



JOURNAL

OF THE

**HENLEY & GRANGE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**NUMBER 22
NOVEMBER 2001**

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Editor: Rob McDade

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EDITORIAL

With great pleasure, we present the Centenary of Federation edition of the Journal of the Henley and Grange Historical Society.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed material and assisted with the production of this Journal, in particular Mrs. Bev Bills, Mr. Mal Breaker, Mr. Theo Ellenbroek, Mrs. Irene McDade, Mr. Tom McDade, the Society's Committee, and our guest speakers for 2001.

All the photographs that appear inside this year's Journal are contemporary shots taken by Irene McDade demonstrating one very important way of preserving some of our history as it happens.

Thanks must also go to the City of Charles Sturt for their ongoing support with facilities and funding.

Rob McDade

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our Society's social year ended once again with the Annual General Meeting which took place on the 12th November, 2000 in the grounds of Sturt House. On that afternoon we were delighted not only by the wonderful spring weather but also by the delicious afternoon tea buffet prepared by Mr. and Mrs. Lobegeiger.

Proceedings began with a short business meeting which included the election of officers and committee members and a welcome to Mr. Theo Ellenbroek, who joined our Society and committee. After the President's report, Mr. Tim Dodds, our representative on Council, addressed the meeting giving us an outline of preparations under way for the celebration of the Centenary of Federation during the coming summer months. Mr. Rob McDade then presented the 21st edition of our annual publication of the Society's journal to the assemblage, giving a short overview of its contents. This meeting was again well attended and enjoyed by all those present and I hope that it will remain an annual event in our social calendar.

This year of the Centenary of Federation began with our Society's part in an exhibition of historical material of the settlement and subsequent development of this area. Together with several local community groups, as well as the Woodville Historical Society and the Charles Sturt Trust we were pleased to have contributed to such a very successful and worthwhile event. It became evident during the nine-day period of the display that there is a great deal of interest in the history of this area. Members of the Henley R.S.L. assisted our Society in showing visitors the War Memorial and we were able to provide the public with a document containing historical information of this building researched and prepared by Rob. McDade some years ago.

On the second Sunday of February, the annual Bands Concert was held in the grounds of Sturt House and our Society mounted a display of historic photographs.

I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to all the members of this Society who generously gave of their time to help with the supervision of our historical material at both of these exhibitions.

Our first meeting for 2001 was held at the Henley and Grange Art Society's gallery with one of its members, Mrs Dorothy Batten, giving the evening's talk on the history of glass-making and a display of beautiful glass work.

History Day at the Brocas museum in March unfortunately had to be transferred to the Woodville Town Hall because of the unseasonably inclement weather. However, we were able to display some photographs on this occasion. Some of our members also joined the Woodville Historical Society for its April Meeting.

Mr. Noel Newcombe was guest speaker at the meeting of the Henley C.W.A on 26th April, where he recalled his part in the history of this area.

The anniversary of Charles Sturt's birthday was again celebrated on the 28th April and many of our Society's members attended this very enjoyable and historic event.

Our Society received an invitation to attend the opening of the 'Woodville Arts Centre' on Sunday the 17th June. Several of our members enjoyed the afternoon's festivities and took the opportunity of looking over this new community facility. Situated on Woodville Road opposite the council chambers, this former bank building is now providing a splendid venue for local artists to work, conduct classes and exhibit their works.

We invited Mr. David Bailey, Town Planner with the City of Charles Sturt, to speak to our members at the second meeting for this year. Mr. Bailey's address was well received and encouraged a lively discussion regarding the future of heritage buildings and areas in this City.

Some of our members attended the State Library's 'Open Day' on the 21st June held in appreciation and acknowledgment of all its patrons, friends and volunteers. On this day visitors had an opportunity to view many of the Library's facilities and exhibits before the reconstruction work begins.

The opening of the "Life's a Beach" exhibition at Port Adelaide's Maritime Museum was celebrated with a buffet luncheon on the 7th July. The display of beach paraphernalia and photographs from the past was enjoyed by the large number of guests and will, no doubt delight future visitors. The exhibition will remain a permanent fixture in the Museum.

Regular work in our archival room has resumed during our fortnightly Monday afternoon sessions. My thanks and appreciation go to Jill Snook who has once again joined me this year and together we have been engaged in sorting and clearing the great volume of accumulated material from the 'in-tray'. However, there is much more work to be done and volunteers are always welcome.

For our winter meeting in August we invited Mr. Brian Samuels, the State Heritage Officer, to address our members.

During my research on articles for this year's journal I have had occasion to delve into our extensive collection of scrap-books containing about 20 years of newspaper clippings. I would like to thank George and Audrey Willoughby for their years of collecting and putting together this very valuable resource for our Society.

This fourth year of my presidency has once again been a very busy and enjoyable one. During the year we have had several interesting donations in the form of photographs and documents and our display material has been enhanced by additions from the Federation exhibition in January. I have been able to help with many enquiries which often come from all over Australia. These communications are of particular interest to me and give me great pleasure. I have also continued to enjoy a pleasant and helpful interaction with many elected members of Council and staff, all of whom have always been generous in their support and attention to our needs. To my committee and all the members of this Society I express my appreciation.

The year 2002 marks another important milestone in South Australia's history with the 'Encounter 2002 Celebrations' commemorating the meeting between Matthew Flinders and Nicolas Baudin in the waters of our south coast two hundred years ago on the 8th of April. I hope that our Society will be part of an exhibition planned for this event under the auspices of Council and members of our local community.

Irene McDade

COMMITTEE 2001

President:	Mrs. Irene McDade
Vice President:	Mrs. Joan Ferguson
Secretary:	Mr. Martin Darsow
Treasurer:	Mrs. Beverley Fielder
Members:	Mrs. Hanni Darsow Mr. Theo Ellenbroek Mr. Rob McDade Mrs. Edna Newcombe Mr. Noel Newcombe Mrs. Mollie Sutherland Mrs. Alma Thomson-Campbell Mr. Dean Whiteford

A NOTE ON THE COVER ILLUSTRATION

The Coat of Arms of the former City of Henley and Grange.

The description of which is given in *The Letters Patent Granting the Armorial Bearings*:

“Quarterly first and sixth. Vert on a Fess Or between three Horses courant Argent as many Roses Gules barbed and seeded proper; second, Argent and Saltire engrailed between four Roses Gules; third: Quarterly first and fourth Azure a Lion rampant ermine crowned with a Coronet Or; second and third, Argent a Saltire Gules; fourth, Sable a Bend engrailed between six Billels Argent; fifth, Azure a Bend engrailed between two swans Argent collared and chained Or; the whole within a Bordure Azure And for the Crest On a Wreath Argent and Vert a demi Lion rampant Gules collared Or holding between the Paws a Staff Or flying therefrom to the sinister a Banner Gules fringed or charged with a Rose Argent Barbed and seeded proper, as the same are in the margin hereof more plainly depicted...”

(See TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO)

MEMBERS

Mr. Harold Anderson, OAM	Mrs. Betty March
Mr. Roger Andre	Mr. Max March
Mr. John Andrewarthur	Mr. Ian Miller
Mr. Lee Bament	Mrs. Margaret Mitchell
Mrs. Freda Bartsch	Mrs. Marjorie Mitton
Ms. Carol Biddiss	Ms. Margaret Morgan
Mrs. Bev Bills	Mr. Leo Moroney
Mr. Michael Cashen	Mr. Rob McDade
Mr. Ron Cassidy	Mrs. Irene McDade
Mr. Donald Clark	Mr. Tom McDade
Ms. Helen Connor	Mrs. Eileen McNamara
Mrs. Hanni Darsow	Mr. Max McNamara
Mr. Martin Darsow	Mrs. Edna Newcombe
Mr. David Duffner	Miss Ethel Newcombe
Mrs. Edna Dunning	Mr. Noel Newcombe
Mr. Theo Ellenbroek	Mrs. Shirley Penhall
Mr. Don Ferguson	Mr. Alan Phillips
Mrs. Joan Ferguson	Mrs. Patricia Phillips
Mrs. Beverly Fielder	Mr. Mark Pierson
Mr. Charles (Chook) Fielder, OAM	Mrs. Yvonne Pitman
Mr. Grantley Franklin	Mrs. June Porter
Mr. Steven Franks	Mrs. Ruth Price
Mr. Barry Fry	Mr. Glen Ralph
Mr. Don Fry	Mrs. Marie-Claire Ralph
Mr. John Gamlin	Mr. Leslie Schwimmer
Ms. Deslie Goudie	Mr. Arthur Snook
Mrs. Margaret Green	Mrs. Jill Snook
Mr. John Harvey	Mrs. Wendy Stothers
Mrs. Margaret Harvey	Mrs. June Sturm
Mrs. Nell Hasenohr	Mrs. Joanne Sutcliffe
Mr. Ted Hasenohr (Life Member)	Mr. Stephen Sutcliffe
Mrs. Joan Hedley	Mrs. Mollie Sutherland
Mr. Fred Hooper	Mr. Frank Sweeny
Mrs. Jean Hooper	Mrs. Alma Thomson-Campbell
Mr. Colin Hutchesson	Mrs. Dorothy Triggs
Mr. Arthur Jeeves	Mrs. Joyce Walkley
Mrs. June Jeeves	Mr. Darrel Webb
Mr. Tom Jennings	Mr. Dean Whiteford
Mr. Gordon Johns	Mrs. Janet Whiteford
Mrs. Doris Kelly	Mr. Alan Williams
Mr. John Klopp	Mrs. Ann Williams
Mr. G. Koenneker	Mrs. Mavis Willis
Mr. Rod Lange	Mr. Peter Willis
Mrs. Kathleen Langman	Mrs. Audrey Willoughby
Mrs. Maxine Latter	Mr. George Willoughby, OAM
Mr. Alan Leonard	Mr. Francis Wilson
Mrs. Nell Leonard	Mr. John Worrall
Mr. Ronald Lobegeiger	Mr. Peter Wyld, RFD

LETTERS / COMMENTS

You (Irene) and Rob did a fine job of the layout and especially the graphics. You both managed to modernise the journal with out losing touch with the previous style. It was very well done and quite an achievement.

Best wishes

Peter Wyld

Thank you Peter! (Editor)

I urge fellow members to submit material for inclusion in this journal. There must be a wealth of interesting historical information within our community just waiting to be tapped. Anything from full articles to brief snippets, old (or recent) photos of historical significance with some descriptive text, comment on published articles, suggestions etc., would assist in enhancing the quality and value of this record of local history.

Tom McDade

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

May, 9 - The Reedbeds South Ward of the Woodville Council was divided into three wards: Grange, Henley Beach and Reedbeds.

July, 22 - The Grange Institute was granted affiliation with the Adelaide Public Library and 100 books were despatched from the stocks of the South Australian Institute.

A Post Office was built at Henley Beach on Seaview Road. The site cost 120 pounds, the building 1136 pounds three shillings and four pence. In May 1903 it was transferred from the State to the Commonwealth. A spiral staircase connected it to a 5-roomed residence.

Source

From Sand and Swamp to Seaside City

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE HENLEY AND GRANGE ARTS SOCIETY INCORPORATED

Compiled from a booklet to mark the 21st Birthday of the Society on the 18th January, 1987 and the completion of the new Gallery and Studios, a Bi-Centennial Project opened on the 17th January, 1988 by the Hon. J.C. Bannon BA. LLB. MP. Premier of South Australia

The Henley and Grange Arts Society Incorporated was established in 1966 after a group of WEA students from a class begun in 1963 felt the need to establish a club type setting. This enlarged group met at the Church of England Hall on Thursday evenings. Participants painted by themselves or with the help of more experienced members. Gradually further projects were discussed and it was felt that there was a need for tutored classes to be arranged and offered.

Encouraged by the enthusiasm of the ever growing membership, it was decided that the group should be formalised and the inaugural meeting of the 'Henley and Grange Art Group' was held on January 18th 1966 at 12 Cudmore Terrace, Henley South. The name of the newly appointed group was registered.

The first step towards the group having a home came when Alderman Bronte Edwards (now deceased) sought Janet Kranz's cooperation in staging "Expo 68". Janet began making a model of the Henley area and later invited club members to assist in cutting out wood blocks, detailing painting of them, pasting together etc. in order to eventually produce a fine model of the whole area. As a result of the members' cooperation in the Expo, Alderman Edwards requested the Henley and Grange Council to grant the group the use of the premises at 376 Seaview Road, Henley Beach at a very nominal rental, on a six months trial basis.

On the 1st of October 1968 the members moved to their new home and celebrated the occasion by changing the name to the "Henley and Grange Arts Society". A constitution was drawn up to cover the aims of the Society and the rules by which it was to be administered.

