

EAST TORRENS HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

# *Newsletter*

Issue 164 Volume 44 No 4  
NOVEMBER 2021

P O Box 169  
Norton Summit S A 5136  
[www.eths.ws](http://www.eths.ws)



*From Manger to Cross*

*The Adoration of the Shepherds*

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## OFFICE BEARERS 2021—2022

President	Dr Geoffrey Bishop	8390 3138
Vice-President	Jon Richards	8390 3390
Secretary	Lesley Richards	8390 3390
Treasurer	Mary Fletcher	8390 3484

### Committee

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**BSB 633 000**

**Account No 167087535**

**Account Name: East Torrens Historical Society Inc.**

### EAST TORRENS HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS

**The committee is able to manage the Covid Safe Plan - Step 3. You will be required to comply with the guidelines.**

Committee meetings are held 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month when required , All welcome to attend.

**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.*



**2021**

## **Investigating our history**

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**November 26 Friday evening End of Year Celebration at the  
Summertown Uniting Church and a promotion  
of the new ETHS book on Uraidla**

**Our programme for next year is being finalised.**

**Suggestions for speakers, visits, etc. gratefully received.....**



### **Seasons Greetings!**

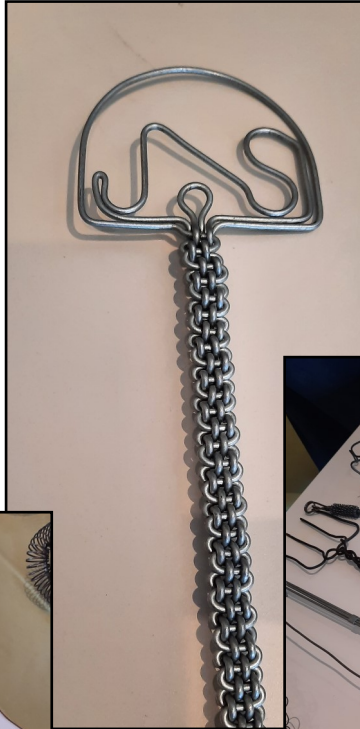
The postcard on the front of the Newsletter came from the Uraidla Uniting Church and dates from the 1920s. It is one of a series depicting the Christmas Nativity story. The cards were printed by F.S. Pacey, 9 Albion Place, Sydney, NSW



We are pleased to welcome two new members to our Society  
Karyn Davies and Deb Slobodian who hale from Mt Osmond.

## ***AUGUST 2021 GENERAL MEETING***

Our speaker for August was unable to attend this meeting. We asked Geoffrey to 'fill in' and those present were able to see a presentation on 'Third Creek' prepared by him, as we enjoyed our soup and crusty bread lunch. Jan Shepherd asked if it would be possible for her to speak to us in September, so an extra-curricular meeting was held on the 8th, and Jan showed us her extensive collection of various Wirework objects.

