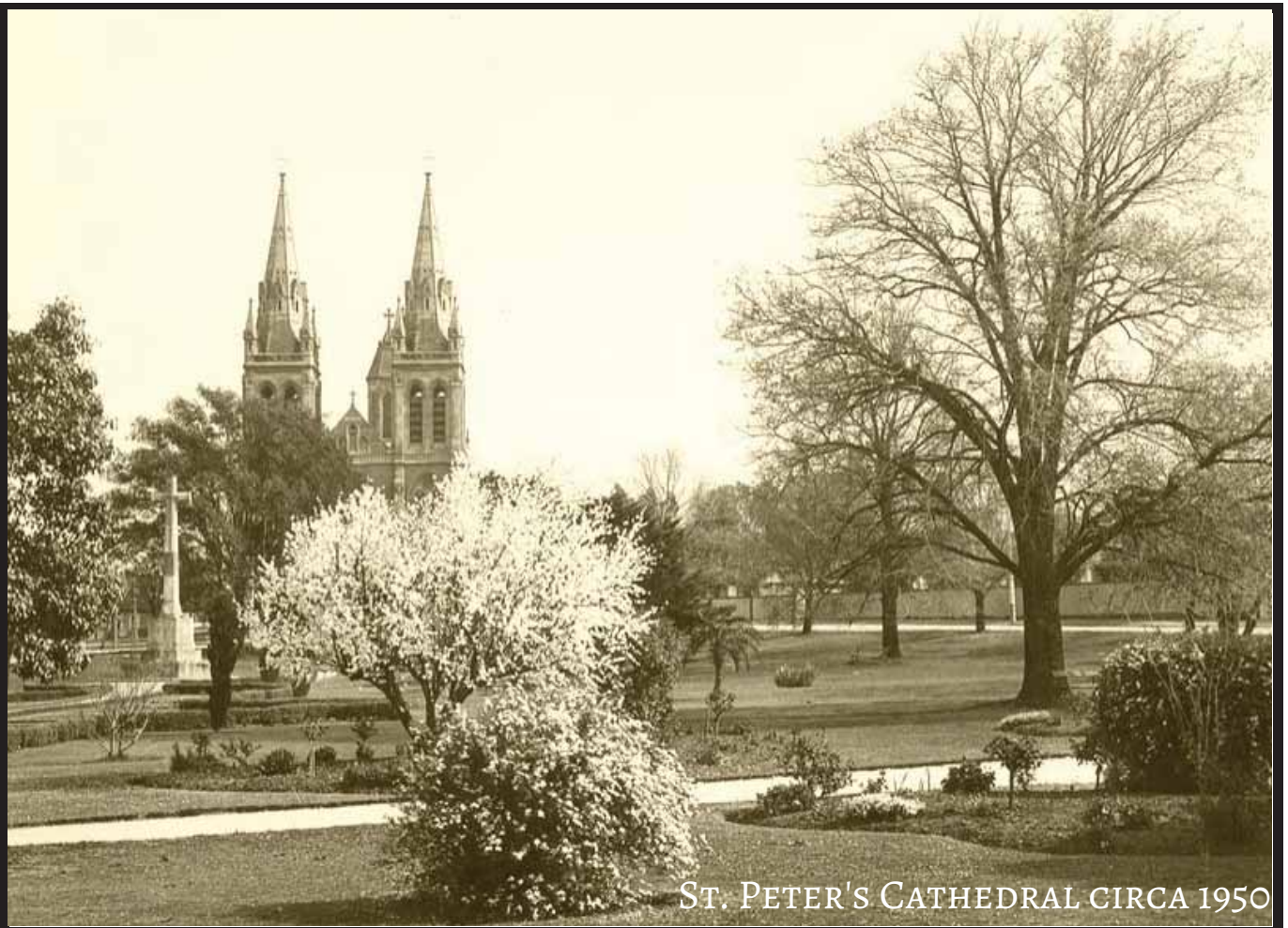


MITCHAM MEMORIES

VOLUME 11 THE MITCHAM HISTORICAL
NUMBER 1 SOCIETY INCORPORATED

APRIL
2018



ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL CIRCA 1950

Vol. 11 No. 1 April 2018

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MHS

Editorial

The MHS Newsletter is a wonderful collaboration effort. We strive to give you something well worth reading in every edition, such as news on upcoming events, recaptures of past events (with photos!), updates from the Brownhill Creek Association and historical articles about South Australia.

