

MITCHAM MEMORIES

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THE MITCHAM HISTORICAL
SOCIETY INCORPORATED

MARCH
2016



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THE MITCHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETER

MHS

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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

Welcome back everyone and I hope you all had a great Christmas Break. 2016 started delightfully with Australia Day celebrations at Carrick Hill honouring Ron Bellchambers with the Australia Day Citizen of the Year Award for his tireless commitment to the no-dam option in Brownhill Creek. It was a well-deserved achievement and Ron responded with a heartfelt speech.

2016 will be a busy year ahead with our first event being our usual Twilight Walk and this year it will be on Monday, March 21st. We will be walking through some historic areas in Lower Mitcham guided by Glen Woodward. John Wood is organising the bus tour in the Adelaide Hills region for Sunday 1st May. Andrew Tilley will once again guide us through Ellison's Gully in Brownhill Creek for the SA's History Festival in May. He will conduct a walk on 1st of May and again on 15th of May. Coming up in July the Mitcham Historical Society in conjunction with the Mitcham Heritage Research Centre will host the 13th Eastern Regional Historical Societies Seminar. This is a great opportunity to showcase Mitcham's heritage to other societies. Be sure to book a place for the day and support the MHS. Stephanie McCarthy will be our presentation speaker in August and Dr John Newton (Principal of Scotch College) will speak at our September AGM. These are the events planned so far with more to come and I hope members can find something of interest for them to attend and I shall leave you with this thought.

"Only the guy who isn't rowing has time to rock the boat"

Jean-Paul Sartre

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

JEANETTE LINDSAY, MARGARET DAY & SANDRA MATZ

CALENDAR

PROGRAM FOR 2016 – MARCH TO JULY

March 21st Monday - Twilight Walk: Lower Mitcham

Time: 6.00 - 8.00pm.

For details see page 7.

May 1st Sunday - Bus Tour: History of Wine & Food in the Adelaide Hills Region

Time: 9.15am departure - 4pm expected return.

For details see page 10.

May 1st & 15th Sunday - Brownhill Creek/Ellison's Gully Historical Walk

Time: 1.30pm - 3.30pm.

For details see page 13.

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

Time: 9.30am - 4.00pm.

For details see page 15.



PORT
ADELAIDE 1891
BY ROBERT
HADDON

Twilight Walk: Lower Mitcham

with Glen Woodward



Join us for a guided tour through
historic Lower Mitcham at twilight!

Date: Monday 21st March 2016

Time: 6-8pm

Meet: Mitcham Railway Station

Cost: \$2 coin donation

Contact: Julie Hogan 0430 472 262

Email julie.a.hogan@gmail.com

TITLE PAGE PHOTO: BROWNHILL CREEK SCHOOL

"THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT"

On this edition of the newsletter, we have a picture from Brownhill Creek Chapel, when it was also used as a school (until 1924). The chapel was built in 1874 and according to a 1924 newspaper, at the cost of only 120 pounds. In 1947, in *The Advertiser*, there is an article on the tumultuous history of Brownhill Creek. Somewhat comforting to know, it states that even after the church closed and fell to ruin, it became a home for two couples for a short while. Like an omen, the writer foresaw the future of the chapel and wrote "like so many local historical relics, another pioneering monument is destined to become a heap of rubble". In 1955, Brownhill Creek Chapel was completely burnt down.

CALENDAR PAGE PHOTO: PORT ADELAIDE, 1891

At the bottom of the Calendar page you will find a lovely watercolour painting of Port Adelaide from February the 10th 1891 by artist Robert Haddon. This image is from the "The Calendar book of Robert Joseph Haddon, Volume 1" composed of January, February and March. In addition to an image, each day included a reflection. On February, Haddon wrote: "Build up the truth. Bad things will die of their own inanition". March marks the begin of a new season, and this is what Haddon thought of Autumn: "How beautiful is the autumn. It is the end, the consummation, the apex. Its pictures are painted in yellows and golds, in tawny, browns and crimsons."

