect on hot dry summers when water supply for the colony became problematic. We were shown the remnants of the Mitcham Water Works which had supplied water to Mitcham and further afield from 1879 – 1930. Sections of the iron pipe that enabled water to be reticulated from the Gully to the top of Fullarton Road were clearly visible.



Some of the more agile amongst us explored several mine shafts (at least they kept out of the misty rain). These mines produced bismuth, lead, silver and some copper. The ingenuity of the early settlers, the Tilley family who were amongst the earliest, was evident when we were shown the steep north facing hill-face where ploughing with a “lop-sided” plough enabled market gardening to take place. The walk started and finished at the manure pits on Brownhill Creek road, which were built to hold manure thus reducing the risk of creek water pollution. After leaving the pits we stopped at the junction of the two streams that form the Brownhill Creek. This was where a building that served as both a school and a chapel had once stood, before moving up the gully with the generous permission of the land owner, to enjoy two hours of exploration and information gathering.

Thank you, Andrew, for again hosting the walk and thank you to all who attended to make the walk fun and informative. Fortunate for us, Andrew has kindly agreed to conduct more walks in May 2018.

Historical Research Article

The Waite Agricultural Research Institute: The Early Beginnings

By Julie Hogan

To understand why Peter Waite would bequeath his land and dwelling to the Government of South Australia, clues can be found in his letter to the Premier of South Australia, the Honourable A.H. Peake, written in 1913:

“I have been much influenced by the wonderful work our agriculturalists and pastoralists have accomplished hitherto in face of the heavy odds that they have met. With comparatively little scientific training they have placed our wheat, wool and fruits in the highest estimation of the world... We have now reached a point when it behoves us to call science to our aid... Otherwise we cannot hope to keep in the forefront. It seems to me that our manufacturers must soon overtake the requirements of the Commonwealth, and that it is to the land we must look to occupy the coming generations.”



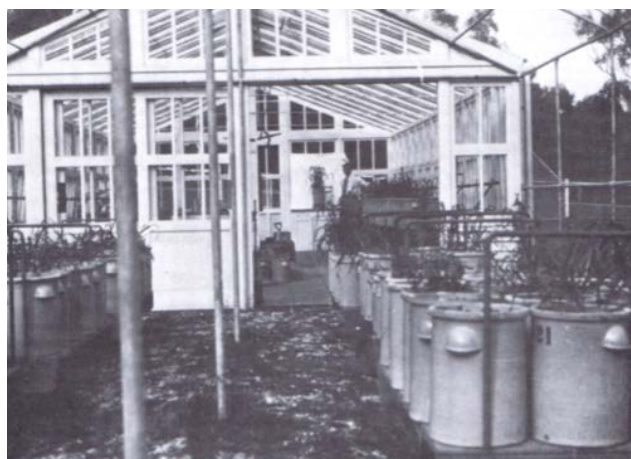
PETER WAITE

Waite was concerned about the future of South Australian agriculture but still believed in producing wealth from the land and that “future competition threatens to be so keen that we must equip our people in the best possible manner”. Waite’s vision resulted in the bequeathing of his property; including Urrbrae House, amounting to an area of 134 acres (valued at over £100,000) to the Government of South Australia.

Half the land was to be used for university purposes in “agricultural and kindred studies”, with the rest to be a public park, under the university’s control and provisions that 10 or 15 acres could be used as a students’ sports ground. Additionally, Waite donated a further 114 acres for the use of an agricultural high school. The Urrbrae estate was formally transferred to the University of Adelaide, subject to the life interests of Waite and his wife Matilda, on the 29th of January, 1914.

The Waite Agricultural Research Institute: The Early Beginnings

In Waite's deed the educational purpose was expanded and modified to advance the cause of education and promote the "teaching and study of Agriculture, Botany, Zoology, Veterinary Science, Entomology, Horticulture and Forestry or any of such subjects ... of learning... to the better development of the natural resources of the land". Furthermore, Waite purchased the nearby Claremont and Netherby lands of 53 and 112 acres respectively in 1915. Waite stated that he saw "no hope of the Government's buying the lands in question, and their immediate acquisition was essential". Waite believed his properties had climate, rainfall and soil conditions that were typical of large areas in South Australia and hoped the university would use the properties for scientific research, while teaching agricultural students at the same time. He also felt researchers could use the land to investigate and compare areas of suitable rainfall with other areas that had less or erratic rainfalls. The gift of land was intended to be used for "scientific investigation of rural problems of moment to South Australia".



POT CULTURE HOUSE 1925



FARMING EQUIPMENT 1925:
THRESHING PLANT AT WORK

In 1916 Waite also added a trust fund amounting to £66,150, to provide an assured annual income to meet set up and continuing costs. The income was to come from 5,880 shares in Elder Smith and Co. Ltd. However, Waite stipulated that the Elder's Trustee Company manage the trust fund, stating "this would provide a high degree of expertise in management of the fund" (Perhaps he did not trust the academics with complete control?). Walter Young, the General Manager of Elder Smith & Co. was a founding member of the University Council and Chairman of the University Finance Committee (1927-35) and had a profound influence on the development of the institute in the pre-WWII years. Hence the aptly named Walter Young Drive from Fullarton Road to the central laboratory block, as well as the commemorative plaque near the Fullarton Road entrance.

The Waite Agricultural Research Institute: The Early Beginnings

The University Council was also able to seek Government exemption from land tax. However, the University was liable for Mitcham Council rates for the Netherby and Claremont lands and this caused dissension for a number of years.