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 MHS, for example name, address and telephone number, will only be used for forwarding of the newsletter and relevant MHS information. The personal information will not be shared, sold or given to any third party without the member's consent. Any emails will be treated as above. However, any information sent by email will be at the sender's risk and the MHS will not be held responsible for any unintended use or disclosure.

Acknowledgement

The MHS gratefully acknowledges and thanks Martin Hamilton-Smith MP and his office for their past assistance in the printing of MHS Newsletters. We now offer our thanks to Nicolle Flint MP for the printing of our newsletters, after Martin Hamilton-Smith's retirement. We thank Nicolle Flint and her office for their outstanding support and look forward to this new partnership.

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Calendar

Program for 2018

MAY | Brownhill Creek Historical Walks [FULLY BOOKED]

Date: Sundays 13th and 27th May

Time: 1.30pm

Venue: Manure Pits at Brownhill Creek Road

JUNE | Mid-Year Function - An Evening of French Music, Food & Wine

Date: Wednesday 27th June

Time: 7pm for 7.30pm start

Venue: Drawing Room, Scotch College

For details see page 10

AUGUST | Speaker Presentation - Associate Professor Ron Danvers

Date: Wednesday 22nd August

Time: 7pm for 7.30pm start

Venue: Drawing Room, Scotch College

For details see page 19

SEPTEMBER | Annual General Meeting & Speaker Dr John Newton

Date: Tuesday 25th September

Time: 7pm

Venue: Drawing Room, Scotch College

For details see page 7

NOVEMBER | Strathalbyn - Langhorne Creek Bus Tour

Date: Sunday 4th November

Time: 9am

Venue: Mitcham Council Car Park (bus)

For details see page 22

DECEMBER | End of Year Function

Date: Tuesday 11th December

Time: 4pm - 6pm

Venue: The Edinburgh Hotel, Mitcham

● ● ● Chairperson's Message ● ● ●

Welcome to you all,

Our September AGM marked the end of Julie Hogan's ten year term as chairperson. Julie took on the challenge at the beginning of her term seeing the MHS establish itself as an independent body with the clear objectives of "Fostering awareness & preservation of historic Mitcham" and "Promoting the study of local and State history". Our success in achieving those objectives is testimony to Julie's efforts. Thank you Julie.

We were delighted and privileged to have Dr Robert Stone as our guest speaker at the AGM. Robert, as an archaeologist and historian, was able to give us more insights into local and state history and our evolution into the unique community we are today.

Our October bus trip to The Southern Vale region was a relaxing and informative day out with the careful and cheerful Peter Basedow.

Sandy Matz with her usual flair and flamboyance organised the much anticipated visit to The David Roche Foundation.

Brian Angus's End of Year Function at The Ed has become a tradition that is growing in numbers. It even attracted a few of our local politicians along with those who were invited to help them consider joining the MHS.

Our Events Subcommittee has put together another year of exciting activity. Special thanks to our Deputy Chairperson David Cosh for coordinating our efforts in producing the Program for 2018. By now it is hoped that you have a copy of the Program but if you would like another please make contact or view online: www.mitchamhistoricalsociety.org.au.



We have had our first event for the year. The magnetic Glen Woodward conducted a walking tour of Colonel Light Gardens with a visit to MHS life member Helen Scarborough's Museum. Helen was recently acknowledged with an Australia Day award.

I hope that you had a peaceful Christmas and that the new year finds you in good spirits.



The Mitcham Historical Society Incorporated

A n n u a l G e n e r a l M e e t i n g



We welcome Dr John Newton, patron of MHS and
Principal of Scotch College, to be our guest speaker
for this year.

When: Tuesday 25th September

Time: 7pm for 7.30pm start

Venue: Drawing Room, Scotch College

No charge but bookings required

RSVP: Sandy Matz

0414 747 657 / smhydepark@gmail.com

Light supper provided



Newsletter Notices

Newsletters via Email

In an effort to keep up to date with modern technology, MHS is seeking to gauge the opinion of our members regarding receiving newsletters via email.

