



NEWSLETTER

INCORPORATING *MITCHAM MEMORIES*

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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 from time to time 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.

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Cover photo: Flanders Poppy in a field near Pozieres, Somme Department, Hauts-de-France. (photo: GS)

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

The City of Mitcham

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. For EFT transfers please include your surname. This avoids any confusion or misunderstanding as to the purpose of the funds when they are received.

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Chairperson's Message

A belated Happy New Year to you all.

It is amazing how often serendipity comes into play in one's doings.

Recently a friend, originally from Adelaide, but now living on the Gold Coast asked me if I could assist with any information about her great grandparents, Anna Maria and George Tutt. Anna and George lived in Arnold Street, Mitcham and are buried in the Mitcham Anglican Cemetery (adjacent to Blythewood Road) in Torrens Park.

A visit to the Mitcham Heritage Research Centre provided me with a copy of article published on 25 April 2014 in *The Advertiser* – the article was about Henry Dawson Tutt, written by then Mitcham Primary School teacher and Coordinator of the school's *Mitcham Remembers* project, *Peter Brune.

Henry Tutt was the first person from Mitcham to make the supreme sacrifice in World War 1. He was mortally wounded by machine gun fire early on the morning of 25 April 1915 landing at Gallipoli and died two days later. Through his publisher I contacted Peter, and he told me about the *Mitcham Remembers* project and that the school had detailed information about Henry Dawson and his younger brother, Albert, who was also killed in World War 1 in 1917 near Bullecourt on the Western Front. On my behalf he asked the school to send me the information and this Newsletter contains stories based on that information together with an obituary for Henry Dawson published in *The Chronicle* 11 days after his death.

On 3 February 1917 the District Council of Mitcham agreed to a request from the Kingswood Progress Association to change the name of Mecklenburg Street to Tutt Avenue after Henry Dawson Tutt.

Chairperson's Message cont'd

If you have time, you may like to visit the Mitcham Memorial Walk at the school – accessible from the East Parade entrance to the school.

The information about the Tutt brothers contains details of the history of Mitcham Primary School and family life in Adelaide around 1914—this information will inform future stories in the *Newsletter*.

Disclaimer: I attended Mitcham Infant School (originally Mitcham Public School) on Belair Road opposite the Council Offices in 1955/1956 and then Mitcham Demonstration/Practising School from 1957 to 1961.

In this issue we report also on the Brownhill Creek Association *Gathering on Country* event at the Shelter Tree (*Willawilla Karra Kuu*) in Brownhill Creek Reserve attended by the Governor.

Geoff Sauer
Chairperson

*Peter Brune grew up in [Smith-Dorrien Street](#) (Netherby), has a PhD from Flinders University (thesis title: *The Australian infantry at Milne Bay and the 18th Brigade at Buna-Sanananda, 1942-43*) and is the author of numerous books, including *A Bastard of a Place: The Australians in Papua*. His latest book is the highly regarded *Suffering, Redemption and Triumph: The first wave of post-war Australian immigrants 1945-66* published in 2023.

Bus Trip: Sunday April 28 **A Journey Back in Time**

Visiting Old Tailem Town, Australia's largest pioneer village, the historic Wellington Hotel and The Bend Motorsport Park.

Please note this trip is FULLY BOOKED

NOTE: the second bus trip for 2024 will take place in November:
itinerary TBA

Heritage Tram Pole

At its meeting on 21 November 2023 passed the following motion with respect to the heritage tram pole formerly located in Welbourne Street, Mitcham:

“That Council endorse the installation of the Heritage Tram Pole in Sutton Gardens, Mitcham, adjacent to where the tram line originally terminated. “ The Council also endorsed budget for the necessary restoration works and installation for the pole.

Waite Gatehouse

Following the successful campaign to save the Waite Gatehouse, the building was deconstructed stone by stone, brick by brick, slate tile by slate tile and reconstruction is well advanced at the new location adjacent to the Urrbrae House rose garden (Claremont Avenue) on the Waite Campus of the University of Adelaide.

