

Burnside Historical Society Inc.

NEWSLETTER September 2016

Volume 36, No 3



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From my Desk

Welcome to the September 2016 issue of the Burnside Historical Society Newsletter. In this issue you will find an update on Wheal Watkins mine and its next Open Day on Sunday 18 September. Please come along and support the Society in its efforts to have the mine reopened for underground tours. Members are needed for assistance on the day. If you can help please contact Dave Monceaux on 0418 802 041.

Members, please read the proposed change to the Constitution on page 11 before the September meeting.

The deadline for the December 2016 issue is **Friday 21 October**.

Contributions should be sent to jlbrown@internode.on.net.

Judy Brown (Newsletter compiler)

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Membership fees are \$45 family and \$30 single, due in April each year. Subscriptions may be sent to the Treasurer at the Society's address, paid at a monthly meeting or by a direct bank transfer.

The Society gratefully acknowledges annual grant funding from the City of Burnside to help support the production of this *Newsletter*.

What is happening at Wheal Watkins?

An update from Dave Monceaux

Our Society needs to demonstrate that Wheal Watkins is valued by and useful to the community as a unique and State Heritage Listed historic asset. BHS is therefore seeking funds from the City of Burnside Council, the owner of the mine, to conserve Wheal Watkins which can also be valuable as an educational aid and an outdoor classroom.

We had a successful recent Open Day at Wheal Watkins on Sunday afternoon 5 June. 38 visitors came despite the dreadful weather. It was a conducted tour above ground only, which we advertised in "What's On" in the Saturday Advertiser.

We intend to organise regular monthly tours from September 2016. We will apply for a Community Grant from Council for advertising and the supply of brochures. We will require help on those days for handing out brochures, etc.

For the Open Day in June this year (already mentioned), the weather the night before and on that Sunday morning was very cold with heavy rain which probably deterred many people. The visitors, including families, were welcomed and shown around by Meredith Ide, David Rogers, Anne and David Monceaux. It was an informal chatty tour and enjoyed by all. There is clearly community interest in underground tours as many people asked when they would recommence.

Monthly tours will raise community interest and support. We will personally invite influential members of the community and politicians to visit. We expect to enlist their support for the reopening of underground tours. We will also enlist media support. Channel 7 has already been in touch with us.

We believe that Wheal Watkins is not only an important and unique historic State Heritage Listed asset that needs to be conserved, but that it should also be made useful to school children and educators. Wheal Watkins was started in 1843 just 7 years after the State of SA was founded. The economy was in trouble and it was hoped that mining would be the solution. Not much has changed in 173 years! Wheal Watkins should be an open air classroom where children can learn about the early history of SA and about early mining, geology, Cornish immigration and science generally.

The first of the above ground tours will be on Sunday 18 September from 12noon to 4pm. We will need 5 BHS members to help run the day but all members are welcome to see Wheal Watkins and add to the picnic atmosphere.

Other news -

The adjacent neighbour to Wheal Watkins has recently constructed a deep excavation for a driveway very close to the lower adit. In fact, the work appears to extend into the State Heritage Wheal Watkins Reserve. The reserve boundary needs to be fenced to protect the mine. We are waiting for Burnside Council to survey the boundary and fence it. The mine entrance is only about 8 metres away and the vibration from the work seems to have loosened some of the timber supports. The block of land is for sale and any new house will have piled foundations and the vibration from construction may cause further damage to the Heritage Listed Mine. The Council Administration have been told of the danger to the mine. We will need a Councillor to put up a Motion in Council to protect Wheal Watkins. On the night of that Council Meeting a good attendance of BHS Members to demonstrate community concern will help get the Motion passed.

The other work that Council is required to do as a result of the Council Resolution in March 2016 is progressing slowly. This includes some new information signs and replacing the 2 timber entrances, one of which has been completely destroyed by termites

The SA Chamber of Mines and Energy has shown some interest in Wheal Watkins and in reopening it for underground tours. They see that children can learn about the importance of mining in Australia, both past and present. BHS hopes that they are able to interest both the State and Commonwealth Governments in providing financial support for developing the educational use of Wheal Watkins.

If we can show that Wheal Watkins is appreciated by and useful to the community, then we should be able to get funding to do more with the mine.

The Burnside Historical Society welcomes the following new members:

Dee Cooper, Bob Stace, Clare Barnes,
Christopher Henschke and Gaby Weber

WHEAL WATKINS OPEN DAY AND SURFACE WALK

Sunday 18 September

12 noon – 4 pm

Bring your family and friends to see the great improvements Burnside Council has made to the reserve.