70% of our members who have an email address should have received the April newsletter both as a paper version and a PDF document via email. You will see that this document is identical to the printed version. Emailing newsletters is not only a time saving method but will save MHS on stationery and postage costs.

If you would prefer to receive your newsletters via email only, please advise our Secretary, Sandy Matz, on smhydepark@gmail.com.

If you prefer to keep receiving a paper version of our newsletter, you don't need to do anything, we will continue posting them to you.

SA History Month

May hosts South Australia's History Festival, beginning 28th of April and ending 31st of May. You will find a variety of events spread across the state. Of particular interest:

- **Inside the Cover: The Bookplates of Adrian Feint** | Every wed-sun 10am-4.30pm Carrick Hill | Cost: Adult \$17, Concession \$12
- **All Jazzed Up at Urrbrae House** | Sun 27 May 2.30-4pm | Urrbrae House | Cost: \$25
- **A Village Walk: Mitcham Village Historic Walk** | Tue 8 & Wed 30 May 10am-12pm Mitcham Heritage Research Centre | Cost: free
- **A Day in the Life of a Conservator at Artlab Australia** | Mon 7, Wed 9 & Fri 11 10-11am or 2-3pm | Artlab Australia, 70 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide | Cost: free
- Bookings essential 8207 7520

Head to <https://historyfestival.sa.gov.au/> to view the full program for 2018.

Historical Walks for the Lung Foundation*

Local history connoisseur Richard Irving has organised six historical walks, all in the Mitcham area, to help raise funds for research into lung cancer.

The first two of a set of three walks into Brownhill Creek and Ellison's Gully have already taken place this year, so please put the following walks into your diaries:

- ~~Sunday 6th MAY: Brownhill Creek Heritage Trail (The Reserves)
Meet 1.30pm at Keystone Bridge, Old Belair Road~~
- ~~Sunday 20th MAY: Brownhill Creek Heritage Trail (The Reserves)
Meet 1.30pm at Keystone Bridge, Old Belair Road~~
- ~~Sunday 16th SEPTEMBER: Mitcham Village
Meet 1.30pm at the Rose Garden, Albert Street (opposite the Edinburgh Hotel Bottle Shop)~~
- ~~Sunday 30th SEPTEMBER: Brownhill Creek and Ellison's Gully
Meet 1.30pm at the Manure Pits, Brownhill Creek Road~~

Please bring a donation, no matter how small, on the day or simply visit this website:
<https://donate.grassrootz.com/lungfoundation/shine-a-light-on-lung-cancer/local-history-walks-in-mitcham>

For information please contact Richard at irvineth@ozemail.com.au or 08 8272 9707.

***These events are cancelled due to ill health. The August Newsletter will specify if the September walks are resumed.**

MHS INVITES YOU TO

The Mid-Year Function

JUNE 27, 2018 | 7PM FOR 7.30PM | DRAWING ROOM, SCOTCH COLLEGE



'Une nuit de cuisine française, de musique
et de chanson'

an evening of music, food and wine

Cost: \$65

Bookings online only: <https://www.trybooking.com/377560>

For information contact:

Dave Cosh: 0417 867 277 / dave.cosh@colindale.com.au

or John Wood: 0402 781 601 / johnwood@adam.com.au

Bookings essential

Numbers limited - get in quick!

Recaptured: 2017 AGM

Report by Sandra Matz

The Mitcham Historical Society Inc. Annual General Meeting was held on the 26 September 2017 in the Drawing Room at Scotch College. John Wood was elected Chairperson for the year and Julie Hogan was thanked for her decade of undertaking this role and after presenting her report of the year's activities and Brian Angus reporting re our healthy financial situation we were delighted to hear Julie would be undertaking our "Historian" role into 2018. David Cosh (vice chair), Brian Angus (Treasurer), Sandy Matz (Secretary), Trish Cosh, Helen Robinson, Peter Basedow and Julie Hogan formed the committee for 2017 / 2018.