ENTER THE POTTERY GROUP.

In January 1969 pottery was introduced as a club activity, with Petros Spronk and Ian Smith as tutors. This group began with virtually no equipment.

The first wheels were created by 'masters of ingenuity', using car tyres. The tyre was filled with cement, the inner ring filled with clay which then became the throwing surface. Next a broom handle was inserted into a hole in the tyre and the 'wheel' twirled around using the dying momentum, the pot was completed in stages. Prior to the days of the kilns all pots to be fired, both bisque and glazed, had to be taken out to Bennets Pottery at Magill.

Nothing daunted the group and they decided to build a gas kiln. Gas pipes and fittings were reclaimed from a demolition site. Kiln bricks were obtained from the Gas works who were demolishing old kilns and the first kiln was made from those salvaged materials.

Initially the pottery was created in the backroom of the Seaview Road premises and fired in the yard. It soon became apparent that under pressure of demand for pottery classes the Society would have to endeavour to expand to meet this need. It was decided to spend almost all of the entire funds on hand to erect a prefabricated shed at the rear of the premises to house the pottery section.

A government grant was applied for and \$1,000 was allocated on the stipulation that it be spent on pottery equipment and a strict account given to the accounts board for items purchased. From that time on activities expanded dramatically.

On the 28th May 1977 the club moved to new premises. An old house at 8 Durham Street, Henley Beach. Again Alderman Bronte Edwards was instrumental in this matter and the Henley and Grange Council was generous with its help.

On the 12th September 1978 the Society became an incorporated body to be known as it is today, the "Henley and Grange Arts Society Incorporated". During the next few years art and pottery exhibitions were held and profits were invested. Throughout the years the club has always benefited from the full support of Council. It has also enjoyed the patronage of well-known painter, Fraser Hay, who has served not only as President and Vice-president but also as tutor. Fraser has held many critique nights over the years for the artistic advancement and



Henley and Grange Arts Society Incorporated

education of members and students. He has also been Art Director and helped with the selection of paintings for the Society's many exhibitions.

During 1987 with the Society's invested funds and grants from State and Federal Governments and again huge support from the Henley and Grange Council, the foundations for the new building in Atkin Street Henley Beach were finally laid. From the humble beginnings of Janet Kranz's first class in St. Michaels Church Hall putting 10 cents each into a saucer towards the club's own building, through the years of saving, planning and dashed hopes, the dream became a reality as we watched with disbelief and wonder; and as is the case with most things, hard work and perseverance will usually triumph in the end.

On the 17th January 1988, one day before the club's 22nd birthday, John Bannon, Premier of South Australia, declared the building officially open in the presence of Members of Parliament, the Mayor and Councillors, invited guests, artists, potters and friends of club members. That day marked the beginning of a new era for the Society.

FESTIVAL OF THE COAST

Irene McDade

To celebrate the Centenary of Federation the Council of the City of Charles Sturt presented a programme of festivities for this anniversary year. The celebrations began on the afternoon of Friday the 19th January and ushered in a six-week coastal festival with a strong community and environmental focus.

Community groups were invited to participate in the opening event of 'Tracks to the Sea' with cyclists and walkers progressing along the River Torrens Linear Park to meet and assemble south of the Henley Sailing Club in the 'Harold and Cynthia Anderson Reserve'. A procession was then formed which was met at the Henley Square by a spectacular array of puppets depicting our beach culture. Walkers were invited to carry these papier-mache figures along the two kilometre stretch of beach between the Henley and Grange jetties. It was a most colourful and joyful spectacle witnessed by a large number of onlookers along the way.

Although Adelaide was experiencing one of its heatwaves, the late afternoon provided an ideal seaside setting for young and old. Many children, enjoying the last week of their school holidays, were enthusiastic bearers of the artistic puppets.

The area surrounding the Grange jetty was the main venue for the evening's entertainment, which began with a Kauria Nation Welcome. The choral work 'Song by the Sea with many Colours' by Pat Rix followed and was performed by the combined Festival of the Coast and Holdfast Bay Choirs. The next event was 'Cirkidz on the Beach' a lively and breathtaking show of acrobatic skills of Adelaide's young circus troupe.

By 8 o'clock, as the sun was slowly sinking, the atmosphere became charged with the sounds of 'Fruit' a passionately funky and upbeat band of young Adelaide performers. At this stage the beach at Grange was host to about eight thousand spectators and the sands both north and south of the jetty were teeming with people promenading and taking advantage of the cooler breezes at sunset. Here and there the first bonfires were lit along the edge of the water and lights on the many small craft on the water hinted at the sunset fire celebrations, which were to echo the bonfires along the Adelaide coastline a hundred years before to celebrate the birth of a nation.

The carnival atmosphere at Grange continued with musical entertainment by the jazz trio 'Hammond Eggs'. As darkness approached, paper lanterns were lit amongst the dunes. All the splendid paper puppets, many much larger than life-size, had come to rest on the sands amongst the people and enhanced the colour and spectacle of the scene.

The theme of fire on the water continued as darkness descended on the crowds with some of the puppets being set alight and floated out to sea to mingle with the fire sculptures along the water's edge from Semaphore to Henley Beach. A small fireworks display concluded the spectacle along the seashore.

The many people who took part in this first celebration of the Centenary of Federation came from many parts of Adelaide and from many different cultures. History tells us that a hundred years ago, at the birth of Federation, large crowds also flocked to the beaches to watch the celebratory fires along the water. Then as now many of the stately old houses, the famous Marines north of the jetty and the Grange Hotel, were already there providing a majestic background for the festivities.

The opening night of the 'Festival of the Coast' was an unqualified success. It brought many community groups together on this evening. In the early stages of planning and development of the festival themes, members of the organising committees drew on the talents of local artists and children as well as many volunteers who worked for many months during 2000 to create something memorable and worthwhile of which the community as a whole can be proud and look back upon with joy. And who knows, a hundred years from now, perhaps, another celebration will take place remembering the evening of the 19th January 2001 as a significant event in the history of our State.

WEST-SIDE STORIES

Irene McDade

An exhibition depicting the cultural, historical and artistic diversity of the City of Charles Sturt was held at the Henley Town Hall as part of the 'Festival of the Coast'. This event, which took place over nine days from the 20th to the 28th January of this year, was sponsored by the Council and the 'Centenary of Federation' celebrations.

Community interest and support for this event was invited early in 2000 and several meetings were held appointing steering committees to formulate ideas for such a display. A week-end seminar was arranged by the Council in early May to give participants an opportunity to look at past festivals, exhibitions and community activities. Meetings continued with representatives of various community groups to gauge the extent of commitment to this project. This was, perhaps, the most difficult task, as the working groups were at that stage not assured of funding for this event. However, some early plans were set in progress. It was decided to use the Henley Town Hall as a suitable venue because of its size, its proximity to the Henley Square summer-time activities and its historic significance. The War Memorial, which forms part of the building, was also to be opened to the public, as it was felt that it represents an important aspect of the history of this City and is seldom opened to the general public.

By September the small working group had conceived a general theme for the display. It was to encompass the significance of Federation in relation to the first hundred years or so of settlement from about 1840 to the end of the Second World War with a special focus on the life and history of the local community in this area. The three historical groups committed to

this exhibition were the Woodville and Henley and Grange Historical Societies and the Charles Sturt Trust, whose historical photographs, documents and memorabilia were to form the basis of the exhibition. Further invitations were extended to the Henley and Grange Arts Society, the Henley Scribblers and local schools. The Henley Surf Lifesaving Club, having celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2000, were also interested in displaying to the public its collection of items of historic interest.

The problems confronting the working group at this stage were manifold. There was the question of how much material was needed to fill the large town hall and how was it to be arranged in order to tell the story of the development of our community. Then there were various facets of community life which needed to be included, such as the history of the several amalgamations of councils before it became the City of Charles Sturt, and the early days of policing in Henley and Grange, as well as the contributions of some of the significant original landholders in this western region, such as Grey, White and Sturt.

The council grant application for this exhibition finally got approval at the end of November, and while the working group's ideas were still flowing in, the year was drawing alarmingly to an end. Schools were closing for the summer holidays and it became increasingly difficult to get a firm commitment of assistance. However, by the beginning of 2001 renewed enthusiasm for the Federation Celebrations brought several community groups into the picture. The Henley and Grange Residents' Association offered a display of photos of community involvement in coastal matters over the past years. A comprehensive and interesting arrangement of aerial photographs showing the changing environment of our coastline from Semaphore to Glenelg was also at our disposal. A member of the Henley Surf Lifesaving Club together with the Henley and Grange Historical Society created a display of historic photographs of the Henley Swimming Pool. The Henley Sailing Club was eager to show a small sailing craft, fully rigged, together with some items from their clubrooms.

The City of Charles Sturt also promised some items of interest and an array of photographs, and since it was the year of the anniversary of Federation, colourful pictorial information in the form of large posters was made available for use in the exhibition. The Torrens Catchment Board provided an extensive collection of photographs and other printed material for display. Ultimately, the only two local schools able to contribute to this exhibition at this late stage were Henley High School and Grange Primary School, the latter supplying two old desks and some class-room equipment. Photographs and old textbooks were added by the Henley and Grange Historical Society from its own collection. Henley High School mounted an interesting display board of items of the school's history.

The two days prior to the opening of the exhibition were dedicated to bringing all the material together and to the mounting of all the display items. Many of these had to be transported to the town hall from various venues. The Port Adelaide Maritime Museum loaned the centrepiece for the display, a surf boat, which needed eight people to lift off the trailer and carry into the hall. Once this was installed, the rest of the displays could be set up in their appropriate places around the hall.

During the initial planning stages, consideration had been given to engaging an artist to arrange the final presentation of the exhibition, however, this idea had to be abandoned because of financial considerations and limited time. The exhibition, therefore, was put



**His Worship Mayor Harold Anderson OAM opening the
West Side Stories Exhibition at the Henley Town Hall on Saturday 20th
January 2001**

together and presented entirely by the efforts and talents of the original working group of no more than ten people.

On the first of the two working days, most of the display material was collected and assembled in the town hall and on the second day the individual sections were arranged and completed. For the opening ceremony on Saturday morning it had been decided to have a champagne and finger-food buffet luncheon, and the hospitality theme was to continue throughout the nine days of the exhibition. A small cafe area was created near the kitchen facilities for visitors to enjoy morning and afternoon teas. This became a very popular feature for workers and visitors alike.

By the morning of the opening ceremony the town hall had been transformed into a most colourful and exciting place. Federation bunting festooned the walls. On the stage a large image of the Westside Stories logo - A picture of the Henley Kiosk on the Square during the time of Federation - overlooked the exhibition. Several of the papier-mache puppets from the festival procession of the previous evening were placed around the hall and added yet more colour to the vibrant scene.

The Mayor of our City, Mr. Harold Anderson OAM, opened the event welcoming the assemblage of over one hundred invited guests and many other members of the public and regaling them with anecdotes of his life and experiences at Henley and Grange. Amongst the audience were the former Mayor Mr. John Dyer and several members of Council. A luncheon buffet then followed the formal proceedings and was much enjoyed by everyone.

The exhibition proved to be a very popular and interesting event in the festival calendar. During the nine days, some fifteen hundred people visited the town hall. The comments collected in the visitors book were complimentary and encouraging. For many the viewing of the War Memorial Crypt provided a significant focus of interest in our history.

Mr. Andrew Baines, who has a gallery in Beach Street at Grange, showed a collection of his paintings of beach art in the old council chamber adjacent to the town hall; and the theme of contemporary art and creative writing was extended with the inclusion of a large collection of poems and drawings by school-children from this area, a project initiated and undertaken by members of the Henley Scribblers. The Henley and Grange Arts Society exhibited some of its fine pottery and glassware together with a history of these crafts, which had been carried on in the western suburbs since the early days of settlement.

This very successful exhibition has shown that there is much interest in local history and that a periodic exposure of photographs and other historic memorabilia is worthwhile and greatly appreciated by the general public.

A HISTORY OF OUR COASTAL ENVIRONMENT

Irene McDade

The Reedbeds, as they were seen in the first years of settlement, no longer exist. The name alone remains now and many people today are unaware of their original extent and significance to this western area of the Adelaide plains. The Reedbeds extended from the Patawalonga River in the south. But their reach was not confined to a narrow strip of land east of the dune system only, it stretched inland towards the east for a considerable distance. A line of ancient red sand dunes now accommodates the airport at West Beach and several golf links extending from Glenelg to Seaton at the eastern boundary of the suburb of West Lakes. The configuration of the landscape along this most easterly edge of what might be considered as the coastal region, suggests that it has an important geological relationship with the coastline. The area between these two dune systems, the white coastal and the red interior, formed the geographical boundaries confining the swampland in-between. To the south, near the settlement of Glenelg, the Patawalonga river drained waters from several smaller creek systems, such as the Sturt River and Brownhill Creek, from the south and the east into the sea, but the larger waterway of the Torrens River had no such natural outlet and its waters dissipated south towards the Patawalonga and north behind the coastal dunes until they met the southern reaches of the Port River in the area which is now West Lakes.

