



NEWSLETTER

INCORPORATING *MITCHAM MEMORIES*

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No. 1/2022

Publication Notes

Editorial

The *MHS Newsletter* is a collaborative effort and its purpose is the reporting of activities, publicising the Society's calendar of events, providing stories of historical interest about people, places and events related to the City of Mitcham, and other matters of current interest including updates from the Brownhill Creek Association.

Letters to the Editor are welcome and can be sent by [email](#).

The *Newsletter* is managed and edited by Geoff Sauer.

Disclaimer

Views and opinions expressed in the Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mitcham Historical Society Inc. Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the content, but responsibility is not accepted for any errors or omissions that are beyond the Society's control.

Privacy

In accordance with the requirements of its Constitution the Society maintains a Register of its members (name, address, telephone number, email address). The information contained in the Register is used only for interactions between the Society and its members. The information is not shared, sold or provided to any third party. Information provided to the Society by email is provided at the sender's risk and the Society will not be held responsible for any unintended use or disclosure.

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Suggestions for stories or events and activities are always welcome and can be emailed to mitchamhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

History Snippet

The City of Mitcham is Adelaide's second oldest Council area with the District Council of Mitcham proclaimed on 11 May 1853. In 1891 the first National Park in South Australia, and the second in Australia was proclaimed at Belair.

Remittances to the Society

When making payments to the Society by EFT or by cheque please ensure that you indicate what the payment is for e.g. membership, bus trip, etc. This avoids any confusion or misunderstanding as to the purpose of the funds when they are received.

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E&OE

Chairperson's Message

Happy New Year to all MHS members.

First by way of introduction, a little about me and my connections with Mitcham. I moved to Mitcham from Hyde Park with my parents on New Year's Day 1953 to their new house in Sizer Street, Lower Mitcham. I attended Mitcham Infant School, Mitcham Practising School, Scotch College and Unley High School. Councillor Andrew Tilley and the late Peter Endersbee (he of checkside punt, Sturt, and long hair fame) were in my class through primary school; John Wood and Peter Basedow were in the year ahead of me at Scotch. I was for a time in the Torrens Park Cubs and Scouts. My undergraduate university education was undertaken at Flinders University. I lived in Lower Mitcham until 1975 and then from 1982 until 2013 lived in Westbourne Park and Panorama.

I have been a member of the Mitcham Historical Society since 2018 and served as Secretary, Deputy Chairperson and am the Newsletter editor and now Chairperson. Although I live just outside the Mitcham LGA, I have a deep interest in the history and heritage of the City of Mitcham, in its broadest sense.

From time-to-time I revisit the area where I spent my youth and the one noticeable thing is that the character of that area is changing rapidly. Post-World War Two houses, particularly, are being demolished (my parents' house has been) to be replaced by urban infill – two houses where there was once one.

The new Planning and Design Code introduced in 2021 will without doubt increase the rate of change in our urban environment, particularly as local councils and neighbours have had their ability to comment on proposed developments removed. At the same time people living within 60 metres of a development are notified –

Cont'd next page

Chairperson's message cont'd/

in my case I have received three such notifications: one for a new carport across the road, the other two for developments that are in adjacent streets to mine - I cannot see the properties concerned and will not be able to see the developments when completed. Where is the logic in that?

My personal view of the new Code is that it was developed without proper consideration of the many council and community submissions made during consultations. Further, it was made live without adequate testing to see what unintended consequences might arise. The previous system with its 72 different development assessment plans might have been onerous and time-consuming, but it did contain appropriate checks and balances. The question must be asked—have we moved too far in the opposite direction?

An interesting and diverse programme (see page 9) has been developed for the Society in 2022. Our first event is a Guided Walk through historic Mitcham Village led by MHS Life Member, Glen Woodward. Details about the walk are on page 6.

I welcome input from members with suggestions for potential activities for the Society, issues of concern re the history and heritage of Mitcham, and suggestions for stories for the Newsletter. I can be contacted by email or phone.

