

No.1/2021

MITCHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

INCORPORATING *MITCHAM MEMORIES*

IN THIS ISSUE:

Peter Waite—Arboretum and Gatehouse

ALSO

MHS Programme for 2021

Feature article: Blackwood—Historic Hills Suburb

Heavy Transport Vehicles and Cross Road

Brownhill Creek Association Update

and more

[THE MITCHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC](#)

Publication Notes

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.

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 only used for interactions between the Society and its members. The information is not shared, sold or provided to any third party. Please note that 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.

Acknowledgement

The Society gratefully acknowledges, and thanks Ms Nicolle Flint MP and her electorate office staff for their assistance in printing the Newsletter.

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*The Mitcham Historical Society Newsletter incorporating Mitcham
Memories*

Change of Name

The name of the newsletter was changed in 2020 to more accurately reflect the newsletter's purpose: reporting of activities, publicising the Society's calendar of events, stories of historical interest about people, places and events related to the City of Mitcham, and other matters of current interest. Suggestions for stories or events and activities are always welcome and can be emailed to mitchamhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

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CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

Welcome to you all.

Thank you for the support given to the MHS by our patron, Dr. John Newton, Principal of Scotch College, Adelaide and his staff.

As I am reporting on the 2019 - 2020 financial year it is difficult to recall that all was well when we gathered at last year's AGM in September. A visit to The David Roche Foundation House Museum, a bus trip to a German Cottage at Paechtoun near Hahndorf and our end of year gathering at The Ed seemed very normal.

We looked forward to and had planned an exciting and educative program of events and activities in 2020.

As we were about to start our 2020 activities, it became apparent that for some months ahead to proceed would have been unwise or not permitted.

Thank you to our members and committee for your patience in these difficult times. Even though there was a hiatus of 6 months, we were able to experience the visual delight and highly educational experience of being shown around The Waite Arboretum. We marvelled at this treasure and the Rose Garden facilitated by around 150 volunteers and realized that an important part of the State's heritage is under threat if Government transport plans continue without opposition and detailed consideration.

The Society's bus trip to the Barossa planned for April took place on 15 November – see separate report. The well attended end of year function was held on 15 December at The Ed.

I am pleased to advise that the Society has awarded Honorary Life Membership to longstanding members and supporters Glen

Woodward and Patricia Oakeshott.

The Cosh family have been active in the Society since its inception in 2007. Last year we thanked Trish for her contribution as a committee member and our thanks go to Dave who has made an enormous difference to the smooth running of the society.

Treasurer Sandy Matz has managed the finances well, Secretary Geoff Sauer has overseen communications producing the newsletter and keeping us informed through emails. Peter Basedow and Ian Strout have been researching and thinking ahead to future events

Recently, Joanna Wells joined the committee and as a campaigner has been helping us address our concerns over the new planning code, the Waite Gatehouse and concerns we have regarding the intrusion of heavy transport vehicles into the metropolitan area and the impact that has on is having safety, health and heritage.

We welcome Peter Reeve to the committee, and he is providing excellent support in the updating and maintain of the Society's website.

A comprehensive program of activities has been developed for 2021 (See page 10) and we earnestly hope that with a vaccine and appropriate infection control measures, a return to some sense of normality will prevail.

John Wood
Chairperson

THE MITCHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc

The Mitcham Historical Society 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. Pamela Oborn was elected Chairman and Gene Lienert as the Secretary, with a committee responsible for planning activities and promoting events. 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, originally established in 1840 still retains much of its original colonial architecture and is one of the oldest European settlements in the State, thus it was imperative that this unique area be preserved. (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.)

Also, in 1986 the MHS assisted with the appointment of (the late) Maggy Ragless as Local History Officer, a position funded by the Mitcham Council. Later the Society helped in the formation of the Council funded Mitcham Heritage Research Centre. This group of volunteers are committed to historical research and they also maintain, enlarge and promote the Local History Collection, which was started by the Mitcham Historical Society.

Through discussions with the Mitcham Village Arts & Craft (MVAC)

(MHS) Committee, it was decided in the best interests of both organisations, the MHS would separate from the MVAC to become a singularly independent organisation. This would enable both groups the ability to focus on their core objectives.

Independence has led to a more productive future for the organisation, with our continuing objectives in fulfilling the needs of the community. 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.