During the summer months the swampy area was dry enough to graze livestock, and this was indeed the region's main use. The first years of settlement saw the acquisition of this extensive area by a handful of well-known pioneering families, such as the Grays at West Beach, the Whites at Fulham and Charles Sturt at Grange. The terrain of the reedbeds made close settlement impracticable for most people seeking only small blocks, as the whole area was exposed to regular and severe winter flooding. However, early records show that the land was quite fertile and some crops were successfully grown. There was, of course, the higher ground of the coastal dune strip and here some residences were built. Estcourt House at Tennyson is one such example and it can be seen by the substantial buildings along the Esplanade and Seaview Road, some of which date back to the last decades of the 19th century, that this area was considered quite suitable for future settlement. However, it was to be a hundred and one years from the date of settlement of this State and after several severe floods, before the construction of the Torrens River Breakout Creek drained all the floodwaters from the Reedbeds and sent them out to sea at West Beach, and so opened up the land.

The completion of the Breakout Creek in 1937 ushered in a period of dramatic change to this area. The reeds and lagoons gave way to residential development, which eventually connected the former small villages which were dotted along the few thoroughfares from the earliest days of settlement. Parts of the Adelaide plains area had already experienced this transformation during the 19th century and thereby suffered the slow destruction and loss of an ecological system which had been unique to the region from the foot-hills of the Mt. Lofty Ranges to the sea. There now remains almost no evidence of the indigenous flora which would have greeted the first settlers in 1836.

Photographs of the Reedbeds in the last decades of the 19th century, show large stands of river red-gums. The higher ground abounded in pines and banksia and looking east the broad expanse of the plains and marsh-lands provided rich pasture among high dense rushes and luxuriant grasses. Some of the reeds grew to 8 feet in height and so made excellent nesting grounds for the many water fowl, such as ibis, wild ducks and geese, all of which would have found an abundance of food in and around the many lagoons. It is not surprising that the few wealthy land-owners of the Reedbeds area during the early days of settlement cherished and



**Apex Park, West Beach - northern side of Burbridge Road
(Sir Donald Bradman Drive)**



**Wetlands north of Kidman Bridge, Fulham - looking north along the River
Torrens Linear Park**

enjoyed their rich and unique environment. However, during the first half of the 20th century, most of this early idyllic landscape had fallen prey to the inexorable advance of civilisation, and the former large landholdings had given way to subdivision into quarter acre residential blocks.

Despite the constant threat of winter flooding, most of the land had been put under cultivation by the second half of the 19th century. Cereal crops, potatoes and other vegetables supplied the local community and Adelaide's markets. The latter period of that century also saw the advance of train and tram services to this area, facilitating the influx of holiday-makers and day visitors to the local beaches, contributing to the growth of settlement. However, compared to the present time, Henley, Grange and West Beach were but sparsely populated and some of the photographs of that era, looking east, show vast tracts of grazing land beyond the first four rows of residential and public buildings along the coastline. The suburb of West Beach was little more than a few scattered houses on the sand dunes.

It is interesting to read accounts of early exploration of this area by many of the field naturalists who made excursions to the coastal region in search of new and interesting botanical specimens. Some of their reports were published in the 'Register' of that period. The Reedbeds provided rich collecting areas, particularly at the end of the dry summer seasons. Visits were made to the Torrens, which at that time was no more than a narrow channel of about 20 feet in width. Large deposits of sand, washed down the river during the wet season, impeded its flow, and it was noted that the river itself provided meagre fishing for a few avid anglers. However, the visitors were delighted by the abundance of reeds and bulrushes, spectacular for their ornamental seed heads. Often these walking parties would begin their trip at Henley Beach in the vicinity of the present Breakout Creek and proceed northwards towards Grange. Along the way they encountered rich alluvial soil used for pasture for most of the year and still bearing hoof marks from a boggier period during the winter. Many of the more permanent waterholes resembled peaceful lagoons. These abounded in insect life and a variety of amphibians, and afforded a perfect habitat for an astonishing diversity of local fauna.

But it was not only the swamps which interested the naturalists and attracted them to this western area of the Adelaide plains, they also paid close attention to the dune system along the coast. They already saw evidence of sand erosion by the end of the 19th century, and it appeared that the Military Road at Henley Beach was sometimes rendered impassable by drifts of beach sand. This may well have been the result of building activities on the dunes themselves and the consequent removal of the native shrubs and plants, which were necessary to bind the sand together.

Nevertheless, it is comforting to see that despite the destructive forces of man, some of the more common and hardy original native flora has survived amongst the local sand hills. The spectacular deep pink pigface is still prolific and the coarse spinifex has once again established a strong foothold on some of the dunes from West Beach to Tennyson. This very useful binding grass sheds its spiky seed-heads during autumn, when they are seen tumbling along the beaches. Here and there are still pockets of native melons, which were once prolific and provided a useful feed supplement for both cattle and sheep during periods of draught. The narcotic plant 'Datura' is now rarely seen in its natural environment along the eastern slopes of the dunes, but it has been adopted as a showy garden plant with its large elongated white trumpet-shaped blossoms.

When the first settlers arrived at Holdfast Bay, they might well have marvelled at the sight of the large dune systems which stretched along the coastline from what is now Seacliff to Outer

Harbour. This continuous line of prominent white sand hills was broken only by the small river mouth of the Patawalonga at Glenelg. Now sadly, the only surviving evidence of this magnificent geographical feature along the metropolitan shore-line of the Gulf St. Vincent is a small remnant at Tennyson near Estcourt House.

The sixties and early seventies of the last century witnessed a rapid encroachment upon these dunes by extensive residential development. Houses and apartment blocks were built to the very edge of the dunes. Unfortunately, no consideration was given or allowance made at that time for the natural movement of sea and sand. This lack of foresight now poses an ever increasing threat to the homes of seaside residents.

Of course, there is little doubt that the successful draining of the swamplands of the western region of the Adelaide plains opened up vast areas for suburban expansion and was, therefore, of great benefit to the social and economic growth and prosperity of the city, but progress seldom comes without a price. The development of West Lakes during the seventies of the twentieth century saw the demise of the last area of natural wetlands, and with it, the loss of the entire bio-diversity of this northern section of the former Reedbeds. All the waters which now drain into the Torrens from the Mt. Lofty Ranges through the suburban areas along its course, run into the gulf waters without the benefit of wetland filtration, which is so vital for a healthy marine environment.

It is only in recent years that serious attention has been focused on the ecological importance of the metropolitan coast. The few remaining original dunes at Tennyson together with the smaller sand deposits running south along the beach-fronts of Henley and West Beach have been replanted with native grasses and beach-goers are now encouraged to use boardwalks and pathways to protect the delicate vegetation. What little is left of the dunes has become a precious natural asset, irreplaceable once lost. The huge dunes which adorned West Beach until the latter years of the 1960s have all but disappeared. During recent years the spread of the West Beach caravan park to the edge of the western-most dune-line has stopped the natural sand movement and is now causing continuous erosion.

Early records show that the tallest sandhills reached a height of some fifty feet. Their extent inland from the sea-shore was a few hundred yards. Often there were three or four rises with shallow depressions or swales in-between, and while the side facing the sea was bare and of shifting dazzling white sand, the remainder was covered with natural vegetation, and so providing its own protection from the onslaughts of storms and high seas. The dunes themselves afforded a perfect environment for snakes and lizards, which today are encountered but rarely. Rabbits have now taken their place and are causing yet a further threat to the delicate plant life. However, coast protection authorities with the help of local environmental groups are now working together to repair some of the damage to the dunes by careful rehabilitation of native flora. Ground covers and shrubs have been planted in recent years and in places the dunes have shown some signs of recovery and growth both in breadth and height.

The degradation and loss of the Reedbeds and dunes has been a process which began in the 19th century. The growing of crops introduced foreign plant species which smothered native grasses and shrubs. The large stands of River red-gums which thrived in the coastal swamps fell to the axe to make way for pasture and market gardens. Domestic stock and feral pigs further damaged the soil by rooting up the vegetation so vital to the survival of this environment. From the earliest days debris and mud choked the flow of the river system together with pollutants and poisons from industrial activities in the western suburbs, which boasted a large number of factories, such as tanneries, wool-scouring and glass and pottery



West Beach dunes looking south towards Glenelg - one of the few remnants of the former dune system which extended from Semaphore to Seacliff

and brick manufacturers. Remedial methods are now employed to reverse these devastating practices of the past and, unfortunately, the present.

Today conservation has become an important issue. There is so little left, that most of the former native flora has to be reintroduced. This can now only occur in specific protected areas. Wetlands have recently been established in the Henley and West Beach areas. One such is immediately north of the Kidman Bridge on Henley Beach Road at Fulham in the river bed of the Torrens. Reeds and small shrubs have been planted and these have already encouraged water birds and aquatic fauna to settle there. Apex Park, on Burbridge Road at West Beach has become a haven for waterfowl and an abundance of reeds provide ideal nesting places. This park has also become a community asset of some beauty and significant educational value.

One unique area which has been saved from complete destruction is 'the Pinery' in the Grange Golf Course. It has been fenced off and contains some rare and interesting examples of the flora once native to this region. While much of the original trees, such as native pines, Peppermint gums, Black tea-tree and Sheoaks had been cut long ago, some pines were left standing and young trees are now reappearing. Unfortunately many of the lower layer shrubs and small ground plants have gone but there is still a remnant of flowering plants, such as bluebells, Guinea flower, paper flower as well as grevillea, salt bush, bluebush, samphire and some native grasses. This small patch is precious and may well provide the only remaining example of our local pre-European natural history for future generations.

During the 19th century, the Field Naturalists' Section of the Royal Society of South Australia collected and recorded many species of plants which no longer exist in this area. Next year we celebrate the bicentenary of the meeting between Matthew Flinders and Nicolas Baudin in the waters of Encounter Bay. The purpose of the voyages of these two explorers was scientific discovery and knowledge of an unknown land and, no doubt, the records of these two men would provide material for an interesting comparative study of the local fauna and flora of our coastal region today and two hundred years ago.

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A CHILDHOOD AT GRANGE - MALCOLM BREAKER REMEMBERS.

Tom McDade

Profile.

Malcolm Sawle Breaker was born in Adelaide on 24.02.1914. In his early years he lived at High Street, Grange, and later on at the north-east corner of Beach Street and Sturt Street, Grange. At the age of about seven, he moved with his mother and brothers to the bottom flat at No. 5, The Marines, where they lived for a few years. He attended the Grange Primary School until the age of twelve, when he gained the Qualifying Certificate.

Mal, with his mother and three brothers, moved to Croydon in about 1927. Mal continued his education at Croydon Central School, which he left at the age of fourteen. He went to work on an uncle's farm at Forreston in the Adelaide Hills, where he turned his hand to a variety of

mixed farming activities, including milking cows, pruning apple trees and picking apples. He says he learned from this uncle a great many practical things which were valuable to him in later life, one of which was how to use a 12-gauge shotgun. It so happened that at that particular time, the shooting of possums was permissible, and because there was good money to be made from the skins, Mal and his uncle availed themselves of the opportunity to earn a bit of extra cash. Mal soon became adept at picking off possums silhouetted against the moon on clear nights. After about twelve months of farm work, Mal left the farm to take employment at Holden's at Woodville, where he was engaged in body trimming and accessory fitting. However, this was the beginning of the Depression, and work at Holden's was sporadic. At least, this is the reason Mal gives for leaving Holden's, but his youthful restlessness may well have had much to do with it.

So at the age of 21 or so, Mal embarked on a more or less nomadic existence for the next dozen years or so. He travelled around South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland doing an astonishing variety of casual work. He picked fruit, dried apricots, worked in shearing sheds on station properties, dug potatoes, and claims to have worked in the first hamburger shop in Australia, which had been started up in Melbourne by a man called Bill Bailey who expanded his enterprise to include four hamburger shops. Mal got that particular job by telling Bailey he had been a waiter - which was somewhat less than true - and by demonstrating that he was capable of carrying a cup of coffee a few steps without spilling it. One of the least salubrious jobs he took on was with a Footscray fellmonger, scouring dirty wool. He remembers quite vividly that dirty wool was indeed very dirty and also exceptionally smelly, being liberally impregnated with sheep urine and faeces. Evidently, it was uneconomical to make dirty wool entirely clean-looking, so it was used mainly for the production of Army greatcoats. The men working the dirty wool were not nice to be near, particularly during hot weather, so Mal and his co-workers had plenty of personal space on the train going home from work. Mal extended his skill base by working in guest houses and, at one stage, in a hospital in Sydney as pantryman, kitchenhand, emergency cook and jack-of-all-trades. At the hospital, he became involved in a contretemps with a head cook who wanted to serve the patients a left-over pot of curry which had gone putrid. Mal won the day, and thereby probably saved the health and possibly the lives of many patients.

