

# MITCHAM MEMORIES

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VOLUME 9    THE MITCHAM HISTORICAL  
NUMBER 3    SOCIETY INCORPORATED

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JUNE  
2016



**VOL. 9 No. 3 JUNE**

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MHS

THE MITCHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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## EDITORIAL

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge Rick Irving for his continuing effort and outstanding research. You can find his excellent historical articles throughout the newsletter. Secondly, thank you for your feedback on the last letter. I welcome suggestions and if you find historic information yourself, I'm more than happy to put it in the next newsletter. I hope you will enjoy this one.

## DISCLAIMER

Views and opinions expressed in articles in the Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mitcham Historical Society Inc. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of articles printed, responsibility is not accepted for any errors they may contain that are out of the Society's control.

## PRIVACY ACT

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

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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



# CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all. Unfortunately I have to begin this message with some sad news of the recent passing of Pat Pearce. Pat has been a long term supporter of the MHS, a stalwart of the Edinburgh Hotel and friend to many. Our deepest sympathies to Sue and family.

As usual the MHS has embarked on a variety of activities this year. This March, Glen Woodward, who never fails to impress, shared his extensive knowledge of the Lower Mitcham area in hosting our Twilight walk. Those who participated were given valuable insights into the local history. In May I participated in a wonderful bus trip through the Adelaide Hills organised by John Wood and Peter Basedow. We began at Brian Croser's Tapanappa winery, originally the site of Petaluma winery (which was an earlier wine child of Brian's). It was both a treat to sample some of Brian's wines as well as have Brian personally talk to our group. The Piccadilly Valley is a magnificent vista to behold and Dr Geoffrey Bishop (Vice-President of the East Torrens Historical Society) joined us for the rest of the day, with information on the area's local history. Lunch was enjoyed at Sinclair Gully's winery which is an exponent of sustainable viticulture. Due to this environmental practice, the natural vegetation and wildlife were fast becoming a focal point. May History Month activities involved two walks in Ellison's Gully and Brownhill Creek, presented by Andrew Tilley, who shared several local family stories. In July our society will host the 13th Eastern Regional Historical Societies Seminar. This is a great opportunity to showcase our local historic attributes and I look forward to networking with similar peer groups, various community groups and stakeholders. After a recent application to Mitcham Council for a \$1,500.00 grant to assist in hosting this event, we were fortunate to secure \$500.00 which will help contribute towards printing and postage costs.

Please note that there is a change in date for the proposed October bus trip – this will now take place on Sunday the 23rd. Considering our recent political events, I will leave you with this quotation from Charlie Chaplin:

*"I remain just one thing, and one thing only – and that is a clown. It places me on a far higher plane than any politician".*

# CALENDAR

## PROGRAM FOR 2016 – JUNE TO SEPTEMBER

### **July 16th Saturday - The 13th Eastern Regional Historical Societies Seminar: Time to Showcase Mitcham**

Time: 9.30am - 4.00pm.

For details see page 8.

### **August 17th Wednesday - Speaker Presentation**

Time: 7pm for 7.30pm start.

Venue: Drawing Room, Scotch College.

For details see page 12.

### **September 27th Tuesday - Annual General Meeting**

Time: 7pm for 7.30 pm.

Venue: Drawing Room, Scotch College.

Guest Speaker: Dr John Newton, Principal of Scotch College.

For details see page 15.



PORT ADELAIDE  
1843 BY A.C.  
KELLY

# GENERAL NEWS

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Mitcham Historical Society Inc. is very excited to welcome these new members:

**Craig Dicker and Angela Guidera**

**Kay Haines**

## BROCHURE PRINTING ERROR

We would like to amend a mistake in the recent brochure regarding the missing date of the July seminar. The seminar will be held on Saturday the 16th of July from 9.00AM until 4.00PM. Please find the flier for the event on page 8.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

It is time to renew those MHS memberships.

Pensioner/Concession Member = \$15.00

Individual Member = \$25.00

Family Member = \$35.00

Corporate Member = \$100.00

Post cheques to PO Box 903 MITCHAM SHOPPING CENTRE SA 5062  
or internet transfer BSB: 105-084 Account: 045933840

Please remember to include your name and membership type (i.e. pensioner, individual, family) or Membership No. (if possible).