Park at the end of Allandale Avenue, Glen Osmond, and follow the signs and markers.

Sturdy, flat shoes are recommended.



How can you help?

We can use your talents to help achieve our objective of reopening the State Heritage listed Wheal Watkins mine, from providing ideas and support and assisting with publicity, to becoming a surface guide.

Please see Dave Monceaux at a BHS meeting or phone him on 0418 802 041.

Program of Meetings

MEETINGS of the Burnside Historical Society are held in the Burnside Community Centre, corner of Portrush Road and Fisher Street, Tusmore (car park and entrance off Fisher Street) at **7.30 pm** on the third Monday of the month, unless an alternative time or venue is notified. Admission is free and supper provided. Visitors are most welcome.

Monday 19 September 7.30 pm – Professor Kay Whitehead

Miss Wauchope's 'dreams of an up-to-date school'

This presentation focuses on schooling in South Australia from the 1870s to the 1930s. Included in it will be a brief overview of the 1875 legislation for compulsory schooling in South Australia, followed by a discussion of the implications for private and public schools in the Burnside district, and for teachers' careers. Included in the presentation will be Burnside and Rose Park schools, along with significant individuals such as Elihu Broadbent, Marjorie Hübbe and Mavis Wauchope.

Kay Whitehead is a Professor of History of Education in the School of Education at Flinders University. Her historical research focuses mainly on teachers from the mid-19th to mid-20th century in South Australia, the United Kingdom and Canada. She has recently completed a book *Lillian de Lissa, women teachers and teacher education in the twentieth century: a transnational history*.

Monday 17 October 7.30 pm – Denise Schumann

The brewer's grandson – Lionel Logue and his Adelaide connections

Lionel George Logue (1880-1953) CVO was an Australian speech and language therapist and amateur stage actor who successfully treated, among others, King George VI, who had a pronounced stammer. Logue's life was celebrated in the award winning film *The King's Speech* and in this talk Denise Schumann will explore the Logue family's background and how Lionel Logue was born and bred in College Town, grew up in Norwood, and went to school in Kent Town.



Lionel Logue with his fiancée, Myrtle Gruenert, in 1906

Denise Schumann has worked as a historical and cultural heritage consultant designing and implementing creative heritage projects across South Australia. She has achieved national recognition for her work and in 2014 was recognized by the SA Heritage Council for her contribution to South Australian history. In 2015 Denise was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for her contribution to the preservation of Australia's cultural heritage.

Monday 21 November

Me 'n Me Mates: a performance of Australian songs, stories, poems and yarns by Splash Theatre Company

Join us for the year's final meeting as we enjoy an entertaining, Australian-themed evening.

Please note that there is a cost of \$10 per person which includes supper.



Malt extraction: a sticky business

The Tusmore Avenue Malt Factory 1921-65

Second and final instalment:

first instalment pp. 14-15 in BHS Newsletter vol. 36 (2) June 2016

The father of the factory, John, died in 1951 and for almost a decade the plant lay idle. In 1960, however, his youngest son Peter decided to carry out the necessary repairs and get the plant back into operation. Peter takes up the story at this point.

'I carried out the repair work while continuing my regular employment and it took me nine months. Among other things I had to descale and establish pressure for the boiler and the noise from descaling was like a loud, reverberating church bell. As I had no ear protection at that time I now have bad hearing. The safety gauges also had to be reset and the pipe and stopcock valve at the bottom of the well had to be replaced. Water was pumped out and the old piping replaced, but as I was doing up the last nut on the bolts I bumped my arm on a bracket, lost my watch from my wrist and dropped the spanner as the water rose to my chin. I was drenched and freezing, but the job had been done!

The first brew after these renovations was very slow, taking two days to finish, a process which should have taken no more than 18 hours. As John had previously sold the left over mash to a local dairy I contacted them to see if they would be interested in resuming that arrangement. The dairyman arrived to collect the mash, but after loading he showed no desire to leave. I was puzzled for a moment, but then remembered that John had always provided a Cooper's ale at that point. A bottle of red ale was duly produced from an old fridge, to the man's satisfaction, and after collecting a later load of mash he commented that I had "got it right now". When questioned about this statement, he replied "after being fed the mash from the first batches the cows gave me a huge increase in milk production." This made me realise that the sparger was not working and a lot of extract was being left in the grain, the explanation for the high yield on which the dairyman had commented.