The new chapter in the history of the MHS began with its incorporation on 25 September, 2007. It is only through the efforts of various 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. The inaugural meeting of the MHS was held on 17 October, 2007 and the first Executive Committee consisted of: Chairperson (and Secretary) – Julie Hogan, Deputy Chairperson – Trish Cosh, Treasurer – Brian Angus, and Committee Members: Richard Irving, John Wood, Maria Evans-Raymond and Edna Gardner.

The MHS played a major role together with the Brownhill Creek Association (BCA) in the campaign to stop the damming of Brownhill Creek and more recently worked with the BCA and paid for the plaque unveiled at the entrance to Brownhill Creek Recreation Park on 17 September 2019 to honour the remarkable life and achievements of Tom Price MP (Premier of South Australia, 1905-1909). (See separate report in this issue).

The MHS has also played roles in liaising with the Highways Department about the design of a new bridge over Brownhill Creek,
/continued next page

Mitcham Historical Society cont'd

and working with Council Planners to set out the boundaries of the proposed Mitcham Village Heritage Zone, gazetted as an Historic (Conservation) Zone in April 1997. This gave Council some control over demolition and alterations within the area.

Trish Cosh conducted a 10-year battle to save the old Mitcham Village Institute and although not directly involved on the Fundraising Committee, the MHS did a lot of lobbying, provided research into its history and supported Trish in many ways. The MHS has made submissions about the proposed new Planning and Design Code which if implemented in its current form, will likely impact on not only on heritage zones in the City of Mitcham but also on the visual amenity right across the City (and, indeed, in other LGAs).

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 the Secretary, Geoff Sauer, at mitchamhistoricalsociety@gmail.com or 0412 125 010

Mitcham Historical Society Inc

Officer Bearers 2020—2021

Patron

Dr John Newton
Principal, Scotch College

Chairperson

John Wood M: 0402 781 601

Deputy Chairperson/Secretary/Newsletter Editor

Geoff Sauer M: 0412 125 010

Treasurer

Sandra Matz M: 0414 747 657

Committee Members

Peter Basedow M: 0417 809 227
Ian Strout (Events) M: 0400 027 117
Joanna Wells (Membership/Campaigns)
Peter Reeve (Webmaster)

Contact Details

Post: Mitcham Historical Society
PO Box 903, Mitcham Shopping Centre SA 5062

Email: mitchamhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Web: www.mitchamhistoricalsociety.org.au

MHS PROGRAMME 2021

- Wednesday 17 March
Adelaide Town Hall Tour with Glen Woodward – optional lunch to follow (NB No lift access to 1st floor Town Hall)
- Sunday 11 April
Bus Trip – Kuipto and environs
- May 2021 – History Festival - Brownhill Creek Walks
- Sunday 2 May and Sunday 16 May
Brownhill Creek Recreation Park – with Ron Bellchambers
- Sunday 9 May and Sunday 23 May
Brownhill Creek and Ellison’s Gully – with Andrew Tilley
- Tuesday 4 May
Colonel Light Gardens Centenary Lecture
- June 2021
Mid-Year function at Scotch College: date TBA
- Wednesday 4 August
Speaker Event at Scotch College
Speaker: Mr Tony Kanellos, Director, Carrick Hill
- Tuesday 28 September
Annual General Meeting
- Tuesday 12 October
Tour: Waite Campus and Urrbrae House
- November 2021
Bus Trip – date and itinerary TBA
- Tuesday 7 December
Christmas Function at The Ed

Bookings: Ian Strout (Event Coordinator) M 0400 027 117

Except for Colonel Light Gardens Centenary Lecture—see
next page

A Lecture to mark the Centenary of Colonel Light Gardens

“A Life in Planning: Charles Reade (1880-1933), Garden City Campaigner and Global Planner” - Speaker: Dr Christine Garnaut

Tuesday 4 May 2021, 6.00pm for 6.30pm, Fisher Chapel, Scotch College,

4 May 2021 is the 141st anniversary of Charles Reade’s birth and the 21st anniversary of Colonel Light Gardens listing as a State Heritage Area.

Please note that this is a ticketed event and a small charge of \$5.00 per person applies. Tickets must be purchased in advance through [Eventbrite](#). There is also an attendance limit of 195 people because of COVID restrictions.

Charles Compton Reade (1880-1933) was born in Invercargill, New Zealand, and into a family with long-established connections to England. On completion of his education in New Zealand he turned to a career in journalism which took him to Britain as a young adult. Before long, through his work as a reporter, he was introduced to the emerging and mutually supportive concepts of town planning and the Garden City idea. Consequently, he shifted his career direction and became a self-taught town planner as well as a Garden City champion internationally. This presentation provides an overview of Reade’s early life and of his career and contributions as a town planner – in South Australia, the Federated Malay States, Northern Rhodesia and South Africa – before focussing on his contributions in metropolitan Adelaide and country South Australia. Particular emphasis is given to Reade’s application of the Garden City approach, and its outcome, in the planning and design of Colonel Light Gardens.

