

EAST TORRENS HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

Newsletter

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FEBRUARY 2021

P O Box 169
Norton Summit S A 5136
www.eths.ws

N 89703.

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OFFICE BEARERS 2020

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Vice-President	Dr Geoffrey Bishop	8390 3138
Secretary	Lesley Richards	8390 3390
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Committee

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EAST TORRENS HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS
Will resume as soon as the Covid 19 restrictions are lifted and the
committee is able to comply with the Covid Safe Plan - Step 3.

Committee meetings are generally held 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month at 9.30am, as required.

Deadline for Newsletter articles — 3rd week in January, March, May, July and September. Newsletter Committee:- Dr G Bishop, L Richards, J Kerwood.

Privacy Act

A member's personal information collected by the East Torrens Historical Society Inc., that is, name, address and contact details, will only be used for the forwarding of the Society's newsletter and other relevant information concerning the Society. The information will not be shared, sold or given to any third party without the member's written consent. Any emails received will be similarly treated, however, any information sent by email will be at the sender's risk and the Society will not be held responsible for any unintended use or disclosure of this information.

Disclaimer

The views and opinions expressed in articles in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the East Torrens Historical Society Inc. While every effort to ensure accuracy of the material printed, responsibility is not accepted for any errors that articles may contain that are beyond our control.

From the Committee

Welcome to 2021 and hopefully a better year for all.

Your committee has been working behind the scenes to keep the Society ‘going’ and on the odd occasion managing to meet at the Office and continue our archiving mornings. We have our COVID Safe Plan in place and a Covid Marshal or two. The Community Centre is only allowed have 46 people in the meeting room at the moment. We hope that will change soon.

Notice was given of our AGM, intended to have been held on April 8th 2020

There being no other nominations than those received, the officers and committee remained as the previous year, during the 2020-2021 year.

Notice is now hereby given, of our AGM for 2021/2022 to be held on

April 14th 2021 at Norton Summit.

Nomination forms are available from the Secretary upon request. rondar@adam.com.au

Our next General Meeting is to be held on

**Wednesday, February 10th at 7.30pm
in the**

Summertown Uniting Church Hall

John Abell will be our Guest Speaker

His subject: “Hinterland Japan”



Australia Day 2021 was convened by our Society and held in the Uraidla Hotel Gardens. Our local recipients of Civic Awards were Dianne Liebelt and Brian (Charlie) Parker, pictured below.



CONGRATULATIONS

The day started out with mizzly-rain and the hotel manager, Heath, kindly allowed us to use the Glass House dining room to serve our usual free tea, coffee and biscuits.

The local branch of the CWA served strawberries and ice-cream, and our face-painter Nicholas had a few customers. Our carriage rides, although advertised, did not take place, as the horse was not available due to going lame. Our 96 Flags, hung earlier in the week by hotel staff, are always remarked upon, and definitely brightened the morning.

Geoffrey Bishop (our Vice President) was MC for the occasion and spoke to the assembled crowd of National Days in other countries and how Australia Day is being viewed in our Australian community.

Adelaide Hills Councillor Chris Grant read the list of all AHC award recipients and Cr's Ian Bailey and Nathan Daniell then presented our Local Civic awards.

The occasion attracted approximately 120 locals and visitors. At the conclusion quite a few of the crowd stayed for lunch in the most pleasant surroundings. We thank the hotel owners, Ed and Julie Peter, also hotel management Heath and Kat for their hospitality.





VALE

Peter Johnston Staniford (1/1/31 – 16/10/20)

Peter's Eulogy read by Andrew Staniford

Good afternoon. We come here today, not only in our desire to pay our respects to Dad, but rather in our need to do so. Dad was a man of the highest standards of personal integrity. His approach to life was firmly rooted in his deep faith in God. A number of you accurately summed him up in your sympathy cards describing him as a true gentleman, and a gentle man. Today I want to give you a brief overview of how he lived his life.

His Family

Dad was extremely proud of his family. He would often talk about his family history. How Grandfather Staniford came from England in the 1870s, and purchased land at Carey Gully before settling at Summertown, on a property that Dad eventually tended from 1964 to 2002.

He was proud of the exploits of his family on his mother's side who sailed boats from Scotland to Goolwa in the 1850s to pioneer the opening of trade up and down the Murray River.

Dad was very close to his parents Frank and Gwen. During the war years, Frank was required to work at a Munition factory. During this period the family relocated to Henley Beach. Dad had just finished primary school at Uraidla and was now doing his secondary schooling at Prince Alfred College. On week-ends, Dad, aged around 13 years, and his father, would both travel to Summertown to tend the orchard. Indeed, Dad continued to work the property on week-ends to help his father for another 20 years, until he finally took over in 1964.