Peter Waite died in April 1922, followed in November by his wife, Matilda. In December 1922, Misses Eva and Lily Waite, the two unmarried daughters, who had lived with their parents, handed over the whole of the Urrbrae estate, including the mansion with some valuable items of furniture, china and books and left for a trip to England. The foundation of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute occurred in 1924 and the institute began operating in 1925.

Waite's other recommendation clause was that the Director of the University Council should be a "thoroughly competent agriculturalist". This caused contention amongst several academics on the Council who desired a "science specialist in a relevant discipline". Mr A.J. Perkins, Director of the State Department of Agriculture, reiterated Waite's concerns that it was essential for the Director to have "knowledge of and sympathy with local agricultural practice". However, the Council argued against Waite's recommendation stating it was not "binding in detail on the University for all time". As a result of the politics, Perkins resigned from the Council and in 1924 two academics became Directors; Englishman James Prescott and South Australian Arnold Richardson. Prescott graduated in chemistry from the University of Manchester, later known for his research in soil science and climatology, he also chaired the Scotch College Council. Richardson, a graduate from the University of Adelaide and the University of Melbourne, held an impressive resume with Bachelors in Arts and Science, a Master in Arts and also a Doctorate in Science. He was later known for his research in cereal agronomy and wheat breeding. Richardson, a passionate supporter of the Waite Institute, bequeathed half of his estate (\$43,000) when he died in 1944. The Council spent \$20,000 of his bequest on a new organ for Elder Hall (as Mrs Richardson enjoyed Elder concerts) and the balance on general expenditure and in recognition, the A.E.V. Richardson Laboratory is situated in the central block.

The Waite Agricultural Research Institute: The Early Beginnings

Waite's daughters continued to support the Waite University with Lily donating £10,000 in 1953 and Eva donating £20,000 in 1971. Other donors through the years were John Melrose, John Darling, Alfred Hannaford, John Davies, Claude Charlick, John Robert Barker, Hugh Hughes, W.H. Sandland, W.D. Grigg and Ella Syme Everard. However, the most significant donor to the Waite University was the Mortlock Family, who donated cash amounts over several years amounting to £161,000 and then in 1950 an estate settlement of some \$4.25 million, where land was transferred to the Institute (including 400 hectares of Martindale Station at Mintaro to be named the Mortlock Experiment Station) whilst the other half of the Mortlock estate went to the Public Library of S.A., now the State Library.



AERIAL VIEW OF THE WAITE
INSTITUTE FROM 1976

It is incredible to think of the amount of money donated to the Waite Agricultural Research Institute. The growth of the Waite Institute sees an attraction of post graduate students, not only from interstate but from countries overseas. The education facility has transformed from its initial research function of local issues, to fundamental science and the provision of expert professional service to developing countries. It is a fitting tribute to Waite that his legacy lives on in such an impressive and remarkable manner.

Source: V.A. Edgeloe, The Waite Agricultural Research Institute: The First Fifty Years 1924-1974 (Adelaide: Waite Agricultural Research Institute, 1984),

Recaptured: European Night of Jazz, Food and Wine

By Peter Basedow

The Scotch College Drawing room was the perfect venue for our midyear event. Our sincere appreciation to Katrina of Scotch College for arranging the catering support for about 60 people. It was a successful night thanks to the amazing range of music from Bruce Hancock and his violin support. Bruce, from the Elder Conservatorium of the Adelaide University, certainly showed wonderful versatility.

A range of European wine was tasted and we appreciated the assistance of Michael Andrewartha of the East End Cellars.

Supper was catered by Peter Basedow with the very able support of partner Joy and the Cosh family. We were deluged with sumptuous food, followed by coffee and cake.

John Wood is especially commended for organizing this popular event and we can see from the photo collage, how much he enjoyed the chocolate cake!

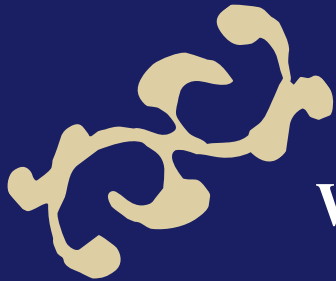
Recaptured: European Night of Jazz, Food and Wine





THE DAVID ROCHE FOUNDATION TOUR

*Enjoy a guided tour of the Fermoy House,
as well as a special exhibition in the
museum's wing.*



When: Tuesday 14th November

Time: 10am

Meet: The David Roche Foundation,
241 Melbourne Street North Adelaide

Cost: \$20 or \$17 concession (museum entry)

RSVP: Sandra Matz

PH: 0414 747 657 or E: smhydepark@gmail.com

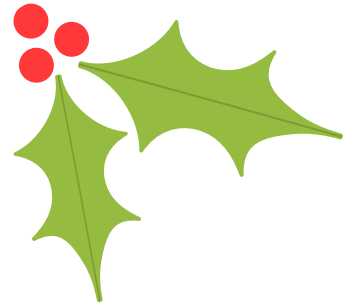
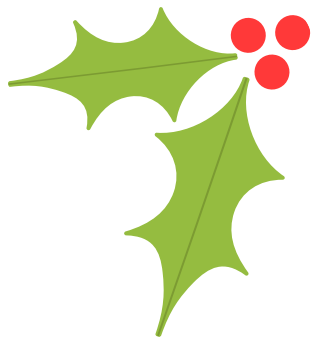
Optional group lunch afterwards

*Please contact Sandra promptly to confirm
attendance.*





End of Year Function



Members!

Come celebrate the past year!

When: Tuesday 12th December

Time: 4pm

Venue: The Edinburgh Hotel

RSVP: Brian Angus PH: 8337 9344

or Sandra Matz E: smhydepark@gmail.com

Light snacks will be provided.



Corporate Memberships

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

Namely:



This Fine Day Cafe



David Cosh