# **TIME TO SHOWCASE MITCHAM**

## **13TH EASTERN REGIONAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES SEMINAR**

**Saturday 16th of July**

**Official opening by Mayor Glenn Spear**

**Guest Speaker: Richard Heathcote (Director of Carrick Hill)**

**Presenting his talk “The Year of the Pearl”**

**Day will include morning & afternoon tea plus lunch  
Meet other historical society members, enjoy a guided  
tour around Mitcham Historic Precinct**

**Time:** 9.00 – 9.30 am start with event concluding at 4.00 pm

**Venue:** Edinburgh Hotel, High Street Mitcham

**Cost:** \$35.00

**Contact:** Cheryl Schneider: 0421 358 804 Email: cherich7@hotmail.com

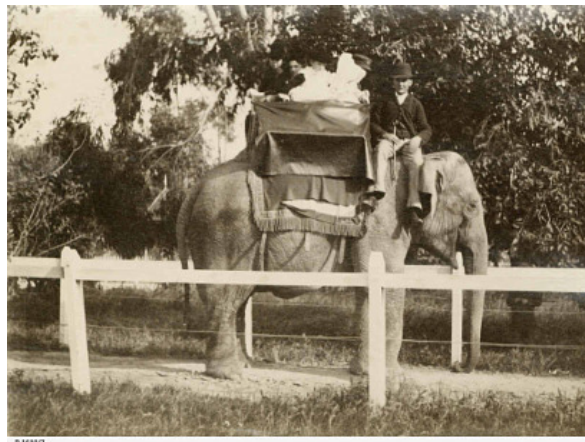
Or Julie Hogan: 0430 472 262 Email: julie.a.hogan@gmail.com

**Booking & payment essential by 1st July**



## FRONT PAGE PICTURE

Taken in 1889, the photo found on the front page of is taken within the Adelaide Botanic Gardens. It was taken in winter and shows a man standing on a small footbridge in a fashionable bowler hat. The photo was taken by South Australian born Ernest Gall, who was described as a "distinctly modern professional photographer". Gall has a truly amazing collection' find below another photo of his, this time taken in the Adelaide Zoological Gardens, in 1889. It depicts the first elephant to be brought to the zoo, her name 'Miss Siam'. Her skeleton is preserved in the South Australia Museum.



## CALENDAR PICTURE

Alexander Charles Kelly (1811-1877) painted a landscape picture of Port Adelaide in 1943. Kelly lived a fruitful life, moving to South Australia from Scotland in 1839, becoming resident dispenser at Adelaide Hospital in 1942 and planting his first vineyard in 1945. In 1862 he joined Sir Thomas Elder, Alexander Lang Elder, Sir Samuel Davenport, Robert Barr Smith and Sir Edward Stirling in forming the Tintara Vineyard Co.. While the company eventually collapsed, in September 1977 the vineyard was bought by none other than Thomas Hardy.

2014 '19th Century Photographs by Ernest Gall', State Library of South Australia, viewed 3 June 2016, <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/19th-century-photographs-by-ernest-gall>

Image Source: State Library of South Australia B - 1618

Hankel, Valmai. "Biography - Alexander Charles Kelly - Australian Dictionary Of Biography". Adb.anu.edu.au. N.p., 2016. Web. 22 May 2016.



**BROWNHILL CREEK  
ASSOCIATION INC.**

*Conserving & Enhancing Environment & Heritage*

**N E W S P A G E**

## CONNECTING COMMUNITIES PROJECT

Brownhill Creek Association is coordinating a Connecting Communities: Cultural Heritage and Nature-Based Tourism Project, centred around a 9.2km Wirraparinga Loop Trail. The trail will provide a focus for recreation, tourism, built and natural heritage, education, native re-vegetation and habitat restoration.

Carrick Hill, adjacent to the Waite Arboretum, Urrbrae House and Mitcham Village, is set to become a tourism hub. A proposed multi-purpose visitor centre within 15 minutes of the CBD, will draw visitors to the area and provide a wonderful venue for meals, events and information.

The Wirraparinga trail will begin at the Carrick Hill visitor centre, taking hikers through Grey Box Woodland to the summit of Brown Hill, with one of the best views of Adelaide. From there the trail will descend into Ellison's Gully, which has a remote rural feel and contains the Wheal Grainger Mines, The Mitcham Water Works and a rich market gardening heritage. The final section of the trail will follow Brownhill Creek through one of our state's oldest heritage parks, Brownhill Creek Recreation Park, before returning to Carrick Hill.

# CONNECTING COMMUNITIES PROJECT

The recent documented sighting of a Southern Brown Bandicoot in BHC Recreation Park makes habitat restoration along the trail a priority for the project. The Southern Brown Bandicoot is listed nationally as endangered and vulnerable in SA.

The Connecting Communities Project is aligned with the SA Government nature-based tourism initiative, 'Nature Like Nowhere Else' and the Federal Government 'Stronger Communities Programme', which "aims to improve local community participation, cohesion and contribute to vibrant and viable communities".

Many organisations and community groups are partners in this project, including the Kurna Nation Cultural Heritage Association. The name of the trail comes from the Kurna word Wirraparinga, meaning place of scrub and creek. Wirraparinga is the traditional name for this area and is still part of a living Kurna culture.

Mitcham Historical Society is playing a key role in the project, in keeping with its motto: "Proud of our history and committed to our future". The Connecting Communities Project will help to promote and preserve Mitcham's built and natural heritage, providing benefits for present and future generations.