We were fortunate to have an excellent power point presentation by Dr Robert Stone, his topic being 'The Role of Archaeology in History'. Dr Stone discussed how the role of an archaeologist is not solely an excavator of historic sites. His presentation briefly discussed some of the projects undertaken by archaeologists, primarily in Mitcham, but with reference to other sites in South Australia, not all involved excavation but included:

- Major surveys
- Research projects
- Consultancy on changes to heritage listed properties (cultural heritage management)
- Monitoring renovation of heritage properties
- Excavation of historic sites
- Emergency excavation of development sites (archaeologists vs bulldozers)
- Supervising student archaeology research projects (field work experience)

He finished with a brief discussion on the symbolism of 19th century stately homes in South Australia with special focus on properties in Mitcham. Participants were delighted with the presentation and thanked Dr Stone accordingly. We are fortunate that Dr Robert Stone has joined the Society as a member so we look forward to seeing him attending further events.



PHOTOS BY HELEN ROBINSON



From Strength to Strength

Our environment and heritage projects are going from strength to strength, thanks to the close working relationship between community groups, schools, government authorities, and our committed political representatives at all three levels of government and the local community. 2018 will be another exciting and productive year!

BCA is appreciative of the bipartisan political support that underpins our work. The Hon. Martin Hamilton-Smith MP should be commended for his 45 years of public service: an army officer for 24 years and a member of parliament for 21 years. During his last term, Hamilton-Smith secured funding for many important projects in the seat of Waite, including the \$200,000 pedestrian bridge for Brownhill Creek Recreation Park, which is due to be lifted into place from the 9th to 10th of May, 2018. Martin retired from politics ahead of the March election and we wish him well for the future along with his wonderful electorate office staff.

Congratulations to Sam Duluk MP as the newly elected Liberal Member for Waite and The Hon. David Speirs MP, Minister for Environment and Water. Both Duluk and Speirs have spent a considerable amount of time in Brownhill Creek Recreation Park, discussing local community projects and plans for the future (once in a raging storm!). I am pleased to report that they strongly support the Connecting Communities-Wirraparinga Loop Trail Project and appreciate our combined efforts to protect and enhance local environment and heritage. We thank Duluk for securing \$100,000 over the next 5 years for heavy contractor works. This funding will be used for the mechanical removal of large pest plants and weed spraying, which will allow The Friends of Brownhill Creek, local schools and other volunteers to cope with bushcare maintenance, native re-vegetation and habitat restoration along sections of the Wirraparinga Loop Trail. We will work keenly with Duluk and Speirs over the coming years.

Nicolle Flint MP, Federal Member for Boothby, continues to be an enthusiastic supporter and was present at the Green Army Graduation (see next page) and the Mitcham Historical Society end-of-year event at the Edinburgh Hotel. Flint helped BCA to receive a \$20,000 grant from the Federal Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development, which has been spent on stone creek crossings, a footbridge, a stone vehicle crossing and heavy contractor works to provide safe access for the Green Army, park staff and future users of the Wirraparinga Loop Trail.



Green Army Project Completed At Brownhill Creek



"During the 2016 election I secured a \$200,000 commitment for the Wirraparinga Trail Loop at Brownhill Creek. This was delivered through the Green Army and I commend the young team who upgraded two kilometres of the trail, removed seven hectares of woody weeds, assisted in rehabilitating the Grey Box grassy woodlands, preserved habitat for the Southern Brown Bandicoot and improved water quality of Brownhill Creek.

I commend Mitcham 2016 Citizen of the Year, Ron Bellchambers, and the many community organisations who took part in the project with generous contributions of time and money including the Rotary Club of Brownhill Creek, Friends of Brownhill Creek, Brownhill Creek Association, Mitcham Historical Society, Mitcham Council and the Brownhill Creek Residents Association.

I encourage everyone to have a go walking the trail where you can immerse yourself in our natural environment.

Nicolle Flint MP Federal Member for Boothby"

On 12 December 2017, Mitcham Council elected members voted unanimously in favour of a staff recommendation to support the Wirraparinga Loop Trail project, authorising the Mayor and CEO to sign the trail agreement/MOU along with Carrick Hill Trust, SP Estates, the Department of Environment and Water and BCA. The official signing will happen soon. It is encouraging to have the backing of Mayor Glenn Spear, CEO Matthew Pears, Boorman Ward Councillors Andrew Tilley and Adriana Christopoulos and the other elected members and staff of the City of Mitcham.



