



NEWSLETTER

INCORPORATING *MITCHAM MEMORIES*

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and more

No. 4/2022

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 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.

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

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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E&OE

Chairperson's Report

Annual General Meeting 2021 - 2022

In October 2021 John Wood, Ian Strout and Sandy Matz attended the East Torrens Regional Seminar held at historic Marble Hill which is undergoing restoration by its owners Ed and Patricia Michell.

In December the MHS Committee agreed that the society should withdraw from the campaign to get heavy freight vehicles off Cross Road and out of the Adelaide Hills. A new organisation was formed, Our Roads SA to continue campaigning on this matter. Indeed, a number of us are actively involved with Our Roads. The primary objective (amongst other things) of the new organisation is: *The diversion of heavy road freight away from the South-Eastern Freeway and Adelaide's suburbs.*

In December also we made a submission on the revised draft Planning and Design Code – phase 3 and our submission included a specific section on Heritage. You may be aware that The Minister for Planning, the Hon. Nick Champion MP, has commissioned an independent panel of planning experts to conduct a six-month review of reforms to the planning system implementation, including:

- The *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*
- the Planning and Design Code and related instruments, as it relates to infill policy, trees, character, heritage and car parking
- the ePlanning system, to ensure it is delivering an efficient and user-friendly process and platform
- the PlanSA website, to check usability and ease of community access to information.

We will be making a submission to that Review – if you have any thoughts, comments or ideas, please feel free to send them to me, and I will bring them to the attention of the MHS Committee.

Chairperson's Report cont'd/

In October we visited historic Urrbrae House where MHS Life Member, Glen Woodward conducted a guided tour. After the tour we took the opportunity to see the beautiful rose garden and then adjourned to The Ed for lunch.

Two bus trips: November 2021 Mt Lofty, Piccadilly, Stirling and Crafers. April 2022 -Mt Barker and Strathalbyn. Both of these trips had local historian Dr Anne Herraman as guide.

The 2021 Christmas Function at The Ed was well attended.

Mitcham Village walk in March – had to be cancelled due to the torrential rain on the afternoon of Wednesday 16 March.

In May for the History Festival 2022 we hosted two walks in the Recreation Park and tow in Ellison's Gully. Eventbrite was used for the first time for people to book for these walks, with some 80 people participated generating just over \$300.00 in income. A warm thank you to Ron Bellchambers and Andrew Tilley who, respectively, led these walks.

In June we hosted an incredibly successful Mid-Year High Tea in the Drawing Room at Torrens Park House (Scotch College) attended by 60 members and guests. A highlight was a talk by the College's honorary archivist, David Saies, who spoke about the Barr Smiths and Torrens Park House.

At the 2021 AGM member Judy Weaver asked about how the Society communicates with the City of Mitcham in respect of heritage matters – her question particularly had to do with the Mitcham Village. Subsequently, John Wood and I met with Judy where she outlined her concerns.

Chairperson's Report cont'd

I undertook two inspections of the signage and other things in the Mitcham Village. I then prepared a quite detailed report for the Committee which was endorsed and provided to the Manager, Engineering and Horticulture at the Council. Some action has been taken:

- Water fountain repainted

- Bus stop seats on Albert and Welbourne Street were oiled/ varnished.

- All benches in Sutton Gardens and Mitcham Reserve oiled/ varnished

- All jarrah bollards oiled/varnished

We were advised also that regular maintenance inspections/actions would be scheduled for the Mitcham Village. One of the bollards, at the corner of Albert and Welbourne Streets, is severely affected by termite damage and should be replaced.

However, the signs of which there are 12 have not yet had their information cover sheets replaced, despite assurances that the Council would endeavour to do this expeditiously.

There is also the issue of a tram pole in Welbourne Street – the pole is heritage listed and is still in use supporting electrical wiring. I am aware that SAPN who own the pole are or were planning to transfer it to the Council as they are not interested in its maintenance. This matter will likely be raised again at the first meeting of the new Council.

We are waiting on a status report with respect to these issues from the Manager, Open Space at the City of Mitcham. Rest assured we will continue to monitor progress on this.

Chairperson's Report cont'd

I am pleased to report that our membership has remained stable, and we have a few new members and the new Federal Member for Boothby (Louise Miller Frost MP), state member for Elder (Nadia Clancy MP), and state member for Waite, (Catherine Hutchesson MP) have joined as Corporate Members. For a small volunteer run organisation our finances are in a strong position.

I extend my sincere thanks to my fellow committee members for their dedication and hard work during the past 12 months. Thank you particularly to Peter Reeve who has been Minute Secretary and also looks after our website – Peter is at the pointy end of his PhD candidature at Flinders and has stepped back from the Committee for a year but continues to service the website. A sincere thank you also to Sandy Matz who stepped down as Treasurer – Sandy was also for a time both Treasurer and Secretary – Sandy continues as a member of the Committee. Lastly, my sincere thanks to you, our members, for without you and your support, the MHS would not exist.

I take this opportunity to extend my best wishes and those of the committee to all our members for a happy safe festive season.

Geoff Sauer
Chairperson

Guest speaker at the AGM was retiring Scotch College Principal and MHS Patron Dr John Newton who used Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture to provide an understanding of the Russian psyche. John Wood proposed a vote of thanks and presented a farewell gift to Dr Newton on behalf of the Society.