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

## SPEAKER PRESENTATION

# “The Life of Tom Price, Early S.A. Premier”

*Presented by Stephanie McCarthy*



When: Wednesday 17 August

Time: 7pm for 7.30pm start

Venue: Drawing Room, Scotch College

Cost: \$5 – light supper afterwards

Contact: John Wood: 0402 781 601

Email: [johnwood@adam.com.au](mailto:johnwood@adam.com.au)

Or Cheryl Schneider: 0421 358 804



# WINTER POEM

Written by Castle Gordon in 1907, published in The Register

*"June and July, through sometimes fine.  
With days keen, bright. and cheery.  
Are oftener void of sunny shine.  
And cold and wet and weary.*

*We gaze towards the hills from whence  
Oft comes our consolation.  
To find them wrapped in vapours dense  
A frowning desolation!*

*The Scandinavian gods up there.  
In vague and sullen wrangle.  
Make land and water, cloud and air.  
One leaden, gloomy tangle.*

*Too short the day, and yet how long!  
We feel fatigued quite early.  
All things so easily go wrong.  
So little makes so surly.*

*But at the homeward road we tramp.  
Our feet to us returning.  
Though all the weeping world be damp.  
Lo, somewhere. bravely burning.*

*A hearth-flame where the coals are red,  
But not more warm or glowing  
Than that dear heart which once we wed.  
A heart still dearer growing.*

*Attentive to the evening meal.  
Her curly heads around her.  
A pleased and holy awe we feel.  
And bless the day we found her!"*

Source: 1907 'POEMS AND RHYMES.', The Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), 17 August, p. 13. , viewed 22 May 2016, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article56524339>



# WHAT PEOPLE LEAVE BEHIND, FOR MONEY

RESEARCH BY RICK IRVING

*From the South Australian in 1850*

"Mr William Beddome, the first clerk in the commissariat department, has absconded with a considerable sum from the military chest. The circumstances, as far as we can learn, are these. Mr. Maturin, the commissariat officer, had in the chest last week four bags, sealed, and each containing £1,000, sovereigns, a portion of which was to be taken by Lieutenant Helpman, in the Champion, to Swan River, for the military chest there. On Saturday, Mr Maturin mentioned to Mr Beddome that a portion of this was to be in silver, and that he purposed changing some of the gold at the bank. On Monday, Mr Beddome did not attend at the office, a circumstance which appears to have occasioned little surprise; but on Tuesday, enquiries being made at his house, it was said that he had gone into the country, and had been expected home sooner. Fearing on this that the missing gentleman had met with an accident, Mr Maturin spoke to Captain Berkeley on the subject, requesting that the police might be instructed to make enquiries. This officer, from various circumstances he had noticed in Mr Beddome's late way of living, which was far beyond his income, suspected some other reason for his absence, and Mr Maturin, having summoned a board of officers, examined the bags of specie, the seals of which had not been broken. It was then found that the bottoms had been opened, a number of sovereigns extracted from each, their place supplied by shillings, and the bags neatly stitched up again. The amount missing was about £700. It has since been ascertained, beyond a doubt, that Mr Beddome had obtained a false key to the chest having been once lately entrusted with the true key, which Mr Maturin usually kept, for the purpose of having it oiled. It was at first supposed that he had gone by the Mary Clarke, which cleared for Launceston on Saturday, and the Government schooner Tatala was ordered to sea immediately in chase. Fortunately, before she left, it was discovered that he had sailed in the Samuel Boddington on Sunday, having been seen on board the vessel by Sergeant Lorrymer, who was there upon duty, and to whom he said he had a month's leave of absence. The Yatala was towed out on Wednesday evening, and left the Light Ship at a quarter past 10, having on board Sergeant McCulloch, and also Sergeant Clark, formerly of the 96th. Beside the robbery we have mentioned, it is stated that Mr Beddome has been guilty of several acts of forgery; in one instance he passed a spurious bill purporting to bear the signature of Sergeant Clark. He has left a wife and family, and report says he is accompanied by another married lady. His family is highly respectable, and we understand he was shortly to have received his commission as deputy commissary."

At present day, a sum of £700 could amount to as little as \$149,520 or as much as \$73,360,000.

Source: 1850 'LOCAL NEWS.', South Australian (Adelaide, SA : 1844 - 1851), 19 April, p. 2. , viewed 22 May 2016, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article71626087>

**MHS**

# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

When: Tuesday 27 September

Time: 7pm for 7.30 pm – Drawing Room – Scotch College

Guest Speaker: Dr John Newton, Principal of Scotch  
College

Contact: Julie Hogan 0430 472 262

Email: [julie.a.hogan@gmail.com](mailto:julie.a.hogan@gmail.com)



# CORPORATE MEMBERSHIPS

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

Namely:

Edinburgh Hotel & Cellars  
This Fine Day Cafe  
Mitcham Antique Gallery  
Mitcham Square Newsagency  
Scotch College  
David Cosh

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