Speaker bio:

Dr Christine Garnaut is Adjunct Associate Research Professor in Planning and Architectural History at the University of South Australia (UniSA) and president of the International Planning History Society. Her PhD was on the planning and architectural history of the model garden suburb of Colonel Light Gardens designed by Reade in 1917 for the South Australian Government. She lived in Colonel Light Gardens from 1980 to 2003.

Peter Waite: and part of his legacy to the people of South Australia – The Waite Arboretum.

Peter Waite was born in Scotland in 1834, the third son of farming parents and migrated to Australia in 1859, to join his 2 brothers. Heading north, he took up a pastoral lease near Terowie, where one of his brothers operated a lease. 4 years later Waite's brother died crossing a flooded river and Waite took over the lease of his property. The following year, he was doing well enough to be able to send for his fiancée. He was by now well established as both a pastoralist and property manager.

The properties Waite leased near Terowie, in the state's north-east, were in semi-arid salt-bush country. He quickly gained a reputation with his contemporaries for being highly innovative; spelling pastures to allow for regeneration and sinking wells and bores with the aim of securing as permanent as possible a water source. He did so well on his leases that by 1875 he was well enough respected by his peers to become Chairman of the Stockbreeder's Association.

Waite's legacy to South Australia is enormous. He gave 45 hectares adjoining the Urrbrae estate to the Government of South Australia for the purpose of establishing an agricultural high school. He left the eastern half of the Urrbrae Estate to the University of Adelaide to be used for scientific studies related to agriculture and the western half as a public park, in perpetuity. Waite did not specify that the land be used for an arboretum; that decision was made after his death and planting began in 1929. What a legacy the Arboretum has proven to be! Not only do we have a huge amount of open space and an incredible collection of trees to explore, but the Arboretum itself is recognized as an incredible resource, world-wide. It's also regarded as a museum.

The Waite Arboretum occupies 27 hectares and contains about 2,500 specimens representing more than 800 species in 200 genera, all growing under natural annual rainfall of 624 mm.

The trees in the arboretum receive minimal attention, surviving on rainfall alone. As a result, they provide us with excellent information about the sorts of trees that survive increasingly hot and dry conditions. Work is underway to attach a true economic value to the collection. Halfway through, it's at the \$13 million mark.

Urrbrae House itself was completed in 1891 and the Gatehouse was built somewhere between 1890 and 1893 to serve as accommodation for the estate's Head gardener. A gatehouse such as this makes a very clear statement about the estate it sits upon. It was certainly substantial accommodation in its day.

Both the Gatehouse /Lodge and the Arboretum are State-heritage listed and have recently attracted attention because DIT plans to upgrade the Fullarton and Cross intersection placed them at risk – the lodge at risk of demolition and the Arboretum at risk of having a large slice carved off the western end. This is a stark reminder of how little protection State-heritage listing provides. The first reaction of many when confronted with the reality of this was disbelief. It is only natural to assume that the Heritage listing would make demolition impossible, but it transpires that the Planning Minister can simply sign off on a demolition such as was proposed.

Thankfully, community protest was sufficient to send DIT back to the drawing -board and look at ways to retain both the lodge and the significant trees along the western boundary (Fullarton Road). At this point, they are investigating moving the lodge and taking trees from Cross Road only, rather than from Cross Road and Fullarton Road.

See: [Waite Historic Arboretum](#)

Joanna Wells

Blackwood—historic hills suburb

Blackwood takes its name from the dark limbs of the native trees particularly *casuarina stricta* (sheoak) and *eucalyptus microcarpa* (grey box gum) growing down the hillsides. The Blackwood tree, (*acacia melanoxylon*) is not native to this district. Perhaps the undefined boundaries of vegetation account for the name of Blackwood being used anywhere between Belair and Coromandel Valley.

Parts of the present-day suburb were previously known as Belair Park, Blackwood Estate, Blackwood Hill, Blackwood Park, and Eastview. The earliest evidence of the name dates from 1853 when William Dawbiney's death was recorded at "Blackwood Vale Farm". In fact, one of the early subdivisions of today's Blackwood was offered as Belair West around Woodleigh Street. Hence we have Blackwood District Community Hospital in the "beautiful air" of Belair, Blackwood schools in Eden Hills. Blackwood Vale Farm was in present day Glenalta and Blackwood Estate was in Hawthorndene. Also in Hawthorndene is the controversial Blackwood Forest (which began in 1908 as the Blackwood Experimental Orchard) and the Belair Hotel opened by Robert Burfield started out as the Blackwood Inn in 1869.