At the age of about 24, Mal had a canoe railed from Melbourne to Echuca, and he and a couple of mates paddled it down the Murray River to Lyrup, an area where he often went fruit picking.

When he was about 33 years old, Mal sailed to Melbourne from Sydney on the *Canberra* - he says it was the first time in all his travels that he found himself obliged to pay his fare - and he remembers two things in particular about the trip; firstly, the weather was very rough, and secondly, a woman committed suicide during the night by jumping over the side. Back in Melbourne, he worked for a plumber for a time and developed a liking for the work.

He married Gwen Fairish in Melbourne in 1950 and moved back to Adelaide to settle here permanently, living initially at Cowandilla. He qualified in the trade of plumbing and earned his living as a plumber from that time. His only child, Graeme, now 46, was born here. Mal built a house at West Beach in about 1956 and still lives there.

Gwen, who died some years ago, had been a ballerina, and performed in a production which was associated with the late Sir Robert Helpmann. She was also a member of a specialty group known as *The Leroy's*, which performed adagio dancing. She appeared at Tivoli theatres throughout Australia. She also taught dancing.

Mal is descended from Isaac Breaker, who immigrated with his family to South Australia on the *Buffalo* in 1836. When the *Buffalo* was lying in the harbour at Rio de Janeiro *en route* to Australia, the baby Benjamin Breaker died and was buried ashore.

Mal's grandfather obtained work on Kidman's Booleroo Downs station in south-western Queensland. Tragically, he died of thirst in that region .

Mal's father was for a time advertising manager at G. Wood, Son & Co., Wholesale groceries, on North Terrace, Adelaide. Mal's mother, Ruby Vera Player, was born at Millbrook, where her father, Sawle Player, had a shop. Of Mal's three brothers, two are now deceased.

Early years at Grange.

Mal retains fond memories of the headmaster of Grange School during the period he attended, 'Boss' Fisher. Among Mal's good friends at that time were Bill and Ron Jones. There is an article in this Society's Journal No. 9 extracted from an oral history interview with Ron Jones conducted by Society member George Willoughby, in which Ron speaks of his days as a pupil at Grange School. Mal was acquainted with Jack Storr (b. 1910), who is also the subject of an article in Journal No.9. J. Storr recollects that a headmaster during his time was John D. Kollosche, who was appointed at the beginning of 1920 and died during that year. Presumably, he was succeeded by "Boss" Fisher, who, it should be said, was not of the Fisher family of Brig House in High St., now St. Laurence's rest home.

In the vicinity of Brig House, on the creek which drained into the Port River estuary system, was Fisher's bridge - now long gone- and a swimming hole frequented by Grange School pupils in those days. This haunt is also referred to by R. Jones and J. Storr. On a walk through the area with the writer in June, 2001, Mal identified the location of Fisher's bridge at a place on the existing concreted waterway between 100 and 150 metres WNW of the present railway bridge. He is of the opinion that the present concreted open drain at that point approximates the course of the creek he knew as a child, which he thinks ran in a definable channel from about Marlborough St. There were other spots along the creek where the lads went swimming. One must assume that the water was a great deal cleaner than it is today. Mal is also certain that the two large palm trees now standing in the grounds of Sturt House were there when he was a child.

The schoolkids who went for a dip at Fisher's bridge during lunchtime in the warm weather normally wore nothing more than their birthday suits. On one occasion, a lad saw fit to stand on the bridge in all his naked glory for the express purpose of outraging the delicate sensibilities of passengers on a train, which would have passed the spot within 100 metres or so. The consequence was that Sergeant Cromer (recorded as 'Kromer' in previous journal articles) from the Henley Police Station came pedalling up to the school on his trusty bicycle to lay down the law. Sergeant Cromer was a huge, tough-looking but well-respected man who no doubt cut a formidable figure astride his bicycle, which in those days was the standard form of transport for local police officers. All the boys were lined up in the schoolyard, and Cromer demanded to know - '*which boy was it who waved his crowbar at the people on the train?*' Naturally, nobody knew anything about it. Nonetheless, for some time thereafter, behaviour at the swimming hole was a great deal more decorous.

The land to the east of the creek was mainly open paddocks, much of it subject to flooding in the winter months. Mal recalls a tragic event during a flood when a girl about 6 years old who lived at Seaton Park was drowned on her way to school. She was crossing the railway bridge, beneath which the water was quite deep, when she slipped and fell. Unable to swim, she

drowned. She usually walked to school with a group which included an older lad, one Les Harris. Unfortunately Les Harris, who was a good swimmer and very fit, was not with her that day. Mal says there is no doubt that had Les been there, he would not have hesitated to dive in and pull the child out.

An aerial photograph taken in 1948 and appearing in the publication *From Sand and Swamp to Seaside City* illustrates that even 12 years after flooding was mitigated by construction of the Breakout Creek at Henley South, housing development in the area was sparse.

In about 1925 there was a big fire at the sugar works, near the Jervois Bridge, Port Adelaide. Evidently, that stretch of the Port River became saturated with sugar flushed in by the fire hoses. Thousands of fish were driven upstream and into the swimming hole at Fisher's place, where they died.

The train, which ran to the city, and continued beyond Grange Station to terminate at Henley, was of course an extremely important mode of transport. Most conveyances were horse-drawn, but only wealthy individuals had the means to run them as personal transport. Motor cars were a rarity. For ordinary people, therefore, the train was the only practical way of getting to the city. Mal recalls that the local 'rabbit-o' had a spring cart and horse, and carried with him a block of wood and an axe. Upon making a sale to a housewife, he would deftly chop off the rabbit's head and feet on the spot. Beer barrels were delivered to the Grange Hotel by horse-drawn wagon, and at the front of the hotel were a water trough and hitching rail for the horses.

On the beach in front of the Grange Hotel was a bathing box owned by 'Pop' Wilcox. This area was something of a focal point for the lads in their early teens. There they played beach cricket and other games, and indulged in an activity they called 'duck shooting', which involved sprinting along the shore and then launching themselves at full pelt to skate belly-down in a couple of inches of water. Part of the skill was to avoid the removal of skin from chest and stomach. The danger factor, evidently, was in the risk of evisceration on sharp shells.

Rambling in the swampy area that became West Lakes, and swimming, fishing and crabbing were favourite pastimes. Some young lads went bird-nesting in the stands of mangroves and tea-tree that fringed the swamp, an area in which rabbits and snakes abounded. Mal well remembers his mother's displeasure on the many occasions he returned home caked in mud from the swamp. She was a meticulous housekeeper, and he particularly remembers that she kept the kitchen wood-burning stove looking good by the regular and laborious application of stove black.

Mal has always been a keen fisherman. As young lad, he dug worms in the swamp area east of Estcourt House, and fished from the Grange jetty and beach in front of Estcourt House. He says that fish and blue crabs were abundant in those days. At certain times of the year, barracouta were plentiful and specimens up to 3 feet long could be caught from the jetty.

Beachcombing was a popular activity. One of the methods employed was to sift through the sand at the base of the jetty pylons where, for some reason, coins and other valuables seemed to accumulate.

Mal had a very productive mushrooming spot up on Frederick Road, which was just a rough metal track, where the mushrooms grew prolifically under a boxthorn hedge.

He recalls that it was a significant event when his acquaintances Wally and Hartleigh Kelly acquired a radio. Most people could not afford such new-fangled luxuries, and it was some time before Mal himself became the proud possessor of a crystal radio.

Some More Identities

Mal has a clear memory of many local identities from his childhood and early teens - that is, roughly, the period between 1920 and 1930. Some of them are touched upon here.

Benny Matson had horse stables and a private training track east of Estcourt House. His establishment would have been situated just about in the middle of what is now the northern part of West Lakes boating lake. Matson was reputed to have trained the winner of an Adelaide Cup.

Mal also remembers Joe Murray, the 'snake man', who has received a mention in this Association's Journal No. 4. On one occasion, Mal and some other youngsters were perched on the hitching rail outside the Grange Hotel doing nothing in particular when Murray approached them and asked them to mind a hessian bag for him while he went in for a drink, making it clear that they should not succumb to curiosity and go poking about in the bag. Fortunately, they resisted any such temptation, because when Murray emerged some time later, he rewarded them by reaching into the bag and withdrawing for their delectation a large, unhappy snake. Evidently, Murray derived considerable satisfaction from scaring the wits out of people in this manner.

Tommy Kempster was another local character with an interest in notoriously dangerous lifeforms. He was given to setting shark lines on floating drums off the end of Grange jetty. At one time, having caught a large shark, he conceived the idea of displaying it in a tent-like structure next to a shop run by one Totty Johnson, and charging an admission fee. Mal thinks it was 3d. It being the Christmas period, it was not many days before the shark began to stink to high heaven, causing the flow of viewers to slow to a trickle, and then dry up altogether. Then a young lad, with a stroke of pure entrepreneurial genius, chalked on a board outside the tent the words - *Pair of shoes found inside man-eating shark!* This brilliant ploy brought in a few more thrupences until Totty Johnson, not unreasonably, raised strong objections on the grounds of the unbearable stink.

A young lad, Malcolm Ragless, who was a couple of years older than Mal Breaker, fell under a train at Grange Station and had a leg severed. When he recovered from this terrible trauma, young Ragless again became a regular at Fisher's swimming hole.

A local lady who was very popular with the kids was Mrs. Young, mother of Maurie and Eric. The Young family had their own cow, and Mrs. Young would often treat her sons' friends to a repast of scalded cream and jam.

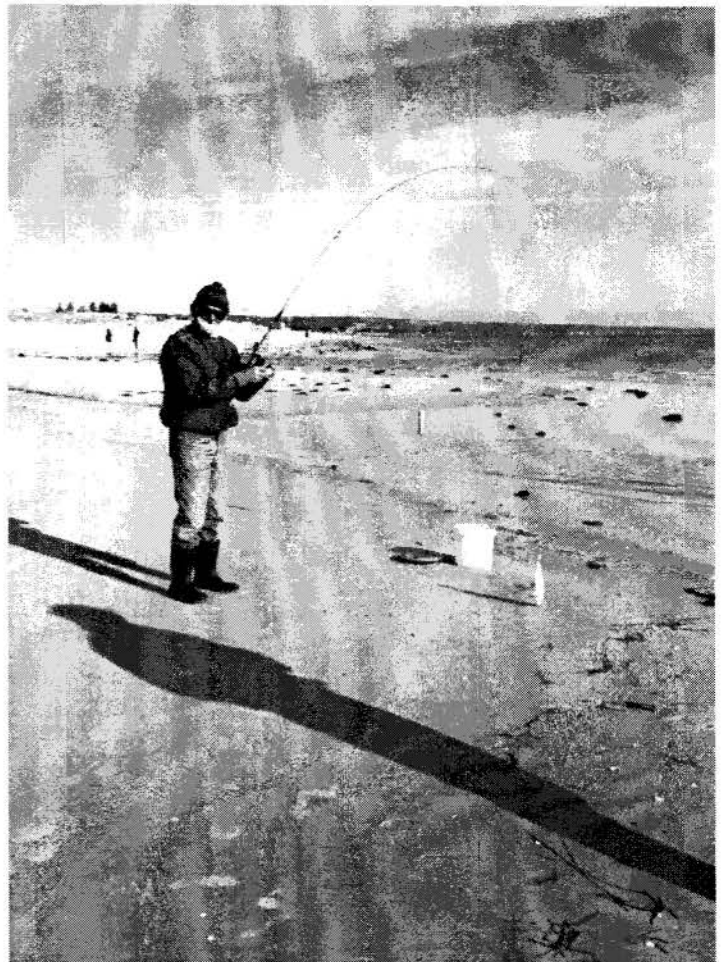
There was one Darby Tostevin who ran a general store. Some lads saw fit to lift his portable toilet and sit it on the end of the Grange jetty. Then they borrowed a goat from somewhere and tethered it to the toilet. As we are inclined to say of kids in those days, they had to make their own fun.

A Village Community.