Best wishes.

Geoff

Guided walk around historic Mitcham Village

Wednesday 16 March 2022

5.00pm – 6.15pm

MHS Honorary Life Member, Glen Woodward, will lead this walk beginning at the Mitcham Village Institute, Princes Road, Mitcham, site of Mr. Mugg's school in 1870, Methodist church, police station and "lock-up".

Welbourne and Albert Streets have well preserved houses, shops, bakery, apothecary, post office, Baptist church and Kallawar (Scotch College).

The old Mitcham Hotel (later the Temperance Hotel) overlooks the Village Green, the old ford and keystone bridge (see photos opposite).

The tour will end at "The Ed" where members can remain for an optional dinner.

Parking: either- park at the Institute and walk back after The Ed or- park at The Ed and walk to Institute to begin the tour.

Bookings essential: call Ian Strout on **0400 027 117** or [email](#) him – if you intend dining at The Ed after the tour, please advise Ian when you book.

Participation will be by gold coin donation payable on the day.



Keystone bridges in Mitcham Reserve



Mitcham Historical Society Inc

Officer Bearers 2021—2022

Patron: Dr John Newton, Principal, Scotch College

Chairperson: Geoff Sauer M 0412 125 010

Deputy Chairperson: Joanna Wells M 0403 335 862

Treasurer: Sandra Matz M 0414 747 657

Minutes Secretary (& Webmaster): Peter Reeve

Committee Members

John Wood M 0402 781 601

Peter Basedow: M 0417 809 227

Ian Strout: (Events/Membership) M 0400 027 117

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MHS Committee meetings 2022

Mondays: 28 February, 28 March, 2 May, 27 June, 25 July,
29 August, 26 September, 31 October, 28 November

If there is an issue you would like to see the Committee consider,
please contact the Chairperson. The agenda for meetings is
finalised on the Friday immediately prior to a meeting.

MHS Events Calendar 2022

Mitcham Village Guided Walk

Followed by optional dinner at The Ed
Wednesday 16 March: see page 9

Bus Trip: Mt Barker & Strathalbyn

Guide: Dr Anne Herraman
Sunday 10 April

2022 History Festival Brownhill Creek Walks

[BHC Recreation Park](#) & [Ellison's Gully](#)

Sundays 8, 22 May & Sundays 15, 29 May

Mid– Year Event @ Scotch College

June: date TBA

Speaker Event: Tony Kanellos (Director, Carrick Hill)

Wednesday 3 August. Time: TBA

Annual General Meeting: Speaker: Dr John Newton—"1812"

Tuesday 27 September

House Tour: Carrick Hill & Lunch

Wednesday 12 October

Bus Trip

November: itinerary & date TBA

Christmas Function at The Ed

Date: TBA

Bookings: Ian Strout (Event Coordinator) M 0400 027 117
(Except for History Festival walks—Eventbrite links above)

November bus trip: Mt Lofty region

The second of the Society's bus trips for 2021 took place on Sunday 7 November. The focus of the trip was the Mt Lofty region in the Adelaide Hills, and we were fortunate to have as our expert guide local historian, Dr Anne Herraman. The first stop was Mt Lofty named by Matthew Flinders on 23 March 1802 with its spectacular 270⁰ views across Adelaide and Gulf St Vincent.

The Mt Lofty, Crafers and Stirling area contains a substantial amount of post-colonial settlement history as it was an area for wealthy Adelaide citizens, in particular, to escape to a cooler climate during the heat of summer. Prominent names included Elder, Bonython, Hardy, Stirling, Fisher and Blackburn.

We stopped at Mt Lofty House, built in 1857 by Arthur Hardy—this was the first summer retreat on the highest ridge in the Adelaide Hills. Hardy had built the mansion 'Birksgate' in 1851 which was acquired by Thomas Elder in 1864 and then passed to Elder's nephew, TE Barr Smith on Elder's death in 1897.