The Kurna Nation Cultural Heritage Association (KNCHA) is one of our most important and valued partner organisations and in a historic federal court judgement on 21 March 2018, Justice Mortimer determined that the Kurna are the traditional owners of the Adelaide Plains. Kurna Elder Lynette Crocker (see photo) was one of 11 claimants who have worked for 18 years on this claim. Justice Mortimer said the Kurna applicants had shown “responsibility and great dignity” and their claim “has been a long time in the making”. Attorney-General Vicki Chapman said the “determination is an important step towards reconciliation and the next six months would mark the conclusion of an ILUA (Indigenous Land Use positive impact on the documentation, recognition and promotion of Kurna heritage in our area and along the Wirraparinga Loop Trail.



KNCHA CHAIR UNCLE JEFFREY
NEWCHURCH, VICE-CHAIR AUNTIE
LYNETTE CROCKER & BCA CHAIR
PROFESSOR WAYNE MEYER

There is so much to look forward to and much to report on in 2018. This year is history in the making and the continuation of respecting and preserving heritage for future generations.

Ron Bellchambers | BCA Community Liaison Officer

brownhillcreek@gmail.com
www.brownhillcreek.org

Recaptured: Twilight Walk

Report by John Wood

Twenty members enjoyed Glen Woodward's tour of Colonel Light Gardens on March 19th, after looking through the House Museum of another member, Helen Scarborough. Helen's museum is an amazing and memorable collection of objects of our past. Each room is packed to the ceiling with historical items, from rooms like the parlour, dining room, kitchen and bathroom. There is a shed full of toy tricycles, a laundry, an outside "dunny", tools, "depression ware" and a children's play room.

At 6pm we began the walk at the WW1 Military Camp Memorial near Mortlock Park, which was a gift from the Mortlock family estate. In 1915 the SA Government purchased "Grange Farm" and with the appointment in 1917 of Charles Reade as Town Planner (the 1st in Australia), "Mitcham Garden Suburb", later Colonel Light Gardens, was created. Reade designed curved streets with English names, wide roads, verges with trees and laneways for sewage, water, gas, and electricity. Plans for bungalows (14 different designs) with front and back yards and a side driveway made the suburb environmentally friendly and attractive. His neighbourhood shopping centres were the 1st in Australia. Reade planned a school, churches, Institute, parks and recreation area (now Reade Park).

The government purchased three farms west of Goodwood Road for the "Thousand Homes" development to make land cheaper. The streets there have names associated with Colonel Light. Colonel Light Gardens was transferred to Mitcham Council in 1975 and in the year 2000 it was listed as State Heritage.

PHOTOS BY SANDY MATZ



South Australia's History Festival Event

Brownhill Creek

Historical Walks

Guided by Andrew Tilley

When: Sundays 13th & 27th* May at 1.30pm

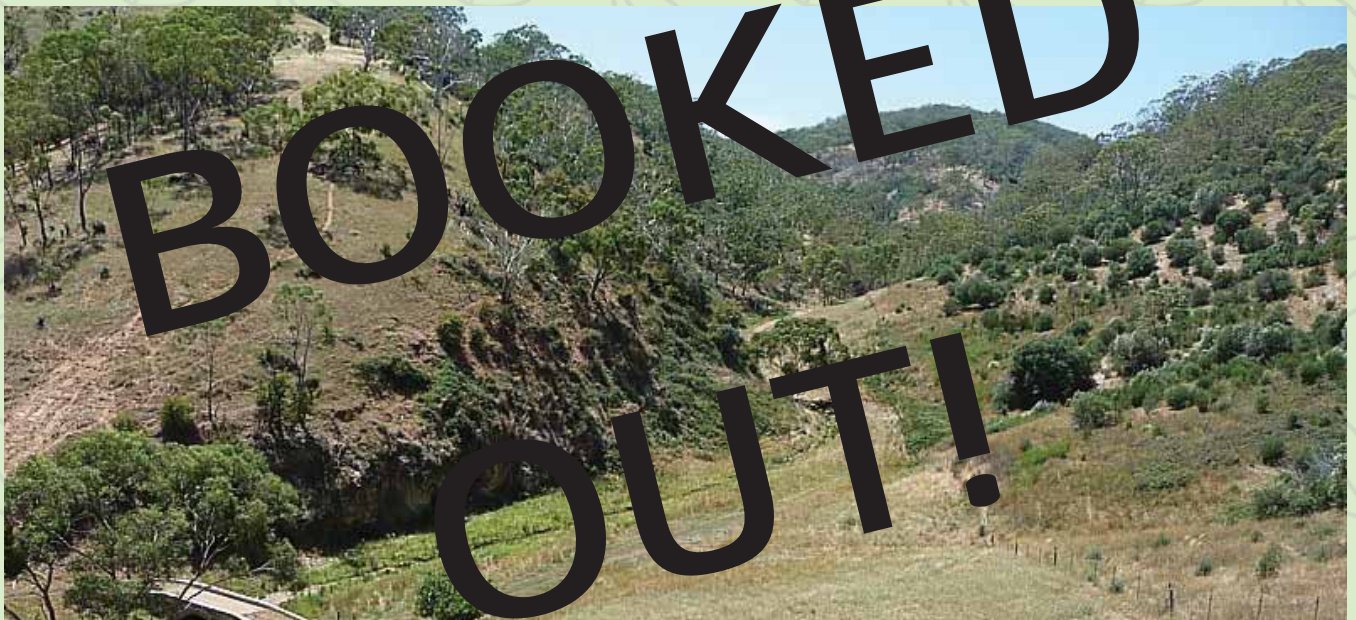
Meet: The Manure Pits, Brownhill Creek Road