He was proud of his sister Cynthia, always making time to look after her – picking her up in his car, and acting as back up date for her many girlfriends, when they were unable to find a suitable partner.

Indeed that is how he met his beautiful wife Barbara. Dad was the backup date for a night arranged by Cynthia. He did not last long as back up. Dad and Mum became very friendly, eventually marrying in 1955. Their marriage survived over 65 years. Dad often used to joke that he was long suffering, but he was actually very much in love with Mum, extremely proud, and totally devoted. In fact, as we were preparing for this funeral, we found it difficult to find photos of Dad that did not feature Mum as well. They were always together.

One thing he loved doing, even to his final years, was taking Mum away on various road-trips. One very special trip was the annual holiday to Wool Bay in May. This time corresponded with the end of the harvest season. At this time of the year, Dad was totally exhausted. He would sit in the car and read the paper; perhaps sleep some time; walk the beach; and take us for drives around Yorke Peninsula. He was always up for a footy game somewhere. At night the family would sit around the open fire, playing silly games that made us all laugh. And we would go to sleep with the noise of the sea breeze whistling through the Sheoaks.

He was proud of his four children, Richard, Mark, Jane and me, and sacrificed much personally to provide us with opportunities that were never available to him. We are forever grateful for that sacrifice. We remember the time that we were short of players in our cricket team. Dad volunteered to play to make up numbers, just so that we could get a game. He was always available to transport Jane's netball team (7 girls) in his car, watch the game, and deliver everyone safely home. He supported us in everything we did.

He was proud of his 15 grandchildren and 23 great grandchildren. He used to refer to them as "the little people", and they would make his eyes sparkle whenever they appeared. He was always asking after them. Dad was not so good at remembering their names, but there were a lot, so he does have an excuse.

He loved bringing people into his home to feed them and get to know them better. He used to talk about the house being full of food – a quote from his mother. And there were no rules determining your eligibility for an invitation. You just had to start a conversation with him and there was a fair chance you would be invited.

I remember one such visitor, an eccentric, who called himself Daniel Boone, who was invited home one day. He was fed and then duly disappeared. As kids we were intrigued with Daniel Boone - a name like that, and with only a back pack which contained all his possessions. And to our excitement, he would on a number of occasions return, often at night. We would wake up to find him sleeping in our front veranda in his swag .

His Plants

The final point I want to highlight was Dad's love for plants. He was a fruit grower. Dad loved his fruit trees. It says in the Bible that the shepherd will know his flock. Well Dad knew his trees. He would monitor each tree on his property, and when they were no longer pulling their weight, he would reluctantly replace them.

He was always interested in looking at, talking about, and eating fruit. I remember on one occasion when he visited me in the Barossa, he wanted to pick some peaches, apricots and grapes to take home. He was in his element. Somehow in getting into the car he managed to sit on some apricots making a huge mess. But that was so much him – totally immersed in fruit.

He was often alone on the orchard tending to the trees. But in the cherry-picking season that would all change. He would enlist a band of cherry pickers to help with harvest, and they were some of the best days we had on the orchard. There was interesting conversation on politics, world events, Australian history, and individuals both past and present. Indeed the pickers themselves provided much fodder for discussion - the Frenchman who washed his sandwich down with claret; the Vietnamese man who could not understand any English and just kept climbing higher up the tree; the loyal regulars who would drop in to buy cherries, and while they were there, race through the orchard. Wonderful times.

His Community

The second thing that was important to Dad was community. Dad was a man of compassion, but he was also a man brimming in confidence and optimism that he could make a difference in this world.

He was heavily involved in his church taking on a variety of roles from Sunday school teacher to elder and lay preacher. He was most recently a member at the Port Elliot Uniting Church. He loved the fellowship and friendships he developed through church. Even in his final days at Estia Health at Daw Park, he would go to the common room and pray for others.

He served on a range of community boards including Uraidla and Districts Hospital. He took a leading role in the formation of Summerhill Home for the Elderly and served on that Board for many years. He was a keen member of the East Torrens Historical Society and participated in many historical trips. He was a member of every School Council that any of us kids attended. Indeed one of our fond memories of Dad is him acting on behalf of School Council to grant us half day holiday for Harbour Day. We thought that was pretty good.

He was a committed member of Kiwanis for over 25 years (including stints as President).