Events

MHS Mid-Year High Tea: Sunday 21 July 2024

AGM: Tuesday 24 September 2024 –

Guest speaker: Susan McCormack, Director, Carrick Hill

History Festival May 2024

Brownhill Creek Guided Walk

**Guide: Ron Bellchambers, Community Liaison Officer,
Brownhill Creek Association.**

A walk in one of South Australia's oldest parks and gain a fascinating insight into the heritage of this historic site. Brownhill Creek Valley played a pivotal role in the lives of the Kurna people for countless generations and also in the European settlement of the South Australia Colony. Hear about contemporary plans to conserve and enhance the environment and heritage of this community asset - visitors will see this work in progress.

Two dates: Sunday 5 May 2024 and Sunday 19 May 2024

Bookings essential at [Humanitix](#)

**Ellison's Gully (Brownhill Creek) Guided Walk -
Market gardens, mines, historic water supply and more.....**

Guide: Councillor Andrew Tilley

Andrew's family have lived in the area for 5 generations, and his knowledge of the history of the area is unsurpassed. Starting at the old manure pits in Brownhill Creek, this walk includes the scenic beauty of Ellison's Gully, an historic stone bridge and disused silver mine-shafts. See also the 140-year old Mitcham water works that once also supplied Unley and Adelaide.

Two dates: Sunday 12 May 2024 and Sunday 26 May 2024

Bookings essential at [Humanitix](#)

Tutt Avenue

The Advertiser on 10 February 1917 contained a report of matters considered by the District Council of Mitcham at its meeting on 3 February and which report contained amongst other things the following:

“Decided to comply with the request of the Kingswood Progress Association in substituting “avenues” for “streets running east and west and “terraces” for streets running north and south and that the most southerly avenue be named “Tutt avenue” in honour of the first Mitcham man to fall at Gallipoli”.

Up to then, the road we now know as Tutt Avenue was called Mecklenburg Street - from 1836 to 1914, German settlers came to South Australia initially from the Prussian provinces of Brandenburg, Silesia and Posen, and later from other states such as Hanover, Mecklenburg and Saxony. [69 place names](#) were changed in South Australia during WW1 to cleanse them of their Germanness. The only place that survived unchanged was Adelaide named for Prinzessin Adelheid Amalie Luise Therese Carolin, daughter of the Duke of Saxe-Meiningen, a small German principality, who married the future King William IV..

The first person from Mitcham to die at Gallipoli was Henry Dawson Tutt who was most likely wounded during the landings on the morning of 25 April 1915 and died from his wounds on 27 April 1915 (and was buried at sea).

Both Henry and his brother Albert who was killed on 11 April 1917 near Bullecourt on the Western Front in France have plaques honouring their sacrifice in the memorial walk at Mitcham Primary School. (Photo of Henry’s plaque on p.13)

Who was Henry Dawson Tutt?

He was born in Mitcham in 1890 and lived with his parents George and Anna Maria (*nee* Dawson) Tutt, and his brother Albert and two sisters, Elizabeth and Amelia. The family home was in Arnold Street, Mitcham. Henry attended Mitcham Public School from 1900 to 1906 – the school was located on the corner of Grange Road and Bull’s Creek Road (now Belair Road), adjacent to the Mitcham Railway Station.

After completing his apprenticeship as a cabinetmaker with James Marshall and Co, he worked as a wood machinist for Marshall’s Reliable Furniture Company in Rundle Street.

Henry was an active member of the St Michaels Church congregation, played football for St Michaels and was a member of the Mitcham Boys Club.

He enlisted on 28 November 1914 shown as “2nd Reinforcements, 10th Infantry”. The medical certificate completed that day shows the following: Age: 24 years and 1 month, Height: 5’ 3” (160cm), Weight: 140lbs (63.5kg), Complexion: Fair, Eyes: Grey, Hair: Fair. Interestingly, he was below the minimum height requirement for enlistment at the time of 5’ 6” (167cm).