Cost: Gold coin donation

RSVP: Dave Cosh

0417 867 277 or dave.cosh@colindale.com.au

Bookings essential

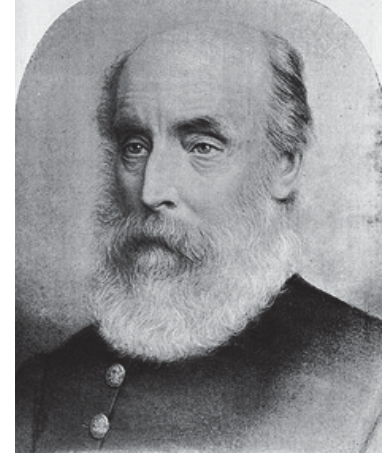


Historical Research Article

Torrens, Sir Robert Richard, K. C. M. G., M. P.

Research by Richard Irving

Diving deep into the National Archives, Richard Irving has sourced the following short historical article about the man who built Torrens Park aka the grounds of Scotch College... Sir Richard Robert Torrens.



SIR ROBERT TORRENS

Torrens "...originated relative to the land laws of South Australia, now known as the "Torrens Act" [he] is a native of Cork, Ireland, where he was born in 1814. He received his education at Trinity College, Dublin, where he obtained the M. A. degree. He was appointed Collector of Customs at Port Adelaide, South Australia, in 1841, in the exercise of which capacity he became familiar with the laws relating to shipping; and drafted his famous Bill, which is of so complete a character that it has been adopted by more than one government. He was elected to Parliament; had a seat in the Legislative Council; was M. P. for Adelaide and held office as Treasurer and Registrar-General. The Torrens Act, on which his fame rests, passed into law in January 1858; and shortly after this he resigned his seat in order the more effectually to carry out the measure. He quitted the colony in 1863, and returned to England, where he received the honour of knighthood, and was elected M. P. for Cambridge, of which he is still the representative".

The Torrens Act, as described by Douglas Whalan from the Australian Dictionary of Biography, is "land titles no longer passed by the execution of deeds but by the registration of dealings on a public register; once registered the title of a purchaser became indefeasible unless he was guilty of fraud; and innocent dealers with interests in registered land were guaranteed either their interest in the land or monetary compensation therefor".

References: Loyau, George E, The Representative Men of South Australia, George Howell, 1883, pages 247-8.

Douglas J. Whalan, 'Torrens, Sir Robert Richard (1814–1884)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/torrens-sir-robert-richard-4739/text7869>, published first in hardcopy 1976, accessed online 20 February 2018.

Recaptured: David Roche

Tour

Report by Sandra Matz

Our November visit was to The David Roche Foundation which was established in 1999 by the late Mr David J Roche Am (1930-2013) which consists of an exceptional collection of antiques, paintings and objects d'art accumulated over his lifetime and preserved for the future.