In listening to Malcolm Breaker recounting his childhood experiences at Grange, one is drawn to a vision of a closely-knit community where everyone knew and supported everyone else,



Mal Breaker (right) and the writer looking for the site of Fisher's Bridge June 2001



Mal Breaker demonstrating an unorthodox method of catching yellow-eye mullet, Henley Beach, April 2000

where mutual respect was taken for granted and where, even allowing for the inevitable youthful high jinks, anti-social behaviour was a rarity. Mindless vandalism, theft and crimes of violence, so common in today's society, evidently were not a major social problem, although most people would have been poorly off by modern standards. This may have been due in large part to the tightness of the community. People were not nearly as mobile as they are today, and one has the impression that the young, and probably their elders to some degree, were much more reliant upon the immediate social and physical environments for their friendships and recreational outlets. Perhaps people's attitudes were developed in a certain way because ongoing local human interaction was unavoidable in an age when private transport was a rarity, television, computers and the internet were unheard of, and very few households possessed a radio.

Malcolm Breaker Today.

Hale and hearty at the age of 87, Malcolm spends quite a lot of his time on his beloved beach, fishing and catching worms for bait. He maintains a keen interest in the biodiversity of the tidal zone, always on the look out for rare shells and other interesting life forms. He is generous with his knowledge of beach fishing, and is always prepared to advise the inexperienced, particularly young beginners - and he deplores what he sees as the ongoing degradation of the gulf and beaches by pollution and environmentally harmful development.

THE ORIGINAL OWNERS OF THE REGION.

Some considerations of Aboriginal life and land use in 'Henley and Grange' and surrounding areas pre- 1836.

Rob McDade

The existence of Aboriginal people in Australia has been measured at 40,000 years. However, they have possibly inhabited the land for over 100,000 years. Aboriginal civilisation on this continent is considered one of the oldest in the world.

Importance of the land

In Australia every area was once owned and inhabited by the Aboriginal people.

People do not have to mark out the land they own with fences or signs. They may know the land boundaries by tradition and by recognition of natural features. Tribal Aborigines held land like this. Each tribe and each local group within a tribe knew their land exactly (Gibbs, 1983, p5).

Aborigines were land holders and great local historians. Their Dreaming stories were not only myths and legends, but stories of creation. They connected the people with the land, the sea, the sky and all natural features. They set down patterns of living and religious duties. The history of the land was very important to Aboriginal people. The land provided a broad variety of food - birds, animals, plants, which were hunted and collected from rivers and shores; and an abundance of natural resources - wood, stone and grasses, etc.

The land gave an inventive people the materials for daily life (Ibid.)

Camping places

Tribal Aboriginal life is generally believed to have been nomadic. Throughout the year groups moved from place to place looking for food and shelter. But with the changing seasons they travelled within a given region - usually returning to the same area at the same times each year. For example, the warmer months may have been spent along the coast where people camped among sand dunes and enjoyed a diet of seafood, while the cold winters forced the Aborigines to shelter in caves in the mountainous hinterlands, where bush foods were the common diet. The nomadic lifestyle was dependent upon the availability of natural resources in the area. If groups camped near rivers or the sea (places of abundant food supply) they moved very little.

Campsites became social centres where people ate, made weapons and tools, talked and slept. The land and every natural feature were very well known. Significant places were given names.

The Kurna People of the Adelaide Plains

The name Kurna (pronounced 'gow - na') has become accepted as the collective title for all the Aboriginal people who traditionally lived between the south of the Flinders Ranges (near Port Pirie) in the north, and Cape Jervis in the South; with eastern and western borders respectively, the Mount Lofty Ranges and St Vincent's Gulf (see map). These people had neighbouring groups in the Adnyamathanha people of the Flinders Ranges, and the Ngarrindjeri and their affiliated groups of the Murray Lands and South Coast.

The Kurna tribe was divided into many smaller, local groups each occupying a defined territory. The 'Adelaide Tribe' was traditionally called *Kouwandilla* (or *Kauwandilla*) a name that has survived to the present day. The Cowandilla plains were located behind the sand dune system stretching between *Yerta Bulti* (Port Adelaide) and *Pattawilyangka* (Glenelg, Holdfast Bay), including *Witongga* - (The Reedbeds, Fulham) at the mouth of the River Torrens.

The meanings and origins of some of the place names given by the Kurna are very interesting. Two suffixes - 'ngga' and 'dlla' - were often used to indicate locality. Many place names combine a local feature with a suffix.

Witto is the native word for 'reed'. Here we can see how *Witongga* became known as the *Reedbeds*, and was the origin of the name *Wetunga*.

Kauwe is the name for 'water'. Water holes around Glenelg were called *Kauwenna*. *Kauwennadlla* (*Kauwandilla*) - the 'locality of the waters'.

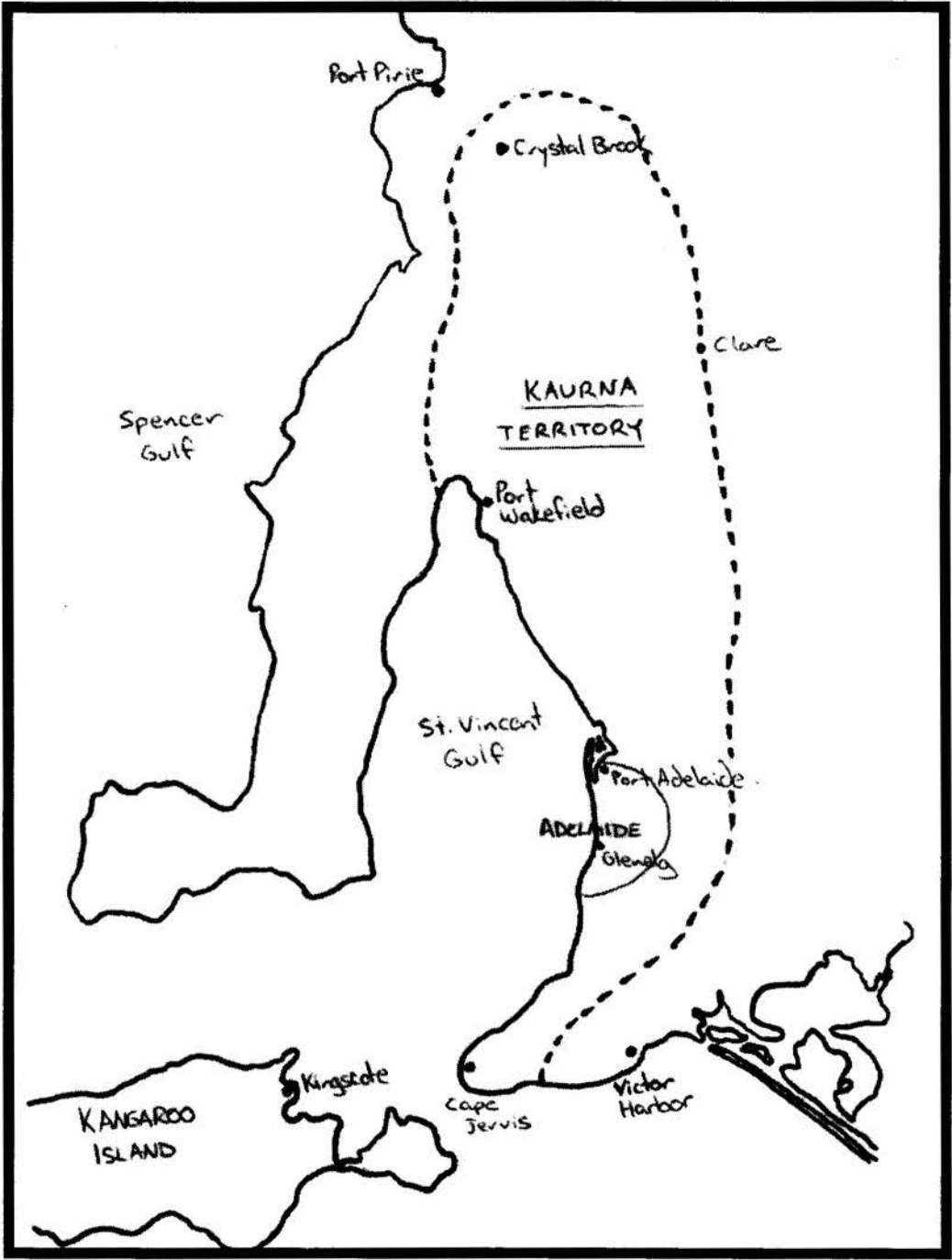
The Torrens was known as *Karrawirrapara* - 'the river of the red gum forest'.

Karraundongga - 'red gum spear place' (present day Hindmarsh and Thebarton) - a favourite place to find red gum branches to make spears.

Mikawomma (present-day Croydon / Woodville) - 'meeting place'.

Yerta Bulti (Port Adelaide) - 'land of sleep and death'.

Tarndannangga (*Tarndanya*) means the 'locality of the Red Kangaroos', and was the name for the site of the City of Adelaide - recognisable today. *Tarnda* means Red Kangaroo, a species which populated the plain.



Hand drawn map showing the extent of the traditional Kaurana lands.
Not to scale.

The First Land Holders

The Adelaide coastline region, at the time of European settlement, was a rich environment that would have been heavily utilised by the Kurna people. The areas we know as Port Adelaide, Tennyson, Grange, Henley Beach, Glenelg and Brighton made up the coastal strip characterised by a large expanse of sand hills which separated the Gulf from a vast, flat plain prone to flooding from the Torrens and Sturt Rivers. Much of the land between the Port River (Port Adelaide) and the Patawalonga River (North Glenelg) - the areas known as Grange, Henley Beach, Fulham - were swamp lands in the wet months. But in the dry months they were transformed into fertile grasslands. Birds and animals would have been in abundance, which the Kurna would no doubt have exploited.

The River Torrens running its course from the Adelaide Hills to the coastal swamplands (Reedbeds, Fulham, Henley Beach) provided an important source of fresh water. The vast grassy plains, punctuated with gum trees and other native vegetation attracted an array of wildlife, including kangaroos, wallabies and emus. The swamplands along the coast were a drawcard for water birds and the like, while the sea was an obvious source of food.

What evidence is there to suggest that Aboriginal people lived in their traditional manner within the region prior to European settlement?

Although most did not understand what they were recording - early colonists' records (writings and paintings) give a broken picture of Aboriginal life in the region. The Aborigines also left records. Remains of campsites (like the ones found near Noarlunga) included ashes from fires, small stone tools, axe heads, wooden weapons and middens (kitchen refuse heaps). Burial grounds have been discovered within the present district of Fulham and along the entire Adelaide coastline. Caves in the Adelaide Hills have art work. The South Australian Museum has collections of many Aboriginal material objects from local areas. Carbon dating has been used to measure the age of these remains.

While the Kurna lived in harmony with the land, they caused great changes to it. Matthew Flinders' description of the coastline included observations of smoke from many fires along the land. Aborigines regularly fired the land - to drive out game and to create grassland - a practice which made lasting impacts on plant and animal life. These great fires were alarming to the first white settlers. However, the Europeans were very impressed by the parklike appearance of the Adelaide area. Blue and red gums were widespread along the Torrens.

Along the Torrens the scenery was striking. One settler described it in 1837 as a beautiful stream, whose banks were covered with underwood and trees of various kinds. The bed of the stream was covered ...with a thick, close and beautiful growth of tea-tree, with a great variety of aromatic flowers and shrubs (Gibbs, p8).

Invasion

The Kurna had identified themselves so completely with their environment that the Europeans failed to recognise the relationship. They...roamed freely over their territory (Donovan, 1986, p11).

However, the white settlers quickly changed the landscape to suit their own particular way of life. They cleared the land of trees. The plains made ideal grazing land, with fertile areas for agriculture. Before long the native environment was made like England with introduced species such as the rabbit, hare, fox, blackbird, skylark, sparrow and starling, not to mention many species of plants and trees. All this drastically altered the appearance of the land. The

River Torrens, which was an important source of fresh water prior to European settlement, was still used during the colonial area, but had become heavily polluted by 1839. Water was obtained from the river with barrels and delivered by carts within the new city of Adelaide to people's door.

The water was not very pure when delivered .. it was the cause of many cases of dysentery in the early days of the colony.

(H. Hussey, *Colonial Life and Christian Experience, Adelaide, 1897*)

European settlement denied the Aborigines their main source of fresh water and food. It also introduced diseases against which they had no defence. Their traditional groups were dispersed. Many unwillingly found refuge in missions located around the colony. At the time of settlement the Kurna were numbered at least 700 people. By 1860 an estimation of their number was 300; however, the 'Adelaide Tribe' had become extinct.

The Kurna's rich culture and environmental management which had been established over millennia was all but swept away in a few short decades.

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FIFTY YEARS AGO

July, 18 - A Post Office Agency was opened at Henley Beach South, at 1 Henley Beach Road, which was a grocery store conducted by Mr. L.F. Vale.