When I first began selling the extract, I visited *Sanitarium Health Foods* Factory on Hackney Road to see if I could secure a contract for supply with them. During the visit I mentioned that I was only working the plant Saturdays, which comment led the office staff to exclaim "working Saturdays?" I then realised that this was the owners' Sabbath. To extricate myself from this gaff, I then explained that this would only be a temporary arrangement and they duly agreed to purchase a 56 pound drum as a trial!

Two weeks later I was called to the office and asked to try six samples of Weetbix and to identify those that had been produced with Coopers malt extract and those that had not. I correctly picked three of the samples as having used my extract because they did not crumble. On the basis of this I was pleased to receive an order for ten drums, to be delivered as soon as possible.

Although I had only thought of the malt factory as a hobby I was soon working every Saturday and Sunday to fill orders. One night about 8pm the factory building began to shake. My brother in law, Trevor, who was helping at the time, had opened the damper on the boiler to encourage the fire and had forgotten to close it again. The pressure had increased beyond the safe level and the relief valves were screaming like train whistles. This was, of course, happening in a residential area so all steam pipes were turned flat out to reduce the pressure, the damper shut and the hose turned full on to cool down the fire. The next day I gave a jar of malt to my neighbours to counteract any ill feeling about the previous night's commotion!

As the factory reached full production the product was being sold to *Anchor Foods* for malt vinegar, to bakers and to *Montgomery & Co*, the latter in a batch of 500 2lb tins. The process of malting was improved by making some changes to the boiler safety valve, saving two hours a day of processing time and enabling work to finish at 10 pm rather than twelve midnight.

You may wonder how I knew the operation of the plant when I had not really worked there. The answer lies in the fact that as a child I had watched my father and his assistant, Clem, asking many questions of them. Clem was a patient man and as I resurrected the plant he would come in to inspect the refurbishment, allowing me to further benefit from his long experience.

By 1964 the malt extract business was continuing to increase and I was working every weekend, but – sadly – it was all brought to a halt by the death of my mother that year. My father's Will had stated that on her death the property was to be sold and the outcome was a forced closure of the factory.



As the property comprised two blocks stretching between Tusmore Ave and Northumberland Street I had them surveyed to make building blocks (two of which would later become the building blocks on which my sister and I would build our homes). The purchaser of the factory site advised that he did not intend to build anything for about 12 months so production continued temporarily, but this period of grace was subsequently reduced to 6 months and the demolition that I had been dreading had to commence.

Customers were informed of the closure and, needless to say, they were disappointed. It was suggested to Coopers Brewery that a plant could be housed on its site and under the management of Bill Cooper this later became Coopers' home brewing venture.

Some of the plant machinery went to storage at Kent Town as there was a possibility that the factory could be relocated there, but the residential character of the site precluded this, the (then) Norwood Council declining planning approval. As the machinery needed to be moved from the site it was shifted to a property on Northumberland Street until I was able to bring it "home", ie to the rear of the Tusmore Ave property on which I was later to build my home.

There was a further move when much of the plant was relocated to a Carey Gully business, but the proposed enterprise did not eventuate and there was a request that it be moved once again. This time it went to Simon Green at Lenswood who repaired some of the plant with a view to utilising it again as a malt extractor. Unfortunately, he suffered an accident with a mobile sprayer, fracturing his spine, and was unable to complete his project. Paradoxically, however, he has since used the malt plant to assist in his rehabilitation.'

One man breaks his back working his own designed malt plant

Another man uses the same old malt plant for his rehabilitation

GLOSSARY

Wort – unfermented or fermenting infusion of malt, precursor of mash

Tun – a large cask for holding liquids eg. Ale or wine

Sparging - from verb sparge or sprinkle, thus sprinkling with a sprinkling apparatus, especially in brewing

Instalments 1 and 2 adapted by Anne Both from a history prepared by Peter Cooper, May 2012, with additional editing by Colin Harris

Special General Meeting

to approve a change to the Constitution

In accordance with Paragraph 12 of the Constitution of the Burnside Historical Society, members are given 14 days' notice that there will be a Special Meeting of the Burnside Historical Society on **Monday 19th September 2016 at 7.30 pm** in the Burnside Community Centre, prior to the General Meeting.

Paragraph 14.1 of the current constitution of the society stipulates that in the event of the dissolution of the Burnside Historical Society, the assets should become the property of the Corporation of the City of Burnside. It is proposed that a change be made from reading:

14.1 In the event of the dissolution of the Society, its assets shall become the property of the Corporation of the City of Burnside.

to

14.1 In the event of the dissolution of the Society, its assets shall become the property of the entity with which the Society has merged, or if not being merged, the assets shall become the property of a similar local history society in South Australia.