A devoted collector of antiques and fine art, David was acknowledged both in Australia and abroad as a renowned collector. He often referred to himself as an 'enthusiastic buff'. As such, he was made very welcome by antique merchants from emporiums around the world. His entire life was spent acquiring mostly what he thought essential and all items were acquired with a place in mind. From toys, money boxes and naïve items to the finest of porcelains, paintings and furnishing items - he loved them all. It is fair to say that David rarely let a day go by without adding another 'essential' piece to his collection. It was his heartfelt wish to open his collection to the people of Australia with a hope that visitors would leave having found a favourite piece to remember.

The David Roche Foundation staff welcomed us with morning tea and a personal presentation and tour of the magnificent house and museum. With over 3,000 items in the collection we are so fortunate to have close access to such a world standard quality venue in North Adelaide.

PHOTOS BY SANDY MATZ



THE MITCHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

August Speaker Presentation

SPEAKER: ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR RON DANVERS

Professor Danvers is an Adelaide architect having worked in Australia, Indonesia and Malaysia. He restored the Barr Smith Theatre at Scotch College - his first major historic interior. This work led to the restoration of the Mortlock Library, the GPO Postal Hall and many other historic interiors including the Ballroom and Dining Room at Adelaide's Government House.

**"BENTHAMITE UTILITARIANS: IMAGINING AND REIMAGINING
ADELAIDE AND PARIS IN THE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURIES"**

When: Wednesday 22nd August

Time: 7pm for 7.30pm start

Where: Drawing Room, Scotch College

Cost: \$5 (light supper provided)

Bookings: Dave Cosh

0417 867 277 / dave.cosh@colindale.com.au

Recaptured: Southern Vale Bus Tour

Report by Peter Basedow

On a lovely sunny day, we headed towards McLaren Vale where we met our host at the McLaren Vale and Fleurieu Visitor Centre. Rob Wood (John Wood's younger brother) was the ideal host having been a journalist in the region with an intimate knowledge of the various personalities in the local wine and tourist industry. Over morning tea Rob introduced us to Joe Petrucci of Sabella Wines who portrayed a history of the Italian families in the region.

After a hearty morning tea, we meandered through the McLaren Vale wine district to Kay Bros Amery vineyards who have in recent times celebrated their 125th anniversary of family involvement in the region. We were fortunate to have as our guide Colin Kay who is a direct descendent of the winery founders. The winery and original family homestead sit in a prime position at the top of a hill with magnificent views of the Mt Lofty ranges. The vineyard extends over 22 hectares and is the oldest in the region. Colin hosted an interesting tour of the winery and provided many historic anecdotes, particularly describing their traditional basket press method of wine-making. At the end of the tour was the fun part of tasting and purchasing wine, at much appreciated special prices.

Next stop, just out of Willunga was the delightful Penny's Hill wines in a farmyard setting including a chicken yard and other historic buildings adjacent the cellar door. We were fortunate to be entertained by host and owner Tony Parkinson. Tony is passionate about his achievements with Penny's Hill and described his procurement and development of the winery and precinct. As is the custom in the area we again concluded with a wine tasting and a purchase.

The township of Willunga has an abundance of hotels, this time we chose the Alma which provided a good quality lunch and refreshments.

Our final stop of the day was the famous Hardy's Tintara Winery complex enveloped in a wonderful garden setting. A leisurely self-guided tour of the extensive complex was followed by a wine tasting. An interesting aspect of the Hardy's complex is a fine display of local art. This capped off a very pleasant day and gave us yet another glimpse of this beautiful wine area.

Recaptured: Southern Vale Bus Tour

Photos by Sandra Matz



MHS BUS TOUR

Strathalbyn - Langhorne Creek Bus Tour

When: Sunday 4th November

Time: 9am departure

Meet: Mitcham Council Carpark

Cost: \$85 MHS members or \$95 non-members

RSVP: Dave Cosh

0417 867 277 / dave.cosh@colindale.com.au

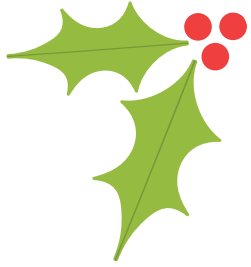
or Peter Basedow

0417 809 227 / peter@basedows.com.au

Limited seats! Book early!

Come and enjoy!

Recaptured: End of Year Function 2017



Photos by Sandra Matz



Mitcham Memories is proudly printed by:



Corporate Memberships

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

Namely:



This Fine Day Cafe