He participated in many industry organisations. He was involved in the Carrey Gully Agricultural Bureau serving as Deputy Chair. He was a member of the Adelaide Hills Noxious Weeds Eradication Committee. He served on the Board of the Ashton Cold Store. He was a member of the Apple and Pear Association. He always helped out at the Apple and Pear store at the Royal Adelaide Show. He attended many Cherry Industry Conferences. He was involved with various Department of Agriculture field days and other initiatives.

In his personal life, Dad was always there to help anyone in need, whether it be cutting wood, tidying up a garden, acting as a taxi driver or just providing counsel.

When he left the orchard in 2002, he could not suppress his love for growing plants. His garden became his focus. At Summertown the garden was a mix of fruit trees and ornamentals. At Goolwa it was mainly ornamentals with a few vegetables. He spent many hours in the garden, and he loved sharing his knowledge of plants with his grandchildren.

Closing Comments

In the Bible, Peter is defined as the rock. Well, this Peter was certainly the rock of our family. He will be remembered for his dedication to family, his contribution to the community and his passion for plants and fruit growing. He was a true gentleman, and a gentle man, and will be sorely missed.

But today, we celebrate his life. We thank God for the impact he has had on us.



Earlier in the year, October 10th, a group of 19 EHTS members, took a **cruise** on Lake Alexandrina and the Murray River from **Goolwa to Mannum**, returning to Goolwa by bus, through Strathalbyn and points south. The water on the Lake was one of the best cruise days the Captain had ever had. Lucky us!



SOCIETY OUTINGS

Our Field Trip for 2020 was to Karinga Homestead on Hindmarsh Island. Originally planned for April, we finally travelled in November to stay in the well appointed, large (sleeps twelve or more) house. The Cockle Train was our ‘big’ excursion.

THE WEBB FAMILY GARDEN AT NORTON SUMMIT

A collection of market gardening tools and small equipment was donated by Heather Webb and family to East Torrens Historical Society Inc. on Saturday 17th May 2020. Heather's late husband, Graham, was a Committee member of ETHS. This article looks at the Webb family's association with Norton Summit over a period of 90 years. It is mainly based on notes regarding Webb family from discussions with Dennis Webb.

The Webb property is located at 10 Green Valley Road, Norton Summit. The property originally comprised the whole of Morialta Estate Block number 18. The Morialta Estate subdivision plan of 1913 gives the size of the workman's block (as it was termed) at 'about 23 acres'. Graham Longford, whose family also owned one of the Morialta Blocks, has recorded the story of the Morialta Estate Blocks (prepared in 2002) and does not give an owner for Block 18 prior to the Webb family and the District Council of East Torrens Rate Assessments for 1924 and 1926 do not list either an owner nor occupier for Block 18. Dennis believes it was owned by an Italian family prior to the Webbs. The adjoining Block 17 was held by Ross and Joan Carbis around the time Block 18 was bought by Mrs Ada Elizabeth Smith so they may have had both blocks.

Dennis' grandfather John Albert Webb took up the block and later worked it in association with his son William Norman (Norm) Webb and Norm's wife, Stella. Albert Webb was a sharefarmer from Yorke Peninsula, at Brentwood and other places, and moved to Norton Summit in the late 1920s. Dennis does not know what the reasons were for moving to Norton Summit but it could have been due to his wife's poor health. The property was undeveloped apart from some timber cutting activities. Dennis' grandfather cleared and fenced some of the land for grazing and cropping. He built the original part of their house which was located on the west side of the property and built farm sheds. The house was later added to in stages over a number of years.

Albert mainly grew feed, and stored some hay, for four cows and a working horse. They sold cream locally. They also had some poultry and possibly pigs. Dennis believes that his grandfather probably worked locally to augment the farm income. Albert planted a small area to apple trees and most likely also grew vegetables.

Dennis' father, Norman (Norm), with his wife Stella and small children (Beth and Dennis), moved to Norton Summit from Brentwood in 1940. Norman helped his parents while further developing the property, and also 'worked out' locally for income. The families shared the house. In 1941, Norman took over the title of eastern side of the property.

Norman was called up for essential war-time service (from around 1942 to 1945) and worked at Friths boot factory making army boots, so his work on property was limited. Dennis' grandmother passed away in 1942 and Albert moved to the suburbs and worked in a factory from about 1944. Norman then took over all of the property. While establishing more orchard and vegetable-growing land, he continued with four cows, selling the cream and using separated milk for raising pigs and poultry (he had up to 500 hens) for eggs that he sold. He also 'worked out' for some extra income. In the early times he grew mainly peas, beans and tomatoes. After a time, he reduced the producing stock to one cow, no pigs and less poultry.