Proposed change of time for winter BHS meetings

At the 20 June meeting, a move to the Glenunga Hub for daytime meetings during the winter months was proposed as an alternative by the Program Subcommittee. Members decided that they still preferred to meet at 7.30 pm on the 3rd Monday of the month.

The future of January meetings

The Program Subcommittee is recommending that we do not hold January meetings/outings due to the potential for extreme heat. There needs to be someone available and willing to organise an outing – it can no longer depend on a Committee member. Please speak to a Committee member to express your viewpoint and to offer to arrange a January outing.

Newsletter distribution

The Burnside Historical Society's quarterly newsletter is currently delivered by hand, email or post. After eight years of organising printed copies for hand and postal distribution, Shirley Sumerling is retiring. We have appreciated her generous contribution and the assistance of her husband, Mike. However, if there is nobody to replace Shirley, delivery will discontinue.

Do you have 3-4 hours to spare once a quarter to organise the distribution of the printed editions? Or are there two members who would like to share the task?

Please contact Newsletter Editor Colin Harris on 8331 3571 for further details.

If you currently receive a printed copy, you can assist by having your newsletter delivered by email, which will reduce the demand on time and cost to the Society. Please contact Judy Brown at jlbrown@internode.on.net.



AUSTRALIAN HISTORY AND GENEALOGY EXPO 2016

7-8 October 2016

Immanuel College, 32 Morphett Road Novar Gardens

This is the first national event of its kind held in Australia and will feature 90 presentations and more than 90 exhibitors.

For more details please go to:

www.unlockthepast.com.au/events/australian-history-genealogy-expo-2016

An anniversary worth celebrating

This year the Burnside Council is 160. The 5 August 1981 edition of *The News Review, Burnside and Norwood*, reported on the Council's planned 125th celebrations. On Saturday 8 August about 75 local organisations participated in a community fair in Hazelwood Park, following a long parade from the Council Chambers.

Were you there and involved on the day? Write down your memories so they can be recorded in our newsletters. Do you have photographs of the celebrations? If so, they could be scanned for inclusion in the Burnside Library's local history collection. Please bring any contributions to a meeting, clearly marked with your name, address and phone number.



Women as bus drivers

From The Register, Adelaide 24 November 1926

Pointing out that in all walks of life women were today assuming responsible positions, the Hon. Sir David Gordon moved in the Legislative Council on Tuesday to amend the Motor Bus Bill so that it would be eligible for women to drive buses. During the war, he said, women had driven motor buses, not only in London, but also at the front itself. Women could acquire a knowledge of machinery, as was proved by the fact that a woman recently obtained a certificate as an engineer on board a steamer.

The Hon. T. Gluyas vigorously objected to the proposal. He said that many women were poor judges of speed and did not know how fast they were going. One of the sex had demonstrated that fact on the Anzac Highway recently. It was asking too much to allow women to drive heavy vehicles through the city traffic. Would Sir David, for instance, like to sit in a railway train with the knowledge that the locomotive was in charge of a woman? The responsibility was the same. The majority of members adopted a chivalrous attitude, and Sir David's proposal was agreed to by 11 votes to 6.

Submitted by Sandra Lachlan

Twenty years ago

From BHS newsletter September 1996 Vol 16 No 3

Wheal Watkins Historical Mine, Glen Osmond

“During the Burnside Council’s 140th Anniversary celebrations a happy event occurred on the slopes of Glen Osmond overlooking Adelaide. On 15 August 1996 invited guests were taken up to the Wheal Watkins Historical Mine by bus and when assembled, were welcomed by the Mayor of Burnside Mr Alan Taylor. Following a two year closure for safety reasons, the mine was re-opened by The Honorable Stephen Baker MP JP, Minister for Mines and Energy.

The Mine is over 150 years old and Minister Baker reminded listeners of its historic importance in two areas. It was the first metalliferous mine in Australia and its products saved South Australia from financial ruin at the time. To conclude his speech the Minister unveiled a plaque commemorating the classification of this mine on the National Heritage List. The official party was then given an underground tour to view the upgraded restoration, led by guides from our Society.

Public tours were offered on the following Saturday and Sunday and again on Sunday 25 August. All tours were fully booked. They will now be available on a regular basis on the third Sunday of each month. Bookings can be made at the Burnside Council during office hours.”