Article Source: 1924 'Churches and Church Affairs.', *The Register* (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), 19 July, p. 4, viewed 27 February, 2016, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article59025972>
1947 'After an adventurous past, Brownhill Creek is how a quiet beauty spot and a', *The Advertiser* (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 8 November, p. 11. , viewed 26 February 2016, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article43742022>

Image Source (Title Photo): *State Library of South Australia* - B 395294

Image Source (Calendar Photo): *State Library Victoria* - H2008.51/43

MYSTERY OF THE POCKET BOOK

BY RICK IRVING

From the *South Australia Register*, comes a story of chance and luck:
"Upwards of twelve months ago, a young gentleman, while travelling across the country from Mr Warren's station in the Barossa (where he had staid the previous night) towards Flagman's Valley, unluckily lost his pocket book, containing bank-notes, letters, accounts, &c. On discovering his loss, he re traced his steps as well as he was able, but to no purpose. A few days ago, Mr Warren, while riding in the same direction, found, lying amongst the grass, the long lost pocket-book. The cockatoos had destroyed the outside of it, but its contents were found to have sustained but little injury from the elements to which they had so long been exposed."

EDITHBURGH BLACKSMITHS

BY RICK IRVING

Edithburgh is a small town established in 1869, found on the south-east corner of the Yorke Peninsula, about 226 km from Adelaide by road.

"To the Editor. Sir—The Edithburgh blacksmiths are getting very independent. There are four of them at the seaport, but they have all agreed not to do any work after 1 p.m. on Saturdays. It often happens that a horse looses a shoe or two on the journey lo Edithburgh, and being unable to get one put on through the "honorable understanding of the blacksmiths," the animal has to be driven home again, and then another drive during the next week to get the shoe put on. I understand that blacksmiths at Yorketown keep their shops open on Saturday afternoons on purpose to oblige country customers. I think it would be a good thing for some blacksmith to open a shop at Honiton. I feel sure that all the farmers within five miles would patronise one there. A forge was there many years ago when the traffic on the roads was not so great as it is now. —I am, etc, Gumsucker."

Source: 1845 'THE FUTURE PROSPERITY OF THE COLONY UNDER THE LIBERAL SYSTEM.', *South Australian Register* (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), 9 July, p. 3. , viewed 21 Feb 2016, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article27450529>

1911 'Edithburgh Blacksmiths.', *The Pioneer* (Yorketown, SA : 1898 - 1954), 4 November, p. 3. , viewed 21 Feb 2016, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article199089107>



Bus Tour: History of Wine & Food in the Adelaide Hills

When: May 1st 2016

Time: 9.15am for departure

Meet: Mitcham Council Car Park

Cost: \$79 for members, \$89 for non-members

Contact: John Wood 0402 781 601 or

Peter Basedow 0417 809 227





HERITAGE AND TOURISM

The South Australian State Government initiative to promote Nature-based tourism provides a wonderful opportunity to develop a coordinated local tourism plan that incorporates natural and built heritage.

Brownhill Creek Recreation Park and Ellison's Gully are well placed to form part of such a plan, connecting with Carrick Hill, Brownhill Creek Tourist Park, local businesses, tourism operators and the community.

Brownhill Creek Association (BCA) has already begun planning for extended recreational/heritage/tourist loop trails, educational and public awareness programs, interpretative signage, infrastructure upgrades and re-vegetation projects that would underpin and enhance this tourism plan.

Heritage will be a key component in the tourism experience and the Kurna Nation Cultural Heritage Association supports Aboriginal Cultural Mapping and direct involvement with employment for Kurna education/heritage officers. The restoration of Mitcham Waterworks in Ellison's Gully and the full documentation of European heritage are also essential and we are fortunate to have input from Dr Pam Smith at Flinders University, the National Trust of South Australia, the Mitcham Heritage Research Centre and from enthusiastic volunteers at the Mitcham Historical Society, BCA and The Friends of Brownhill Creek.