Blackwood is bounded by the railway south from Laffers Road along Main Road to opposite the Davies-Thomas Reserve and leaves it at Plymouth Road, the southern boundary. Doglegging on Coromandel Parade into Cumming Street and Craighburn Road, the western boundary follows the old section boundary between Blackwood Hill Reserve and Sturt Gorge Recreation Park to the railway. It then runs north through Wittunga Botanic Garden almost to Gulfview Road and recently has been changed to skirt around the edge of Section 2203 to include a council reserve adjoining Watiparinga Reserve and Banksia Crescent. Finally the northern boundary twists and turns along Gloucester Ave, Grevillea Way, Gum Grove,

and Neate Ave to Gratton St. Described as "poor scrub land" the area along the ridge now carrying Main Road was surrounded by steep gullies and lacked surface water making it difficult to farm or shepherd stock. In the 19th century long term residents of Blackwood had other occupations, like Thomas Proctor who lived in the area for at least 20 years and was an agricultural labourer, possibly working in Coromandel Valley.

Daniel Johnson, a bullock driver would have been among the many who carted timber and firewood down to town and returning ('backloading') with supplies for the isolated settlers. Although described in 1883 as a "most illiterate man and can neither read or write", he bought much of the land south of the railway. In fact, Johnson Parade ends where "Johnson's Cottage" of 4 rooms is marked on an early map. Perhaps it was Daniel and his mates Mrs Ann Shephard (*sic*) referred to, when she protested to Council upon learning of a proposal for the road that bears her name. She stated, "it will give me a great deal of trouble to keep much more fencing in order, knowing from experience that fences by the road side are so liable to be broken through by the carelessness of the people driving the bullock drays."

The railway had a profound effect on the development on this area and led to land speculation by syndicates of "gentlemen". Key figures were Richard Searle, draper, George P (later Sir) Doolette, (who later made his fortune speculating in the Broken Hill and Western Australian mines) and Member of Parliament the Hon. John Carr. The latter formed the Hills Land and Investment Company which bought up land along the proposed railway route through the Adelaide Hills from the 1870s. There was a flurry of subdivision during the 1880s most of which were no more than drawings on promotional plans. Concessional railway fares linked to the value of the houses gave people incentives to build substantial mansions, like Mr Carr's bluestone two storey house on Coromandel Parade.

Many professional people lived in the cool of the hills and used the train to commute to Adelaide, as the roads were so bad. However, once home there they had to stay until the next morning as there were no late passenger trains to the city. This social isolation from the city life led to discussions by the commuters as to what could be done to improve local social activities. A committee was formed and in 1903 they built an institute called the Blackwood, Coromandel and Belair Boy's Club.

Clubrooms were also built and they were open almost every night of the week. The Literary Society division of the committee produced a monthly edition of "*The Blackwood Magazine*" in 1914. The club particularly benefited the youth of Blackwood, "where the bracing effects of the climate seem to produce an extra supply of surplus energy, and the need was strongly felt of a channel where this energy could be expressed more fittingly than by the little acts of mischief of which some of us were the constant victims." Sport and intellectual activities filled the lives of the community under this umbrella until 1977 by which time the old wood and iron hall was replaced by the Recreation Centre on the old site.

"Blackwood is beautiful to-day." Begins this ageless description published in 1914. "But unless care be taken some of the beauty will vanish as time goes on, and, with the erection of new buildings, the trees bordering her roads disappear." The locals considered Blackwood a country town or a village until the 1960s when, like a teenager, change was rapid and unpredictable. Main Road is unrecognisable from a generation ago. Although a curse to commuters, the roundabout at Fiveways is the focal point of the commercial area as it stretches away along three main roads. Blackwood was the home of WJ Adey, Director of Education 1929-1939, explorer Larry A Wells, who was killed by a train, anthropologist Norman Tindale, and artist Ainslie Roberts as well as many others.

Brownhill Creek Association Report Kurna Birthing Tree Project

This project is two years in the making and follows the wishes of Kurna Elders and recommendations made in the *Kurna Shelter Tree Management Plan*, Kym Knight Consulting Arborist Tree Environments, 25th May 2018, page 17 (available on BCA's website - www.brownhillcreek.org).