The Webbs grew apples and pears and cherries at the head of the gully on the higher slope. Rhubarb was grown in the inter-tree rows when the fruit trees were young, as was commonly the practice at the time. Vegetables were grown on the alluvial flats next to the creek during summer but the area was too wet for cropping during winter and was prone to flooding. As noted above, he also grew peas, potatoes and tomatoes – Grosse Lisse variety - and Norman selected his own seed to grow in the following season.

Norm obtained work with Otto's Timber Company at Maylands and worked there to tide them through the quiet winter months. In about the mid-1950s, the horse was replaced with a small tractor.

Later when the orchard was producing, and they had obtained a better water supply, other crops including cabbage, sprouts, cauliflower and potatoes were added.



The three Webb children, Beth, Dennis and Graham, all helped out on property while growing up and still living at the property. When Dennis left Urrbrae Agricultural High School at the end of 1954 he worked on property through summer and autumn, and then part-time with neighbours repairing fencing burnt by the Black Sunday fire of January 1955. Late in 1955 he started a motor mechanic apprenticeship at R. & H. Abbot, Norwood, and worked on the property in his spare time. He left Abbots in late 1966 to work the property full-time with his father. Norman passed away in 1968. Dennis continued to work property, mainly the orchard, until 1982. From 1969 he obtained additional part-time work as a mechanic and maintenance man for market gardener David Driver at Summertown, working on Driver's properties at Summertown and Gumeracha.

Dennis' brother Graham and his family were by then living on the property and in 1975 the eastern section of property was transferred to Graham. Dennis continued on western side which was sold to Don and Jill Pellew of

Norton Summit in 1982 who replanted the orchard to lemon trees and later replaced the original house. One of the original farm sheds remains.

Dennis has fond memories of life in the Norton Summit blocks: 'All the properties in those gullies were being worked in some way, and everybody knew everybody – it was all quite neighbourly.'

Thank you, Dennis, for sharing your family memories with our members.

Geoffrey Bishop



Repeat Advertisement

URAILLA PROJECT COMMENCES

After some years of consideration the Society's Committee has committed to producing a short history of the township of Uraidla as a companion piece to its earlier history and heritage walk booklet on Summertown. We aim to have the booklet ready for launching at the Uraidla Show in November which we all hope will be able to be held! **It wasn't .. but we carry on.**

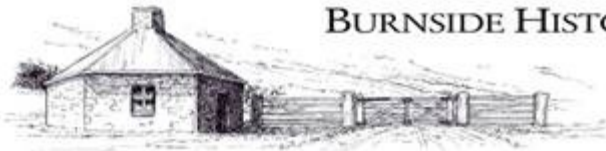
Following the success of the revitalisation of Uraidla through the efforts of Imagine Uraidla and a number of private and community projects that have injected new life and purpose into the township, the ETHS Committee has decided to respond to a number of requests for more information to be made available on the history of the area.

Some work has already occurred in past years for the production of the Uraidla Walks brochure but we have now greatly increased the number of buildings and sites to be included in the new booklet. This will entail considerable time and effort to research the history of these places.

If you know the story of any notable buildings or sites please contact our Secretary. Also, if your family has photographs of the township, please let us know. The extensive ETHS photograph collection has relatively few images of the township. There must be photographs 'out there' waiting to be aired. We would love to see images and scan them for our collection.

The ETHS project is being supported by a generous financial donation from the East Torrens Lion's Club for which we are most appreciative.

**For further information contact Lesley Richards PH 83903390 or
Email ronda.richards@bigpond.com**



The Toll House at Glen Osmond 1841-1847

BURNSIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

PO Box 152, Glenside, SA 5065

Burnside Historical Society which will feature a presentation by Anne and Ross Both on **Osmond Gilles: Colonial Treasurer and Businessman, Pastoralist and Philanthropist**

The meeting will be at 7.30pm on Monday 15th February 2021 in the Coralie Soward Hall, Burnside Community Centre (adjacent Burnside Library), 401 Greenhill Road, Tusmore

The presentation will provide a brief biography and outline of Osmond Gilles' contribution to the establishment of South Australia, both as Colonial Treasurer and as a private citizen and a summary of Burnside Historical Society's project culminating in 2020 in the restoration of his grave site in West Terrace Cemetery

If you wish to attend the meeting, in order to comply with Covid-19 restrictions, could you please advise Margaret Ford either by email (fsquared@bigpond.com) or phone (0438 838 894).

Comprehensive Tables

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CIVIL ENGINEER.

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J. WILLIAMS AND CO., 193, STRAND.
1846.

Henry B Hunt
18/8/66

FROM OUR COLLECTION The title page from a book printed in London in 1846, used in
Gawler S A by Henry B Hunt Dated 18/8/66. I wonder what they use nowadays.