Source

From Sand and Swamp to Seaside City

THE MARINES

Irene McDade

Construction of the grand old mansions known as the Marines on the foreshore at Grange began on the 16th October, 1882 at a cost of 20,000 pounds, a huge sum in those days. Building these magnificent residences was part of a plan of a company set up by Messrs. Arthur Harvey and Frederick Estcourt Bucknall to develop the seaside suburb. The last decades of the 19th century saw a land boom in this area and residential blocks at Henley and Grange were at a premium during those years. The 'Grange Development Company' formed by these two well-known local gentlemen also intended to build a jetty and construct a railway

line and roads to the coast. All these new facilities were to attract visitors, holiday-makers and prospective residents to the area.

The original plan envisaged a much more ambitious building project and in June of that year Messrs. Harvey and Bucknall established the 'Marine Residences Company' with a view to constructing a terrace of 24 three-storeyed luxury townhouses on a large allotment on the Esplanade at Grange. These residences were intended to be sold or let by the company. As we now know, only eight were ever built and these still present an imposing and significant landmark along our foreshore.

It is believed that the stones used in the construction of the building arrived in South Australia in the ballast of the many sailing ships which visited this State during the 19th century. Messrs. Bayer and Whithall were the architects engaged to design the terraces. The construction took some 14 months and the building was completed in December 1883. Arthur Harvey bought the first unit for his own residence. He also made rooms available to the Anglican Church to conduct its services while the congregation awaited the completion of the Anglican Church at Grange in 1885.

It is indeed fortunate that the Marines have not fallen victim to progress and have escaped demolition in a period during the last century when the old was enthusiastically replaced with the new, as was the fate of many of Adelaide's beautiful colonial buildings. The Marines have significant historical value in that very few three-storeyed terraces now remain in this State. The eight units are attached and built of random coursed stone. There is a view now that Dry Creek blue stone might have been used rather than imported material as was originally thought. The building has rendered brick quoins and surrounds and the hipped roof is of corrugated iron with rendered chimneys. The facade facing the sea has balconies on the first and second levels which are ornamented with detailed cast iron balustrades. The ground floor entrances, which also face west, display gracefully arched porticos. To the rear the terraces have several interesting out-buildings, providing wet areas extending into small courtyards. The building, as a whole, is still today the largest and most impressive in this coastal area of Henley and Grange.

Some 105 years later in 1988, the Marines became the focus of attention and concern. A photograph of the building in the 'Weekly Times' of the 31st August, 1988 showed a building much in need of repair. The accompanying article described the terraces as representing little more than a quaint relic of an era long gone, only viewed as a curiosity by visitors.

The Council of the City of Henley and Grange at that time, however, recognised its heritage value and applied for a grant from the Federal Government to help repair and restore the building. In that year, unfortunately, Council was not successful in its attempt to get funds for the projected work. Nevertheless, it was becoming a matter of some urgency and concern that quite extensive work needed to be carried out to bring the building back to its original condition. Some of the chimney pots had fallen off, much of the beautiful Victorian lace work on the balconies had broken and the odd attempts at repair and paintwork in the past, neither matched nor reached acceptable standards of restoration. The general appearance surrounding the building was also sad and neglected with weeds growing amongst broken paving and untidy and cluttered back courtyards.

Most of the individual units were privately owned at that time, and it was considered that with the necessary restoration work completed, they might well fetch a sale price of \$200,000 each on the real estate market. With the benefit of hindsight, it becomes quite obvious from this article that 13 years ago any monies expended in restoring the terraces would have been

a sound investment for the owners, despite the cost of adhering to the strict building requirements stipulated for restoring heritage listed buildings.

A fresh attempt was made by Council in 1989 to seek financial assistance, and the 'Weekly Times' of the 8th March carried an article with the headlines 'Grant boost for historic landmarks'. \$20,000 had been made available from the Federal Government with the Council and the State Heritage Branch contributing a further \$20,000 each to repair the Marines in recognition of its historical significance to this area. The money was to be put into a trust fund to be used to repair the exterior of the building. Town Clerk, Mr. Tony Stacey, said that the trust fund was a pilot program in partnership with the State and Federal Governments. The grant moneys were to be lent to the owners of the units for the necessary repair work, and this was to become an ongoing loan project for restoration and maintenance. Mr. Ron Wallace, the deputy chief executive officer of the Council stated that the loans would be restricted to renovations of the facades only of State Heritage-listed buildings in this local area at that stage. Council agreed that the terraces were in urgent need of attention and that the owners needed assistance to carry out this work. Wear and tear on the building, because of its proximity to the sea and consequent exposure to storm and salt damage, required constant repair work and Council recognised that this imposed a financial burden on the owners which warranted some help. All plans for the building works, however, had to seek the approval of the State Heritage Branch.

Early in 1990 the Henley and Grange Council commissioned a heritage study to identify local areas and buildings which were deemed worthy of conservation. This project was funded by a grant of \$14,000 from the State Heritage Fund and \$6,000 from Council. Tenders were called in March of that year to initiate the research work. It was intended not only to look at buildings, but also entire zones in the Henley and Grange area which might deserve inclusion on the Heritage Register. This was an important move by Council to facilitate the preservation and protection of some of this city's unique history, while at the same time enabling it to assess and control any environmental impact of future development.

It is interesting to learn that at that time only Charles Sturt's House at Grange, the War Memorial at the town hall and the Marines were included on the State Heritage Register. The list has steadily grown during the past decade and private residences as well as public buildings now enjoy some protection from encroaching residential development.

During the past ten years, property values in the Henley and Grange area have increased to the degree that money spent on restoration of old buildings along the sea front has become an excellent investment. The Marines have undergone some repair and restoration work, making these substantial residences of some 11 rooms very desirable and marketable properties indeed, and the 'Weekly Times' of the 23rd October, 1991 carried the following article -

Heritage Mansion for Auction

One of the heritage-listed "Marines" mansions on the Grange Esplanade is up for auction and expected to fetch at least \$400,000.

The Marines is a row of eight three-storey terrace houses built in 1882 as luxury residences.

The house for sale is on the northern end of the row at 513 the Esplanade and according to the agent handling the sale Ian Willsmore of Willsmore Paterson and Co. it is in near original condition.

As well as two balconies overlooking the Grange beach, features include 10 main rooms, the original cedar staircase, baltic pine floors, marble fireplace surrounds, ornate ceilings, three bathrooms and a cellar.

Interest has already been strong with several hundred people visiting the house during open inspections.

Mr. Willsmore said that the Marines which are all individually owned and Torrens titled, were unique in S.A. and possibly Australia.

'I don't know of any 100-year old three-storey beach-front house in the whole of Australia', he said.

Henley and Grange Mayor Bob Randall said that prospective buyers would be entitled to apply for a low-interest loan from a trust fund set up last year to renovate the houses.

On the 26th October the 'Advertiser' also announced the forthcoming auction of the terrace, extolling its beauty and splendid situation with unimpeded ocean views north and south along the coast. The article gives a detailed account of the interior and some of the restoration work undertaken by the vendors -

The townhouse offers 11 main rooms, three bathrooms (one on each floor) and a big cellar.

The original grand, ornately-panelled cedar colonial staircase connects the three levels. Typically Victorian details include the tessellated porch, extensive cornice treatments, marble fireplaces, fluted door frames, wide skirtings and ceiling roses. In some rooms baltic pine floor boards have been polished.

Tall windows in the front drawing room slide upwards to create an open doorway to the wide, front veranda and its beachside vistas.

Black slate has been laid in the entrance hall, which leads to the drawing room, stair well, study and rear kitchen.

The kitchen on the ground floor is dated but a second kitchen on the first floor has quality baltic pine cupboards and built-in appliances. A pantry cupboard has been built alongside the marble fireplace and the owners planned to remove walls and convert the next-door main bedroom into a big living room.

The main bedroom now has an ante-room as a 4.8m x 2.32m dressing room as well as a walk-in dressing closet.

The second floor consists of two bedrooms, a family room and a third bathroom. The property offers scope for improvement and includes a paved, rear courtyard and access to Seaview Road.



The Marines April 2001 - showing restoration



**The Marines detail - showing
the ornate portico and
lacework**

It can be seen from the above description that the residences were designed for gracious living and offered a standard of some opulence for the well-to-do settlers of the late 19th century; and perhaps, as was the case with many of the large houses along the Esplanade which date from the same period, these residences were often used purely as holiday or beach houses during the summer months.

However, despite the enthusiastic interest shown in the property, it was passed in at the auction in October 1991, having failed to reach its reserve price. It was to be another six months before the unit was sold for \$340,000. Although an earlier estimate of the value of the property had been set at \$400,000, it appeared that the economic climate at that time failed to attract such a high price for coastal properties.

On the 5th May, 1993 the 'Weekly Times' published an article outlining a new initiative by the Henley and Grange Council to offer financial assistance to the owners of the units to implement a programme of restoration. It was considered that, while it was not Council's policy to become involved with work on private properties, a unified approach to upgrade this heritage listed building would be desirable under the circumstances. Council, the State Urban Planning and Development Office and Lather Brasse, a firm of architects, would "act as a catalyst and coordinator to encourage owners to collectively upgrade the building".

Since the 1990s the gardens and streetscape around the Grange jetty area have seen much improvement because of Council's extensive beautification programme along the foreshore and the Esplanade promenades, and with the restoration and alterations of the Grange Hotel and the construction of the popular Grange Kiosk on the southern side of the jetty, the area has once again become an attractive and much frequented spot for residents and visitors.

Let us hope that this unique and gracious old building will remain a landmark on our coast and stand as an interesting and enduring example of our State's early residential history.

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WESTSIDE STORIES THROUGH THE WORDS OF LOCAL STUDENTS

From notes prepared by Mrs. Bev. Bills of "B.B. Crafts Studio B" Brooklyn Park.

As part of the 'Festival of the Coast' during the summer months of 2001, the 'Henley Scribblers', a local group of writers, staged a 'writers' tent' on the 4th of February in the Henley Square. An interesting adjunct to this event was a writing project undertaken by local primary and secondary students in this area. A collection of their work was displayed at the historical exhibition held at the Henley Town Hall from the 20th to the 28th of January of this year. Both these events were staged with the assistance of community and cultural grants from the City of Charles Sturt and support from the organisers of the 'Festival of the Coast'.

Local writers and members of the 'Henley Scribblers' initiated this project by extending invitations to several local schools to take part in an exercise of prose and poetry writing. During classroom workshops, students were encouraged to explore their local area and give voice to their impressions of the coastal regions of this City.

The workshops began by looking at historic photos which showed the Henley and Grange area at various times in the past. It was found that students were amazed by the continuous changes to places like the Square, which once boasted a rotunda, sound shell and fountain. A large three-storey pavilion adorned the end of the jetty. Since all these structures have been demolished over the years, the young people became aware of the value of historical records and, at the same time, gained an insight into past and present social influences which shape or alter their local community.

The photos were intended to trigger interest and ideas for writing. The many changes which have taken place in this area allowed the students to compare the past with the present; and the way in which this once isolated little village with its paddocks of grazing dairy cows and horses became transformed into the modern seaside city that we know today with houses, shops, sealed streets and roads with their large volume of traffic and public transport facilities.

Students wrote about their feelings and thoughts which were important to them and their friends. They soon discovered that once they started writing, ideas began to flow easily from their own knowledge and experience.

The jetty and beach were prominent topics because they played an important role in their social lives; and it became obvious to them that this would not be the case with people living long distances from the coast. They wrote about their appreciation of the ocean and its changing moods, cool summer breezes off the water and the wonderful smell of the sea and salt water. Their senses were aroused by such reflections and their stories revealed a deeper understanding of the environment in which they live and had largely taken for granted. The writing workshops helped to give them a feeling of their own important part in the community and gave a voice to their sense of belonging.

Their stories and poems show the freshness and strong points of view of the young, who are just embarking on their journeys of exploration, discovery and experience. The following examples show the simplicity and honesty of perception and expression which older writers often find difficult to emulate:

The photo I did this writing about was of the Henley Beach in the early 1900s. Some of the people on the beach are in the shade under umbrellas, but others are in the sun getting a tan. They might not have been surfing at the beach but they would have been swimming. In the water would have been fish, seaweed and also crabs. There might have been rocks but the sand would have been soft and white. The buildings in the background are very close to the beach they are also very big and look old. There are three guys in the corner standing on the jetty in suits. I also bet it was a very hot day because there are a lot of people on the beach.