After lunch at the [Greenhill Wines Café](#) in the Piccadilly Valley, we crossed the SE Freeway and went down into the Stirling area where there are many gracious old mansions and homes, including St Vigean's with its famous garden. This was the home of Sir Edward Stirling. Born in Strathalbyn in 1848 his schooling was undertaken at St Peter's College and then Trinity College, Cambridge where he graduated with degrees in Arts, Medicine and Science. He returned to Adelaide in 1875, married Jane Gilbert in 1877, took her to England for medical treatment before settling permanently in South Australia in 1881.

Stirling was a person of many wide and diverse interests:

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medical practitioner, first Professor of Physiology at Adelaide University, politician, anthropologist, first Director of the South Australian Museum and more. For more about [Hardy](#) and [Stirling](#), click on their names and you will be taken to their respective entries in the Australian Dictionary of Biography.

It was a fascinating and illuminating trip with special thanks to Dr Herraman for her insights. Thanks also to our (volunteer) driver, Peter Williams, for getting us there and back safely on some very windy and narrow roads.

Photo: At the Mt Lofty summit, Dr Herraman makes a point:



November bus trip cont'd/

The view from Mt Lofty and some fine wine:-



Cross Road, heavy freight vehicles update

In 2020 and 2021 the Mitcham Historical Society was involved in speaking with state and federal politicians, and freight and transport industry sector organisations because of concern of the impact of increasing Heavy Freight Vehicle movements within metropolitan Adelaide. This concern was catalysed by the development of the North – South Connector and what impact that might have on HFV volumes using Cross Road in both directions as the quickest and cheapest means of getting to and from the South Eastern Freeway. When the Society stepped back from an active role in this, members were advised that they would be kept informed of developments. A new organisation comprised of concerned community members, [Our Roads SA](#), has been formed to continue to put the case for removing HFVs from the metropolitan area.

Last week ORSA hosted a webinar moderated by Craig Wilkins from the Conservation Council where 15 state and federal politicians and candidates for the forthcoming state and federal elections were given the opportunity to respond to questions about this issue. Around 100 members of the wider community attended.

Note: MHS members who live in the electorates of Waite, Unley and Mitcham may have received a communication about the “Government’s plan to reduce truck traffic on Cross Road” – if you signed the Cross Road petition, you would have received something similar from the Minister. At face value, the advice appears reassuring but there is no guarantee that the proposed Greater Adelaide Freight Bypass will actually reduce the number of HFVs on the SE Freeway and Cross Road because the latter two roads will still be an option for freight operators.

Mitcham Historical Society Inc

The Mitcham Historical Society (MHS) was formed on 9 November 1977 as a sub-group within the Mitcham Village Art & Crafts Association Incorporated, with aims and objectives including to foster an awareness, preserve and maintain the character of Mitcham Village, to promote the study of local and South Australian history and to promote the collection, and preservation of material relating to local and state history.

The committee also formed the nucleus of a consultative group available to advise on local heritage matters. After years of lobbying, the Mitcham Urban Conservation Area of some 29 hectares was placed on the Register of the National Trust in Canberra.

The Mitcham Village Conservation Zone, an area originally established in 1840 still retains much of its original colonial architecture and is one of the oldest European settlements in the State.

(The District Council of Mitcham formed in 1853, and was the first local government body to have been proclaimed outside of the City of Adelaide).

The Society helped in the formation of the Council funded Mitcham Heritage Research Centre -this group of volunteers is committed to historical research and maintains, enlarges and promotes the Local History Collection begun by the Mitcham Historical Society.

The MHS became an independent organisation on 25 September 2007. The MHS is not only an interactive social group promoting the education of historical matters, but also involved in raising public awareness required to preserve the heritage in the local area.

It is only through the efforts of concerned individuals and groups such as the MHS, that the City of Mitcham's heritage can be protected for the benefit and appreciation of future generations.