(continued on next page)

HERITAGE AND TOURISM

Brownhill Creek 'Reserve' was set aside for public purposes in 1841 by Governor Grey, making 2016 the 175th anniversary. The timing is right for the Heritage Listing of Brownhill Creek Recreation Park, especially after the unanimous five council decision to support a no dam option for the upper Brownhill Creek catchment.

The beauty, solitude and remarkable heritage of this area, so close to the CBD, should be proudly showcased and promoted as part of a government backed tourism plan. Mitcham's environment and heritage can enrich our lives and our economy, with government figures showing that Nature-based tourism generates \$1.1 billion annually in South Australia. Heritage is relevant to our past, present and future.

Please feel free to contact BCA about this tourism initiative and thank you for supporting the important work of our local community groups.

Kind regards,
Ron Bellchambers

Community Liaison Officer
Brownhill Creek Association Inc. (BCA)
brownhillcreek@gmail.com
www.brownhillcreek.org

BROWNHILL
CREEK
1873



Image Source: *State Library of South Australia* - B 3723.



SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S HISTORY FESTIVAL EVENT



Discover and Help Preserve Brownhill Creek and Ellison's Gully History

**BROUGHT TO YOU BY MITCHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. AND BROWNHILL
CREEK ASSOCIATION INC.**

Come to our beautiful hidden valley, learn about its history
and also help us to preserve it.

The walk features interesting wildlife, superb scenery, a
creek crossing and will be hosted by Andrew Tilley.



When: Sunday 1st May 2016

& Sunday 15th May 2016

Time: 1.30 pm (sharp) - 3.30pm

Cost: Gold coin donation

Meet: The manure pits on Brownhill
Creek Road, Mitcham

Bring: camera, water, suitable walking
shoes

Bookings are required, contact:

Helen Robinson: 0409 222 904

Email: helenrob47@gmail.com

Or Julie Hogan: 0430 472 262

Email: julie.a.hogan@gmail.com



POEM: AUTUMN IN ADELAIDE

Written by Charles Henry Souter of South Australia, medical practitioner and writer:

*So this is my new garden, in the Autumn of the year!
I wonder who she was that planted all these dainty flowers?
And who she was that tended them, through all the patient hours?
And how she sorrowed when she had to part from things so dear!*

*'Tis Autumn, yet the daffodils are sprouting ev'rywhere,
And roses round my window-frame their fragrant clusters fling!
The dahlias and chrysanthemums are singing songs of Spring,
And violets raise their dewy heads and scent the morning air!*

*This garden tells of midsummer, although the month is May!
The limes are losing all their leaves; the oaks are turning brown.
Yet tender grasses clothe the earth as with silken gown,
And all the lawns are verdant green, and all the beds are gay!*

*The cricket chirps beneath the mould; the bee is on the wing;
The dew is on the gossamer; the sun is over all,
And ev'rything is waking up, as if at Nature's call . . .*

RUNAWAY TRUCKS & BENT GLASS BOTTLES

BY RICK IRVING

"On Monday morning Mr. Ronald Caldwell, farmer, of Honiton, went into Edithburgh for a supply of wheat and super. The wheat was in the stack on the north side of the cutting, and to get it he had to shift an empty truck which was standing on the line with the wheels chocked. When the chocks were removed the empty truck got out of hand,' and, running down the incline, collided with one loaded with eggs, skins, and bottles. The trucks sailed down the cutting to the jetty, and, expensively bumped two other trucks—smashing in one end of one truck and damaging the bumpers of all the trucks that took part in the melee. The skins and eggs sat tight, but the bottles were slightly bent."

First Article Source: Souter, Charles Henry 1935, 'Autumn in Adelaide', *The lonely rose, and other verses*, Rigby, Adelaide, South Australia, p. 19

Second Article Source: 1921 'RUNAWAY TRUCKS.', *The Pioneer* (Yorketown, SA : 1898 - 1954), 28 May, p. 3. , viewed 21 Feb 2016, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article199108474>

TIME TO SHOWCASE MITCHAM

13th Eastern Regional Historical Societies
Seminar



JULY Saturday 16

Official opening by Mayor Glenn Spear

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

Will present 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**

B 45989

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 registrations essential

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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