The project aims to:

- Protect the iconic Kurna Birthing Tree, a 450-1,000 year old remnant River Red Gum, located at the entrance to Brownhill Creek Recreation Park - Wirraparinga.
- Respect living Kurna Cultural Heritage by telling the story of the tree and establishing a Kurna Place of Reflection and Reconciliation.
- Promote Kurna engagement, employment and art.
- Create community connections and practical educational outcomes.
- Integrate the Kurna Birthing Tree site into the Wirraparinga Loop Trail heritage and tourism precinct.
- Ensure that the Kurna Birthing Tree is listed on the Register of Aboriginal Sites and Objects.

Nicolle Flint MP (Federal Member for Boothby) helped Scotch College and Brownhill Creek Association (BCA) attain a \$20,000.00 grant under the Federal Communities Environment Program. Mitcham Historical Society, the Rotary Club of Brownhill Creek, the Suzanne Elliott Charitable Trust and BCA raised \$20,000.00 to match the Federal grant. Mitcham Historical Society's contribution of \$5,000.00 will be used for interpretive signage, involving research into Kurna history and the Birthing Tree, engagement with Kurna Elders, the construction of an interpretive sign and its installation at the site. Thank you to the Mitcham Historical Society Committee and MHS members for supporting this important heritage project.

Scope of works:

Clear woody weeds from around the Kurna Shelter Tree . Plant a native garden to reduce soil compaction and protect the tree's root zone using indigenous species. The native plants have also been selected for their Kurna cultural significance.

Create a Kurna Place of Reflection and Reconciliation with two carved red gum log seats and interpretive signage. Renowned Kurna artist Allan Sumner is the creator of this space.

Install a permeable gravel path to control visitation; repair and extend an existing dry stone wall to retain the creek bank and support the tree (State funding required under the Green Adelaide Grassroots Grant program); install a handrail to allow for the safe viewing of the tree.

The Kurna Birthing Tree will be a key stopping point on the Wirraparinga Loop Trail, a 10km recreational, heritage and tourism trail, which will begin and end at Carrick Hill. The Kurna Birthing Tree is also set to become an integral part of an overarching local heritage precinct, comprising Carrick Hill, the Waite Campus (Urrbrae House and the Waite Arboretum), Mitcham Historic Village, Springwood Park Estate (Ellison's Gully) and Brownhill Creek Recreation Park - Wirraparinga.

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

Barossa Bus Trip

Originally planned for April the Barossa bus trip took place on 15 November following the lifting of COVID restrictions. Following morning tea at Lovell's Bakery in Woodside, we followed the scenic route through the hills passing through Springton, Eden Valley and passing by historic Collingrove which dates from 1856 and was the Angas family home and headquarters for their considerable pastoral interests. Arriving in Angaston we were met by Dr Bill Gransbury, President of the Angaston and Penrice Historical Society, who led us on a tour of historic Angaston.

First known by European settlers as German Pass, the Angaston area was surveyed for George Fife Angas by Anthony Forster and James Smith in 1841. Forster described it as a "good place for a small township being on the main road to the Murray and having a good water supply".

John Howard Angas looked after his father's South Australian interest until George Fife Angas arrived from England in 1851 and laid out and registered final plans for Angaston in 1857. The Angas' were prominent among the many English and Scottish families settling in the Barossa Ranges and southern parts of the valley.

Angaston is built on marble and many of its old houses and buildings are built from that stone as are Parliament House and the War Memorial on North Terrace. The staircases in Australia House in London are made from white Angaston Marble. The marble is around 500 million years old and 550 tonnes were supplied for the construction of Australia House.

Highlights included the Union Chapel, the Angaston Croquet Club (one of Australia's oldest), Doddridge Blacksmith's shop, the Angaston Hotel (1867), the railway precinct and the masses of roses

/Continued from previous page

everywhere including the Old Rose Repository preserved by Churchill Fellow, Pat Toolan.

After lunch at the Tanunda Hotel, we visited Langmeil Winery and heard some of the history of the area and the winery.

In 1842, Christian Auricht, established one of the Barossa's first trading villages on the banks of the North Para River, naming it Langmeil. This historical site is home to Langmeil Winery today. Auricht had migrated from Prussia in 1838 seeking religious freedom for his family in the new world. A blacksmith by trade, and just 36 years old, this was Auricht and his family's fifth move in seven years - from Klastawe to Turowo in 1837; to Hamburg in 1838; to South Australia and Glen Osmond in 1839; to Klemzig in 1840, then finally to Langmeil - their home for the remainder of their lives. Auricht's legacy survives today in the Freedom vineyard believed planted as part of his mixed farm in 1843, now believed to be the oldest surviving Shiraz vineyard in the world.