THE JETTY

*This is a place where I go to relax,
or for jumping off into the sea.
This is a place for thinking deep thoughts,
or just a place to drink my tea.*

*This is a place for a casual stroll,
or a chat with one of your friends.
This is a place to forget your worries,
or to puke on the guys up the end.*

*This is a place to sit and catch fish,
or a place to watch the sunset.
This is a place for hanging out with friends,
For the memories you'll never forget.*

Kerri Moore (Henley High School - Yr. 8 - 2000)

The schools which participated in the workshops were Henley High School, years 8 and 9, Star of the Sea Primary School, years 6 and 7, Woodville Primary School, years 4 and 5, Woodville High School (English as a second language) year 10 and Findon High School, year 8.

Some of the stories told of life in a new country, of new adventures and a new beginning for the family. On the whole the students' writings concentrated on the present and how it was perceived by our children of today.

A TALE OF CAKES

Irene McDade

Earlier this year a plethora of letters appeared in the 'Advertiser' bemoaning the disappearance of 'eccles' or 'banburys' from Adelaide's bakery shelves. While most of the younger members of the paper's readership most probably had no idea what these culinary delights were (nor, I suspect, much cared), a period of lively correspondence, nevertheless, followed upon the first letter and the topic soon became a matter of considerable and significant interest in the wider community of Adelaide's cake lovers.

It became evident that eccles cakes had once enjoyed some renown and popularity second only to frog cakes (which by the way, have also undergone a remarkable resurgence lately). Both these delicacies seemed to have stood as a sort of icon in South Australia's folklore. Of course, they were not alone. 'Menz' bush-biscuits were nowhere to be had but in South Australia and many a packet travelled over the border in paper parcels, handbags and suitcases to titillate the palates of families and friends in neighbouring States. (So much for a century of Federation, what!)

But to return to the story of the search for banburys. On Wednesday the 11th of April this year the 'Advertiser' carried the following letter -

"NO LONGER ELUSIVE

Now I know where to get eccles, the elusive eccles or banburys
- at the family bakery in Henley Beach Rd, Henley Beach South.

VICKY DAVIS

Henley Beach South."

Of course, everyone in our local area recognises the above bakery as being Glen's long established and famous cake shop, a place much frequented and beloved by those of us with a bent for all things sweet or savoury. Upon reading the above epistle, it behove the writer to pay a visit to the premises in question, and purely for the purpose of historical research, enquire after and procure a sample of the above delicacy. For the benefit of those who have languished in ignorance of the finer things in the cake line, I am now happy to report (after several taste-tests) that a banbury or eccles is a pastry, in the shape of a half-circle not unlike a small pasty, filled with dried fruits and liberally sprinkled with sugar on the top. So there you have it. They are quite delicious and well worth a visit to Glen's of Henley Beach South.

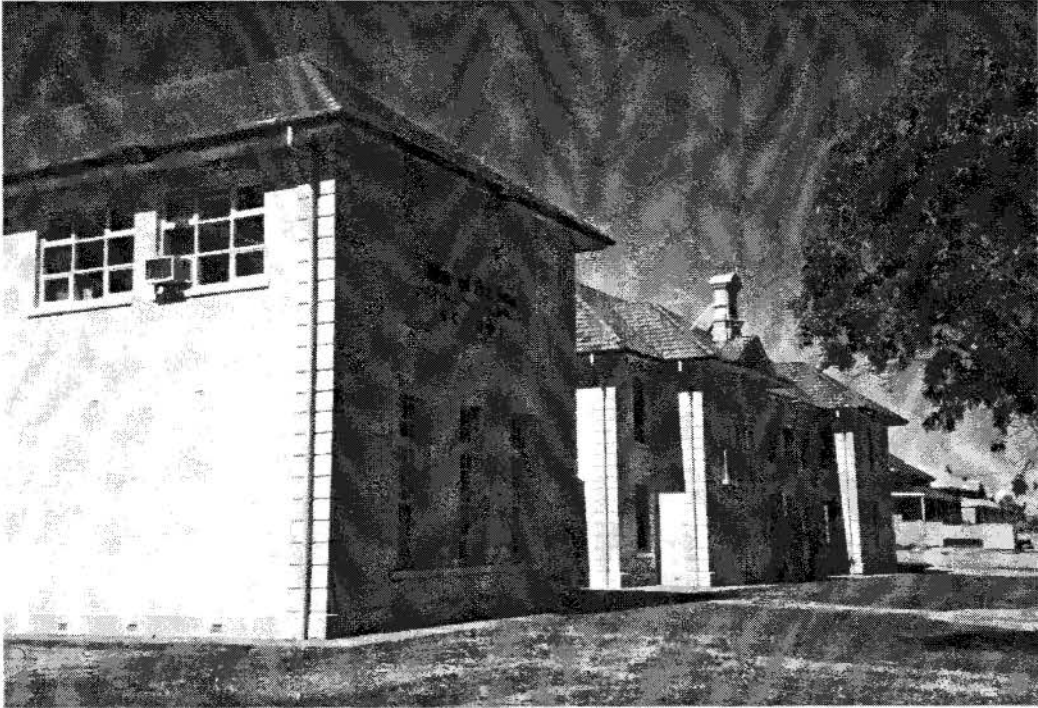
STAR OF THE SEA CONVENT AND SCHOOL - HENLEY BEACH (The Argentinian Connection)

Theo Ellenbroek

The story of the Convent and Catholic School at Henley Beach begins in Argentina of all places. It appears that a large group of Irish Catholics settled there after all the poverty and economic problems in Ireland in the mid nineteenth century. The religious order of the Sisters of Mercy, having been founded by Catherine McCauley in Ireland in 1831, were asked to send volunteer sisters to Argentina to 'develop the education of the children of the Irish-Argentines'. A small group of nuns left Dublin for South America in 1856 and were the first community of their kind in Argentina. They set about in Buenos Aires starting schools, educating children and looking after the poor and needy in the city and in regional areas where the Irish immigrants had settled.

Things got difficult for the Order and Catholics in general in the mid-seventies when anti-clericalism became rife, fanned by European introduced revolutionary ideologies and communism, demanding separation of church and state. Mother Evangelista Fitzpatrick, Mother Superior of Buenos Aires, and Sister M. Claver Kenny, an Argentine born member, left for Dublin to seek help. While there they met Bishop Reynolds of South Australia, who offered them the opportunity to make a foundation in his diocese of Adelaide. Eleven of the twenty-four sisters who left Argentina and went to South Australia were Irish by birth; the others were Argentinian, including Sister Mary Cecilia Cunningham, who was later to inherit a fortune from her parents, which helped to build the Henley Beach Convent.

So in 1880 they came to Australia and commenced teaching in the Adelaide Archdiocese, based in Angas Street behind St Francis Saviours Cathedral. The first Catholic school in Henley Beach was opened next to their convent, a bungalow dwelling, in 1912 near the Kircaldy railway station on Military Road. The bungalow convent and adjacent schoolroom were the only buildings on the property until 1922. The house became a popular summer holiday spot for the sisters. In 1916 the school was doing well and had added a secondary high school.



**Convent "Star of the Sea". The renovated building on Seaview Road,
Henley Beach**

When the Cunningham fortune became available, a new and imposing two-storeyed convent was built on the upper level of the block, facing Seaview Road. Much of this inheritance also went into the building of a magnificent chapel at the convent in Angas Street, and to a new convent at Parkside with a very similar design, recently demolished for school expansion. Archbishop Spence, blessing and opening the building in December, 1922, expressed 'unalloyed pleasure' because he did not have to pay dearly for the 'aesthetic indulgence, thus revelling in the useful, beautiful and ornamental' buildings that were monuments to Mother Cecilia Cunningham's generosity. A one-storeyed school building of four classrooms, with provision for a future second story, was built on the north side of the convent, both being built by Mr. F. Fricker at a cost of 13,700 pounds. In 1923 the airy and spacious new building welcomed 80 pupils. Enrolments continued to increase - to 104 by 1926 - from kindergarten through to secondary. An extra classroom was added to the front of the school in 1928, and the projected second story in 1960, His Grace Archbishop Beovich blessing the new building in March 1960, when 300 students were enrolled. This story comprised three classrooms, an outside stairway, a wide balcony and a corridor connecting convent and school. Further extensions were made in 1965-6 when secondary classes were extended to Leaving Certificate. In 1969 came the decision to close the secondary school. Numbers were small and Catholic secondary education was available by now at St Michael's College (boys) opened in 1967, and at Siena College in Findon (girls) in 1971.

By 1972, the future of the Henley Beach convent building was being discussed, as was the ownership of the school. Sisters who had lived at the convent and had taught at nearby Henley South and Albert Park schools no longer did so. They had been a vital force in the community, it was declared, and the loss of their influence would have a devastating effect on the parish. A Mercy Principal remained at Star of the Sea until 1992, at the end of which year Sister Rosemary Day was succeeded by a Cabra Dominican sister, Enid Woods, who remains today. In 1986 the Sisters of Mercy requested that Star of the Sea become part of the Catholic School System. A new administration building had been erected in late 1989, and further renovations were undertaken in mid-1992, when enrolments were 412. The convent remained the property of the Sisters of Mercy until 1998, when the parish purchased it to enable further redevelopment of the school to take place.

The convent and early school building were registered as items of Local Heritage Significance, being 'established as the first Catholic school in Henley and Grange to cater for education for the Catholic community in the area'. Council removed this Heritage Listing with Catholic community pressure, to enable the convent building to be redeveloped into much needed school use. Mr. Allan Dooley, Director of Catholic Education, officially opened it on 3rd November 2000. Enrolments this year (2001) are up to 490.

I think we all agree that the redevelopment was necessary and very well done without compromising its integrity, but questions remain about the removal from the Local Heritage Listing. Such a significant and important part of our local heritage and its imposing presence on Seaview Road should be protected from demolition. Our Council could have approved this redevelopment without compromising its heritage significance and removal from the Heritage Listing. I think we should have the convent building re-listed so that it can be protected from demolition in the future. What do you think?

Sources

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Anne McLay, *Women on the Move*

'Mercy's Triple Spiral' - a history of the Adelaide Sisters of Mercy, Ireland to Argentina 1856-1880, to South Australia 1880.

TWENTY- FIVE YEARS AGO

January - The HUG (Henley Unemployment Group) Centre Inc. opened its doors, with Department of Community Welfare funding. (See article below)

June, 2 - The Henley, Grange and West Beach Women's Service Association presented cheques to local organisations, an annual event. The funds donated to charities and local organisations are raised in the Association's Opportunity Shop, Seaview Road, Henley Beach.

October, 15 - A ceremony was held in the Town Hall, to celebrate the Granting of Arms to the City of Henley and Grange by the Royal College of Herald's. Mr. D. McCarthy, as Master of Ceremonies, welcomed Miss Helen Hanrahan, who had conveyed the Grant of Arms from London. The Mayor, Mr. J.J.B. Edwards, accepted the Grant of Arms, and spoke concerning the importance of the Sturt Coat of Arms to the City. Other speakers were Mr. A. Ramsay, Chairman of the Charles Sturt Trust, Senator Davidson, Mr. H. Becker, M.P., Mr. David Sturt Bray, and Father D. Cornelius, who offered a prayer specially composed for the occasion.

In 1976 the City's population was 16,589, with 6,322 residential dwellings.

Source

From Sand and Swamp to Seaside City

HENLEY UNEMPLOYED GROUP

Excerpt from *Henley Square Magazine* [1979]

The Henley Unemployed Group Inc. opened its doors in 1976 when it was known as the Henley & Grange Job Hunters Club. It soon had a group of 30 long term unemployed using its facilities. The young attending were contacted personally by the Youth Services Assistant by talking to youth in the streets and shopping centres. This first group was mainly semi-skilled and unskilled hard core unemployed who felt that they had learnt little at school and would not readily enter into another teacher-pupil relationship. They showed lack of self esteem and they tended to mistrust most official bodies trying to help them. These feelings were also coupled with a sense of frustration at their powerlessness and inability to change series of events in their lives.

The role of the club at this point was to make personal contact, to rebuild their confidence through an accepting, non-pressuring relationship and to gradually where necessary direct them towards firstly unstructured activities and then on to more formal skills oriented programmes. This process was lengthy and community acceptance of these unemployed was not favourable.

TAKING A LOOK AT SOME OF OUR LOCAL HERITAGE

Irene McDade

A section of the Henley Square precinct is occupied by a row of shops on the south western corner of Seaview Road and the Square. Numbered from 251 to 255 Seaview Road, the individually owned business premises form part of a single large building, comprising ground floor shops and private residences on the second storey. Built during the second decade of the last century, the shops have an interesting history and have played an important role in the development and popularity of the seaside resort of Henley Beach.