MHS Achievements

In addition to the history of the MHS on the previous page, together with the Brownhill Creek Association, the MHS contributed financially and in other ways –

- to the successful No Dam in Brownhill Creek campaign,
- provided funding for the Shelter Tree project and the
- Tom Price Memorial in Brownhill Creek Reserve

and has also

- provided financial support for the restoration of the heritage listed stables now the Scout Hall in Maitland Street, Mitcham,
- together with the Heritage Alliance and the Member for Waite led the campaign to save the Waite Gatehouse,
- hosted a Lecture to mark the Centenary of Colonel Light Gardens in 2021.

For four and half decades and only with the assistance of dedicated volunteers and the support of the community, the MHS has achieved much in preserving Mitcham's history and ensuring that its heritage is an enduring legacy.

New Members

New members of the MHS are always welcome – if you have friends or acquaintances who are interested in preserving and protecting the history and heritage of the City of Mitcham, please encourage them to contact Ian Strout on 0400 027 117.

Membership fees: individual \$30, family \$40, concession/pensioner \$20 (individual) \$30 (family), corporate \$150. Note: Pension/Concession rates apply only for holders of Commonwealth income tested cards: Age Pension, Commonwealth Seniors Health and Veteran's Gold Card and to full-time students at university, school or TAFE.

This Fine Day — ★★★ Review

The *Sunday Mail* Delicious food reviewer, Dianne Mattson, wrote:

“It certainly is a fine day when you happen upon a neighbourhood café this cute and cosy”. (*SM*, 7 November 2021)

[This Fine Day](#) in Welbourne Street is a Corporate Member of the Mitcham Historical Society. This Fine Day also doubles as a gallery featuring local artists a variety of forms including paintings, jewellery, homewares and bric-a-brac. Mattson rated it highly across her four criteria—food, coffee, service and ambience.

Why not call in and see Sally and Tash for brunch, lunch or coffee. Opening hours are Wednesday to Saturday, 9.00am—3.00pm

The building itself, originally a bakery, is part of Mitcham Village’s history.



Mitcham Local History Collection

The [Mitcham Local History Collection](#) collects, collates, catalogues and stores information concerning the City of Mitcham to archival standards. The collection consists of historical information about the City of Mitcham, and includes:

Publications, directories, electoral rolls, historical research files, local newspapers, maps, plans, local cemetery records and indexes, Old council minutes, correspondence, reports and indexes, 4000+ photographs including special collections, rate assessments, Council surveys building applications, local school and organisations' records and histories, family histories including letters and diaries, oral histories

The collection can be accessed at the Mitcham Heritage Research Centre, Mitcham Cultural Village, 103 - 105 Princes Road, Mitcham SA 5062, Telephone: 8372 8261, Tuesday—Thursday 9.30am to 4.00pm.



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Mitcham Historical Society Inc

Corporate Members

MHS gratefully acknowledges the support of its Corporate Members

The Edinburgh Hotel and Cellars

a famous beer garden, premium wine cellars, and innovative cuisine
1 -7 High Street, Mitcham, H ph. 8373 2700 C ph. 8373 2753

Scotch College

“ . . . a culture of wellbeing and educational attainment which is zealously focused, creating a stimulating and relevant learning experience in preparation for the 21st Century.” Carruth Road, Torrens Park
ph. 8274 4333

Nicolle Flint MP

Federal Member for Boothby
Shop 2/670 Anzac Highway, Glenelg East 5045 ph. 8374 0511

Colindale Design

Bespoke interior design specialising in end-to-end design resolutions for residential and small-scale commercial projects.
p. 8271 1483 m. 0418 816 403,
Studio: by appointment only: 21 Albert Street, Mitcham,

This Fine Day Café

Cafe, gallery and gift shop, contemporary works by local artists; including original jewellery, children's gifts and retro ornaments. 13 Welbourne St, Mitcham m. 0413 293 542