After 5 weeks training, he left Melbourne on HMAT Clan MacGillivray on 2 February 1915 for Egypt where he joined the 10th Battalion just as it was about to leave for Gallipoli. The 10th was one of the initial covering forces to land on the morning of 25 April 1915. (Two other South Australians, Arthur Blackburn – later to be awarded the Victoria Cross at Pozieres on the Western Front – and Phil Robin were scouts for the 10th and managed to get around 2000 yards from the beach, further than any other Australians according to Official Historian, CEW Bean).

AUSTRALIAN



MILITARY FORCES.

A.I.F.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 1431

Name Tutt Henry Dawson
Unit 2nd Reinforcements 10th Infantry
Joined on 28th November 1914

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name ? Henry Dawson Tutt
2. In the Parish of _____ in or near the Town of Mitcham in the County of South Aus
3. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox & enteric fever? Yes
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) N.B.
4. What is your age? 34 1/2 years
5. What is your trade or calling? Woodworking Mechanic
6. Are you, or have you been an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? Yes Adelaide, as Marshall to 5 years
7. Are you married? No
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) (Mother) Ann Maria Tutt through the Mitcham
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? No
10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incurable and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace from the Navy? No
11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge... No
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? Yes
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? No
14. (For married men and widowers with children)—Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued to you either before or after embarkation during your term of service? No

I, Henry Dawson Tutt do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife and children.

Date 28/11/14

H.D. Tutt

Signature of person enlisted.

* This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age.



**Left: Henry Tutt
Pre-embarkation
photograph.
Note brand new slouch hat.
(photo: AWM)**



**Anna Maria and George Tutt
(photo: Sally Jacobs)**



**Albert Tutt
see p14.
(photo: AWM)**

THE LATE PRIVATE TUTT

The late Private Henry Dawson Tutt resided at Mitcham, where he was well known and highly esteemed. He was a splendid specimen of sturdy young Australian manhood, and the news of his death was received with profound regret.

The sad announcement was conveyed to the bereaved family by Archdeacon Clampett. Private Tutt's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Tutt, have lived in Arnold Street, Mitcham, for many years. Their son left Adelaide with the second reinforcements on February 1, and immediately before his departure called on friends and neighbours to say a cheerful word of farewell. Those who saw him so recently, eager for service, and looking every inch a soldier, were staggered at the news that his life was included in the roll of sacrifice for King and country.

"He was a fine young fellow," they said. "and our hearts go out in inexpressible sympathy for his people, who were justly so proud of him." Private Tutt was the eldest surviving son of his parents, and other near relatives are Mr. Albert Tutt (brother), who is away with a survey party on Eyre Peninsula, and Mrs. F. Ossig, Claxton Street, Adelaide, Mrs. J. C. Curtis, Unley-Road, Unley; and Misses E. and M. Tutt, Mitcham, (sisters). The deceased was 24 years of age last October.

He was born in Mitcham, and attended St. Michael's School, and subsequently the Mitcham Public School until eight years ago, when he became an apprentice at Messrs. James Marshall & Co.'s furniture factory. On completing his term of indenture, he remained in the service of the firm, and was working as a machinist up to the time of enlisting. His place was being kept for him in the hope that he would return safe and sound after the war. officiated as a sidesman for Archdeacon Clampett.

The Chronicle (cont'd)

He was a member of St. Michael's Church and of the Church of England Men's Society. For some time, he officiated as a sidesman for Archdeacon Clampett. Private Tutt was also a member of the Oddfellows' Lodge at Mitcham. He was of singularly bright disposition, and besides being a valued member of the St. Michael's football team and the Mitcham Boys' Club was regarded as a good all round sportsman. One of his last requests before leaving home was that a subscription should be sent on his behalf to the club when its annual picnic excursion came round. A letter written by Private Tutt from Cairo a few weeks ago, came to hand a few days ago, and is a treasured possession of his people. In it he stated a few of his impressions of the place, and said, "I will be able to tell you all when we come back."