Sadly, today the building as a whole shows much wear and tear and although there appears to be a lively and diverse business community occupying the building, it is very much in need of repair and restoration work. Nevertheless, many of its original external elements are still in evidence in spite of the various alterations carried out in the past. One or two of the original shopfronts with their display windows framing the entrances are still recognisable. The upper level has return verandah balconies supported by plain timber posts and brackets. The small windows looking onto the balconies have double sashing. Two of the balconies' attractive timber balustrading have been replaced or covered with painted solid panel boarding to provide extra space or privacy for the occupants; thereby interrupting the uniformity of the upper level facade. There is now also evidence of damage to the masonry work beneath the roofline which has led to the loss of the former integrity of the building.

Although the building lacks the ornamentation generally associated with buildings of that era, it is the roof line which is most prominent and noteworthy for its row of five decorative parapet panels in the shape of triangles with alternating curved and geometric detail against the skyline. This architecturally interesting feature displays masonry louvred vents in the shape of half circles allowing airflow into the attic spaces. These also show some breakage and have encouraged the nesting habits of pigeons. A linear pattern on these sections above the balconies is achieved by alternating rendering with red brick. The several tall chimney stacks prominently visible above the iron roof are also rendered. Despite its present condition, there can be no doubt that the building was quite handsome in its day.

Because of the diversity of the several businesses occupying the street level, there has been much alteration in the presentation of the shopfronts and it is very difficult now to appreciate the original concept of the designer. It is obvious that the shop windows along the eastern frontage have been enlarged, however, the northern wall facing the Square and forming part of Estia's Greek restaurant, still shows some of the former features which have been left unaltered. This side, which has been painted in recent times, looks very attractive and is most probably as near as possible to the original in appearance.

Historically, the shops have a close association with the story of public transport to this area of Henley and Grange which began during the latter part of the 19th century. The construction of the railway line to Grange and later extension to Henley was hampered by geographical as well as financial and operational difficulties throughout its early years and it became expedient to investigate alternative means of conveying people safely and economically.

After the turn of the century the romantic era of horsedrawn vehicles, both private and public, was coming to an end and on the 23rd December, 1909 the first electric tram service operated along the Henley Beach Road from the Thebarton depot to Henley Beach. Horse trams still continued to run the short distance of about a mile from Adelaide to Thebarton until March of the following year when they were discontinued on the 8th of that month. Until that time the

Adelaide and Hindmarsh Tramway Company had provided public transport for some thirty years with its first service on the 23rd October, 1880 and extending its line to Henley Beach in February 1883 and subsequently to Grange in May of the same year.

The 'Observer' celebrated that earlier event in our history with the following article -

The new extension of the Adelaide and Hindmarsh Company's tramway to Henley Beach and the Grange was formally opened for traffic on Tuesday afternoon, February 13. The Act authorising the Adelaide and Hindmarsh Company to make the extension was agreed to on November 18, 1881, and but for unforeseen difficulties having arisen in the prosecution of the work the line would have been ready for use at a better season for seaside visitors, and hence for the Company. However, they have just completed a tramway extending to a length of nearly five and three quarter miles - and only a stretch of 13 chains remains to be made - the piece between Henley Beach township and the Grange. ...the construction of the extension to Grange is delayed by the necessity for an extensive cutting through the sandhills but it is expected that in a month this little line will also be finished...

It can be seen from this article that the tramline from Adelaide to Henley Beach and Grange provided a much shorter and direct route along the Henley Beach Road than the trainline which meandered through several western suburbs before it reached the coast at Grange.

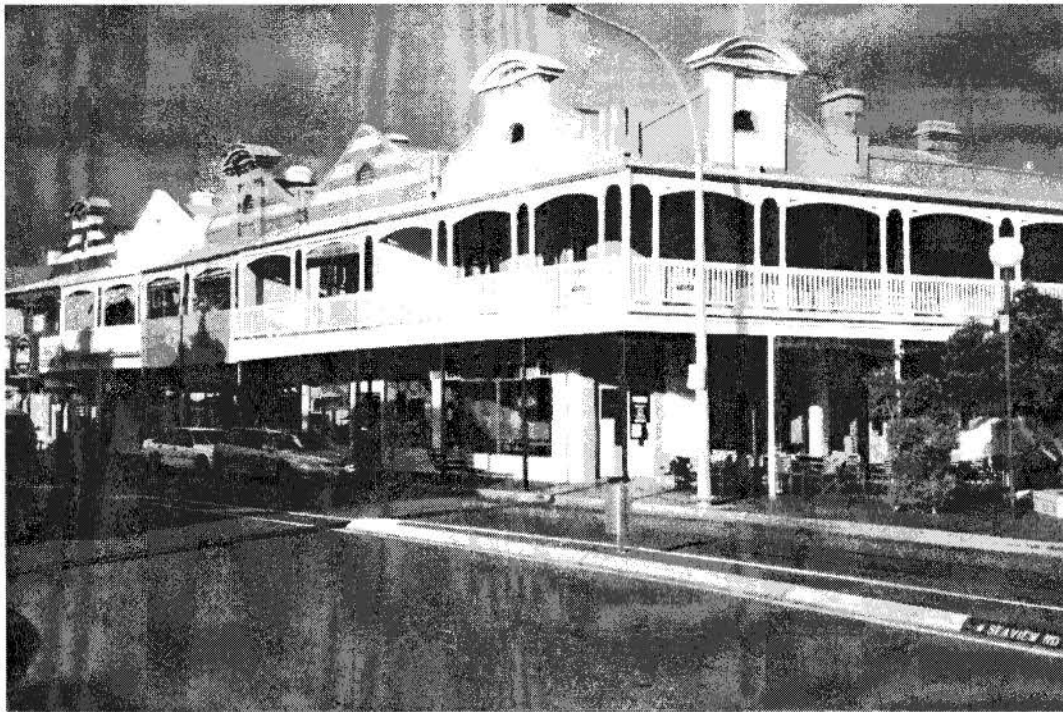
On the site of the present shops a tram terminus had been erected consisting of a waiting shed for passengers and stabling for the horses. It seems that competition for commuter patronage of public transport was quite fierce in those early years. Weekend visits to the beach were enthusiastically advertised by the transport companies and the Adelaide to Henley route seemed to have been the most practicable one for the MTT at that time.

During the next three decades urban expansion and population growth encouraged the MTT to broaden its interest in the tourist potential of the Henley Beach area. With the electrification of its line it became essential to attract as many passengers as possible to make the tram-service a profitable proposition; and it was then that plans were considered to build shops, a kiosk and bandstand adjacent to the popular jetty with a view to creating a tourist destination designed for the convenience and enjoyment of the public.

Early photographs show that the Henley Beach seaside played host to crowds of visitors during the summer months and the proposed facilities would have been embraced eagerly by all.

The MTT engaged Messrs. Wooldridge, Garlick and Sibley, who had designed the Administration offices and tram barns at Hackney in 1908, to draw up the plans for the row of shops and the adjacent kiosk (now the Thai Orchid Restaurant). Both buildings were constructed by Mr. Peter Rodger, and the cost is reputed to have been 15,820 pounds. It took well over a year from November 1910 to February 1912 to complete the work. Strikes and shortages of building materials hampered the progress of the work.

Records show that the MTT was at that period involved in the building of public facilities in conjunction with its tram services in several other areas, such as Kensington in Adelaide and Wattle Park in Melbourne. At Henley Beach, a bandstand was subsequently erected in front of the kiosk in the form of a rotunda.



**MTT Buildings - Shops on Seaview Road, Henley Beach at the south eastern
corner of Henley Square.**

While the shops should not, perhaps, be compared aesthetically with the architectural grandeur of its neighbour, the Ramsgate Hotel, they, none the less, stand as a rare example of early 20th century public buildings, designed for utility rather than beauty and excessive ornamentation. To appreciate this building, one needs to look beyond the obvious deterioration which has been inevitable over a period of almost ninety years. However, looking at the attention already given to the building's north-westerly corner, it is conceivable that restoration work could transform it into an attractive as well as historically valuable and significant piece of real estate in our area. But, in particular, it is also well worthy of preservation, because this group of shops is now the only one remaining in this State built by the Municipal Tramways Trust which combines business premises on the ground floor and flats on the upper level.

References

Henley and Grange Historical Society, *From Sand and Swamp to Seaside City*
Heritage Survey of the City of Henley and Grange
Observer, 17 February 1883

GUEST SPEAKERS FOR 2001

Irene McDade

Our Society's first meeting for the year was held on the 30th March in the headquarters of the Henley and Grange Arts Society in Atkin Street. Mrs. Dorothy Batten, a member of the potters section of the arts group, agreed to speak to us on the history of glass from its earliest beginnings some thousands of years ago in the Middle East and then throughout the centuries to the present day. Mrs. Batten included records of some significant stages in the development and manufacture of glass articles, both for domestic and ornamental use. She also showed examples of exquisite jewellery. Of great interest was her private collection of glass objects, which included pieces of rare beauty and great value as well as items for everyday use. From pieces on display, we learned the difference between mass produced articles of lesser artistic value and individually created glassware exhibiting the skills of their creators. Her passion for glass was quite obvious and she confessed that she began her collection as a young child when she became fascinated by one piece, a gift from her father.

Mrs. Batten is now involved in the artistic creation of glassware at the Arts Society and part of her address dealt with modern methods of glass making. She was able to show us interesting examples of the different processes used in the studio and the variety of materials required to produce ornamental pieces. The pottery studio at Atkin Street does not have facilities for glass blowing, so all the pieces created there must be cut and formed by hand. I have no doubt that Mrs. Batten's talk to us was a very interesting and educational experience for all our members.

After the address, the Art Director Mr. Peter McLay and a group of artists invited us to a splendid supper.

The evening was a great success with an excellent attendance by our membership for this autumn meeting. Before and after the address, members were able to walk through the pottery and painting galleries and enjoy and purchase some of the artistic work of members of our local community. This meeting also gave us a very welcome and important opportunity to meet and mix with people from another society in our area. The arrangements made by members of the Arts Society and their generous hospitality were much appreciated and a

letter of thanks and acknowledgement was sent to Mr. Peter McLay and his fellow artists on behalf of our Society.

Mr. David Bailey, a town planner with the City of Charles Sturt, was the guest speaker at our Society's second meeting for the year in June. The focus of his address was the value of heritage in our City and Council's policy with regard to buildings and zones in this area which are of cultural and historic significance.

Mr. Bailey showed photographs depicting places under review by Council for placement on the local heritage plan. Some of the specific areas pointed out by Mr. Bailey were East Terrace between Henley Beach Road and Marlborough Street, the westernmost section of Beach Street between Military Road and the seafront. This area includes Nautilus and the Scarfe House on the Esplanade at Grange and Marret's store on Military Road. He explained that the importance of denoting an area to be of historic significance safeguards it from the possibility of unsuitable development. However, this protection does not prevent any demolition of old houses.

Mr. Bailey's impressive address generated many questions from our members with regard to the future development of this area as a whole.

For our late winter meeting on the 31st August, 2001 we invited Mr. Brian Samuels who is the State Heritage Officer, to speak to our members about the role and importance of small local historical societies today.

Mr. Samuels, who is obviously a passionate historian, outlined some of the problems which confront collectors and recorders of historical material. Selecting items of heritage value for posterity tends to become a subjective exercise according to the individual's point of view. Documents, artefacts, buildings and even customs of a specific area need to be assessed according various criteria of what is worth keeping. He pointed out that it is quite often a matter of compromise and an acknowledgement of the fact that no society is static - history is an ongoing process - and although a community might feel that its environment is under threat because of today's rapid change, we must tolerate and embrace this change even at the cost of losing some of our local identity. This, of course, is nothing new, it is simply more pronounced now with the increase in social mobility.

As a group interested in local history, it is important for us to preserve by way of documentation, photographs and oral history recordings what we remember and what we have now. We must accept the losses that have occurred in the past and the changes that are happening today.

He spoke of the history of Henley and Grange and its colourful past as a vibrant beach side suburb once boasting unique buildings for the pleasure and entertainment of residents and visitors. Many of the buildings such as the Pavilion at the end of the Jetty, the fountain and the bandstand in front of the Kiosk on the Esplanade or the Ozone Tearooms next to the Henley Hotel at Henley South have long since been demolished and we might well regret these losses but streetscapes, squares and residential areas all change with time and we

must accept this also. While some of the local identity is gone, another takes its place and, with time, this also becomes part of a community's heritage.

Mr. Samuels' enthusiasm for his subject engendered many questions relevant to our Society's work and encouraged us to continue in our own small way to preserve the community's inheritance for posterity. It was also heartening to learn that during the past forty years metropolitan and regional historical groups and museums have grown from a handful in the 1960s to some hundreds throughout South Australia today and that interest in preserving our State's heritage is continuing to grow and flourish.