CARRICK HILL: GUIDED TOUR AND LUNCH

Wednesday 12 October

17 members attended on a rather wet and dreary day and were guided through Carrick Hill with everyone enjoying the wonderful ambience and architecture of this amazing grand house and its wonderful collection of objects, furniture, artworks. The Springfield land was a wedding gift from Tom Barr Smith to his daughter Ursula and her husband, Edward “Bill” Hayward. Many of the participating members stayed on for an enjoyable lunch at the café.

William Morris at Carrick Hill: pattern—Vine *ca* 1880



Embroidery was a favourite hobby of Ursula Hayward and her mother Mrs Tom Barr Smith who embroidered the striking William Morris three-fold silk screen at Carrick Hill. The cushions (Tudor Rose) on the dining room chairs were Ursula’s and there are two sets of curtains that came from Ursula’s grandparents’ (Robert & Joanna Barr Smith) house, Torrens Park.

CARRICK HILL cont'd:



Top -Majolica Charger

Bottom -Green Dragon Tea Service: Coalport & Hammersley



Mitcham Historical Society Inc

Officer Bearers 2022—2023

Patron: Dr John Newton, Principal, Scotch College

Chairperson: Geoff Sauer M 0412 125 010

Deputy Chairperson: Joanna Wells M 0403 335 862

Treasurer: John Fraser

Minutes Secretary: Alicia Siegel

Webmaster: Peter Reeve

Committee Members

John Wood M 0402 781 601

Peter Basedow: M 0417 809 227

Ian Strout: (Events M 0400 027 117

Sandra Matz M 0414 747 657

Iain Waddell-Smith

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MHS Committee meetings 2022

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.

2022 MHS Christmas Function

Tuesday 6 December
from 4.00pm – 6.00pm
at The Ed, High Street, Mitcham

Celebrate with fellow Mitcham Historical Society members
in the beautiful beer garden at The Ed
Finger food and nibbles provided - Drinks at your own
expense

Bookings are essential [via Evenbrite](#)

Note: If you are registering for 2 people, you will need to
complete 2 registrations – this is so we get the names of
both attendees.

or

Register by [email](#) or phone M 0412 125 010

By Friday 2 December 2022



NOVEMBER BUS TRIP

Sunday 6 November

**Highlights: National Motor Museum (Birdwood), historic Mt Torrens,
Melba's Chocolate Factory (Woodside)**

22 members and our bus driver, Peter Williams left the Mitcham Council car park for the trip to Woodside for the first stop on a surprisingly warm (27⁰) and sunny day. Even though it was early November the Adelaide Hills were still lush and green. At Woodside morning tea was taken at Lovells' Bakery with generous helpings of just made bienenstich (bee sting) cake. From Woodside we took the scenic route to Birdwood *via* Lobethal.

We were introduced to the National Motor Museum and its collections by knowledgeable, Andrew Applebee, Visitor Engagement Officer. A lot of history and a lot of memories. And the Museum grounds were hosting more than 100 Minis, Cooper Ss and Mokes!

Lunch was taken at the historic Mt Torrens Hotel in the heritage listed town of Mt Torrens. The hotel has been almost completely renovated by its current owners with much of its original timberwork returned to near original condition. After lunch Kaitlyn Lo-Faro (co-owner) spoke about the history of the hotel and its two ghosts.

The final stop on the journey through the hills was Melba's Chocolate and Confectionery in Woodside which features a vast range of chocolates and assorted sweets.

Photos:

p.13 Top: National Motor Museum Guide—Andrew Applebee

Bottom: Bienenstich sat Lovells Bkaery, Woodside

P.14 Top: old buses and a fire appliance

Bottom: 1927 Bugatti Type 35B

Bus Trip cont'd





National Motor Museum Birdwood



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.

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,
Hotel (08) 8373 2700 Cellars (08) 373 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
(08) 8274 4333

Louise Miller Frost MP

Federal Member for Boothby
Shop 2, 670 Anzac Highway
Glenelg SA,5045
(08) 8374 0511

Colindale Design

Bespoke interior design specialising in end-to-end design resolutions for residential and small-scale commercial projects.
p. (08) 8271 1483 m. 0418 816 403,
Studio: by appointment only: 21 Albert Street, Mitcham

Mitcham Historical Society Inc Corporate Members

Nadia Clancy MP

State Member for Elder
212 Belair Road
Hawthorn SA 5062
(08) 8374 1939

Catherine Hutchesson MP

State Member for Waite
1/7-9 Young Street
Blackwood SA 5051
(08) 8278 5844

This Fine Day Café

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

Council Elections 2022

The Mitcham Historical Society extends sincere congratulations to the successful candidates in the 2022 elections for the Mitcham Council.

Mayor

Heather Holmes-Ross

Boorman Ward

Joanna Wells
Andrew Tilley

Gault Ward

Rod Moss
Pia George

Overton Ward

Kamal Bhagat
Jane Bange

Babbage Ward

Yvonne Todd
Aidan Greenshields

Craigburn Ward

Karen Hockley
Darren Kruse

The Park Ward

Tom Morrison
Corin McCarthy

You can find the contact details for the Mayor and Councillors [here](#).
Click [here](#) for the Council website.