It is a pathetic coincidence, in relation to the deceased and his elder brother, Mr. G. W. Tutt, who was killed in a bicycle accident at Wilmington eight years ago, that both men left home on February 1 and lost their lives in April. Touching reference to the late soldier was made in St. Michael's Church on Sunday.



Albert Tutt

Albert Tutt was born in 1893 and he like his brother Henry, lived with his parents in Arnold Street, Mitcham. He also attended Mitcham Public School. At the time of his enlistment on 30 December 1915 the records show the following: He was 5'7" (170cm), weighed 140lbs (63.5kg), Complexion: fresh, Eyes: blue, Hair: light brown, working as a government servant.

On 9 March 1916 he left from Port Adelaide for Egypt on the RMS Mongolia arriving on 19 April. Around 30 April he contracted pneumonia and was hospitalised until late September. He was meant to have joined the 32nd Battalion but was instead assigned to the 48th – his illness meant that he missed the Battles for Pozieres and Mouquet Farm. He was killed on 11 April 1917 at the first battle for Bullecourt. He was buried by the Germans and his gravesite is not known; he is acknowledged on the Roll of Honour at the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial (Australian National Memorial - France).

The Australian War Memorial records for the two Battles for Bullecourt:

Four experienced Australian divisions of I ANZAC Corps were part of the British 5th Army under Sir Hubert Gough. The general wanted to attack at Bullecourt to support an important offensive by the adjoining British 3rd Army to the north and the French Army further to the south. Relatively young, Gough was an energetic commander. However, his aggressive spirit coupled with poor planning resulted in heavy losses. His attack launched at Bullecourt on 11 April 1917 was a disaster. Despite this a further attack across the same ground was ordered for 3 May. The Australians broke into and took part of the Hindenburg Line, but no important strategic advantage was ever gained; in the two battles the AIF lost 10,000 men.

This is the area where the two battles for Bullecourt took place – from where the photo was taken, the distance to the village of Bullecourt is around 400 metres of open ground with no cover. It was across this ground that the Australians had to advance.
(photo: GS)



BHCA Event at Willawilla Karra Kuu

The Brownhill Creek Association recently hosted an event at the Kurna Shelter Tree, Willawilla Karra Kuu, in Brownhill Creek Recreation Park.

The event had a number of aims including to build connections to support returning Kurna and First Nations cultural practices to Country, prompt the cultural mapping of Kurna cultural sites and objects for placement on the Register of Aboriginal Sites and Objects, encourage the Heritage Listing of Brownhill Creek Recreation Park, and to encourage continued funding for environmental and cultural heritage projects within the Park. The event included a demonstration cultural burn.

Below: Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Mr Rod Bunten and Senior Kurna Elder, Uncle Jeffrey Newchurch.



BHCA event at Willawilla Karra Kuu



Above: Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC with Aunty Lynette Crocker, Senior Kurna Woman, Ngangkî Burka.

As part of the Mitcham Historical Society's contributions to History Festival 2024, BHCA Community Liaison Officer, Ron Bellchambers, will be leading two guided walks in Brownhill Creek Recreation Park and he will share his insights about the Shelter Tree project and participants will be able to see the results of the work of many volunteers including students from local schools who have brought this project to fruition. Booking details for the walks and also for the Ellisons Gully Walks led by Councillor Andrew Tilley are on page 7 of the *Newsletter*.

The Shelter Tree project has been supported by the Mitcham Historical Society.

Mitcham Historical Society Inc

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MHS gratefully acknowledges the support of its Corporate Members

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13 Welbourne St, Mitcham Contact Sally: m. 0413 293 542

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.

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