A surface tour, May 2016



Visitors enjoy a surface tour
at the Wheal Watkins mine
during the SA History Festival,
May 2016

(photos by Lyn Woolford)

Barbara Crompton, past member and Burnside Councillor reported on the 15 April 1996 meeting where three members each talked about a plaque placed by our Society with the financial assistance of Council. Dean Dinning reported about the “plaque erected on the site of Osmond Gilles’ storage cellar for the maturing of wines from grapes grown on his property. It can be seen at 1 Blyth Street, Glen Osmond... the contribution of Osmond Gilles to this state as its first Treasurer [was stated]. He bought 80 acres, on what is now Mount Osmond, in 1837 and built Glen Osmond Villa in 1842. Later the house was named Woodley. It was in this land that silver-lead lodes were found and the earliest mining industry in Australia was founded. Gilles built cottages for the miners some traces of which can still be found in Vine Lane. Discovery of gold in Victoria [in part] scuttled this endeavour and Gilles planted vines and an olive grove.

A cellar was erected, dug into the hillside at the mouth of the old adit to the mine, keeping the wine at an even temperature of 18.5. After Osmond Gilles’ death the property went through the hands of several owners but the most entrepreneurial was Horace Pridmore. In 1900 he opened large new cellars but the old tunnel was still used for bottle maturation of wine. Pridmore was President of the Vignerons Association in 1903 – 1905, dying in 1907. Eventually, in 1926 the company became Woodley Wine Ltd and more development took place until operations were transferred to Coonawarra upon the purchase of Wynns before the last war.

By 1975, Woodley Wines was surrounded by housing and only half an acre remained under Shiraz grapes but the cellar and adit remained in use until 1986. The property was the property of the Hill Smiths who have restored the building including the adit and it is used for a residence, studio and occasional entertainment venue, named The Silvermine. The last Fringe Festival used it as a venue for activities rather different from those of its origin!

During History Months/Festivals Dr Ross Both has taken a bus load to view the site of Woodley. Pity we couldn’t see it inside. You have enough clues in this meeting review to locate the property and a miner’s cottage further up the road on the right hand side.

(some spelling corrections have been made in this article, Ed.)





Osmond Gilles

(source: Wikipedia)

Did you know?

Dawn Fraser was the first person to swim in the Hazelwood Park pool, in 1966.



*A young Dawn Fraser, pictured in 1958
(image: Wikipedia)*

SUBS RENEWALS FOR 2016/2017

All subscriptions fall due on **1 April each year**: Subscriptions may be paid at our monthly meetings, by direct bank transfer, or posted to the Treasurer, Richard House, at the Society's address indicated on the inside back cover.

Subscription Payments by Direct Bank Transfer

Bank Name **BankSA** Account Name **Burnside Historical Society**

BSB **105 086** Account No **330298840**

Your Name Ensure that this field shows **your name** clearly

Amount \$30 for a single member or \$40 for a family

Message/Reference Please also enter **your name** in this field

Please **never** pay your subscription as an over the counter deposit.

The Society welcomes donations made by members. These extra contributions to our funds will be put to good use in our ongoing projects to record the history of the City of Burnside.

Burnside Historical Society Inc.

PO Box 152 Glenside SA 5065

OBJECTIVES - The objectives of the Society shall be:

- ◆ To arouse interest in and to promote the study and discussion of Australian and South Australian history and, in particular, the history of the City of Burnside
- ◆ To promote the collection, recording, preservation and classification of works, source material and artefacts of all kinds relating to Burnside History
- ◆ To co-operate with similar societies and other bodies throughout Australia
- ◆ To do all such other things as are conducive or incidental to the attainment of any of the above objectives.

OFFICE-BEARERS FOR 2016-17

President: Meredith Ide JP 0439 478 352

Vice-President: Vacant

Public Officer: Meredith Ide JP 0439 478 352

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Richard House OAM 0403 774 596

Committee: Anne Both, Judy Fander, Ally Preiss,
Geoff Treloar, Dave Monceaux

Newsletter Subcommittee

Judy Brown (compiler), Colin Harris PSM and Elizabeth Rogers OAM (Joint Editors)

Contributors: Apart from the Newsletter Subcommittee, we are fortunate to have members who contribute occasional items and their names appear with articles in the relevant issues.

Distribution Organiser Shirley Sumerling 8364 3505

Program Subcommittee: Meredith Ide (Chair), Ally Preiss, Anne Both

Plaques Subcommittee: Meredith Ide (Chair), Colin Harris PSM, Ken Lawson

Mines Subcommittee: Dr Ross Both (Chair), Meredith Ide,
David Monceaux

Publicity: Meredith Ide

Recorders: Ross Both, David Monceaux

Front Page: A guided surface tour of Wheal Watkins mine, May 2016

(photo: Lyn Woolford)

Disclaimer

Views and opinions expressed in articles in the Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Burnside 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.

The 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 information.