In 1843 Auricht established a smithy and began tending a mixed farm. In the years that followed, a bakery, cobbler's shop and butcher's shop were built, including a well, which became the trading centre of the village. The main roadway to the northern copper mining townships of Kapunda and Burra passed by the village with many travellers stopping to water their horses and gather provisions before continuing their long journey.

The visit to Langmeil concluded with a tasting of a number of wines before returning to Adelaide. Our thanks to Peter Basedow, Ian Strout and John Wood for organising the trip and a special thank you to Peter Williams, our bus driver.

Campaign – Get heavy vehicles off Cross Road

The MHS has been meeting with politicians and relevant stakeholders as part of a community campaign to find an alternative to heavy freight vehicles using Cross Road. An MHS delegation has met with the Members for Unley (David Pisoni), Waite (Sam Duluk), Elder (Carolyn Power), Badcoe (Jayne Stinson), West Torrens (Tom Koutsantonis—in his role as Shadow Transport Minister), Transport Minister (Corey Wingard), the RAA (Charles Mountain), SARTA (Steve Shearer), SA Freight Council (Evan Knapp) and the Civil Construction Federation (Melissa Ekberg). The campaign to save the Waite Gatehouse and trees in the Waite Arboretum brought to light the state government's intention to make Cross Road the preferred freight corridor for B-doubles and other heavy transport vehicles between the South Eastern Freeway, and join the North-South Corridor at South Road.

KPMG's study that killed off the government's pre-election Globelink proposal has Cross Road as the best option for heavy freight vehicles – our conversations have revealed that not all the stakeholders agree with this. Our aim is to work collaboratively with all interested parties to find a mutually acceptable solution to get heavy vehicles (as far as is possible) out of the metropolitan area.

Our opposition to the proposal is based on its likely effects on heritage and amenity as well as its effects on the community and its health and well-being, both mental and physical. The health statistics from middle-age onwards for people who live within only a few hundred metres of a main road such as Cross Road are alarming. The majority of trucks run on diesel which contains 3-nitrobenzathrone, the most carcinogenic compound known to humans, meaning an increased risk of cancer. In Australia, diesel exhaust is second only to UV exposure as the most common carcinogen workers are exposed to. Continued next page /

There is sufficient evidence to suggest that there is an increased risk of developing dementia as well as an increased risk of developing asthma in middle-age.

Another important factor is safety – already 200,000 heavy vehicles use Cross Road each year. Increasing that number without massive changes to Cross Road's infrastructure (grade separations, widening etc) will significantly increase the risk of heavy vehicle/car collisions with resulting serious injuries to motorists and their passengers.

We will continue to consult and work with MPs (both State and Federal), industry representatives and community groups to find a viable alternative that has the support of all stakeholders, as well as of all political parties. To this end, Nicolle Flint has not only undertaken to work with us on the issue, but has also sent a letter and survey to some 23,000 constituents who live near Cross Road.

How can you help the cause? Phone Nicolle Flint's office on 8374 0511 and let her know that you are not happy about Cross Road being turned into an extension of the South Eastern Freeway.

Phone your local State MP (Unley 8373 4846, Waite 8278 5844, Elder 8374 1939, Badcoe 8371 5600) and let them know too!

Email the Minister: And finally, spread the word!

Joanna Wells

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 (biographies, histories, etc)
- Directories and electoral rolls
- Historical research files
- Local newspapers
- Maps and plans
- Local Cemetery records and indexes
- Old council minutes, correspondence, reports and indexes
- Over 4000 photographs including special collections
- Rate assessments, Council surveys and building applications
- Local school and organisations' records and histories
- Family histories including letters and diaries
- Oral histories

It is open to the public and 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.

GRANT TO SECOND ADELAIDE SCOUT GROUP

The MHS has made a \$500.00 grant to the [Second Adelaide Scout Group](#) to assist with essential maintenance and restoration to the historic Newey's Stables, the group's meeting hall.

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 p. 8373 2700 C p. 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
p. 8274 4333

[Nicolle Flint MP](#)

Federal Member for Boothby
Level 1, 724 Marion Road, Marion, p. 8374 0511

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p. 8271 1483 m. 0418 816 403,
Studio: by appointment only: 21 Albert Street, Mitcham,

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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