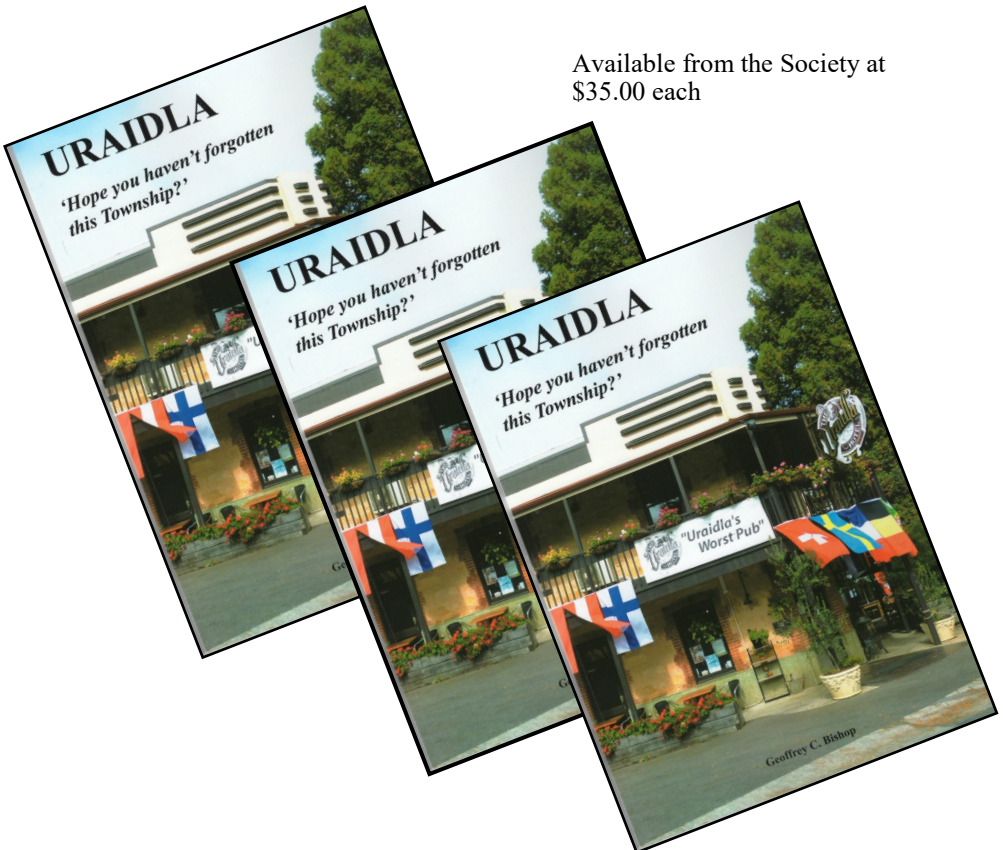


## ***SOCIETY UPDATE***

Our newest publication 'URAILLA 'Hope you haven't forgotten this Township', by Geoffrey C Bishop, was promoted at a public meeting held in the Uraidla Football Clubrooms on October 13<sup>th</sup> 2021. Over 50 local persons attended and heard Geoffrey speak on the research tasks involved in writing an historical record of a very small town in the Adelaide Hills.

On Uraidla Show Day, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2021, the book was available for sale. The first 56 books were sold and orders for more taken. A great success!

Available from the Society at  
\$35.00 each







On Show Day committee members prepared and displayed a theme of 'Cherries' with colourful boxes, labels and photographs pertaining to the Cherry growing industry in our area of the Adelaide Hills. An array of the Webb family agricultural tools was also well received by the general public, as they followed the arrows around our 'Covid Safe' display.





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**Please join us for our  
Annual End of Year Celebration Dinner**



**When:- Friday November 26th at 6.30pm**

**Where:-Summertown Uniting Church Hall.**

**Greenhill Road, Summertown.**

**Cost:- \$30.00 per person** (includes food and drinks)

**PLEASE RSVP to 8390 3390 by Monday 22nd November**

**Raffle Tickets - \$2.00**

**New Uraidla History Book  
available for sale**

ESTABLISHED 1982

PRESERVING, RECORDING AND PROMOTING THE HERITAGE OF EAST TORRENS

PRESIDENT:- DR GEOFFREY BISHOP 83903138

SECRETARY:- R LESLEY RICHARDS 8390 3390

An apology to Yvonne Tischer who was incorrectly referred to as Jocelyn in our last newsletter. RLR

## ***ADVERTISING YOUR PRODUCT:***

### **A fine coachbuilding business**

This photograph came to light while I was working on the Uraidla history.



It shows a large load of vegetables from Joseph Johnson's gardens at *Elton Lea*, Uraidla (weighing 5 tons 3 cwt) *en route* to the East End Produce Markets. This fine five-horse trolly was possibly photographed on Greenhill Road, Tusmore, c.1902.

The trolly was built for Johnson by The Richard Spencer Carriage and Waggon Manufacturing Company, one of South Australia's finest makers. The photograph by Harry Krischock, Photographer, Adelaide, was a promotional photograph for Richard Spencer's business. A description of the possible colour scheme of the vehicle is given later in this article.





The carriage and wagon manufacturing business was established by **Richard Spencer** (1839-1916) in the 1860s. Richard was born at Longtown, 8 miles from Manchester, Lancashire and arrived in South Australia on the *Adamant* in 1863. He had a background in engineering working at some large establishments in the north of England and in 1866, with his wife Eliza, established a coachbuilding business at premises in Rundle Street, Adelaide, close to his later factory in Union Street. 'By diligent attention to business, [he] saw the concern grow until he was one of the leading coachbuilders in the Commonwealth.' He was known for his ability to adapt to what the market was looking for and adopted new tools of trade imported from America. Spencer's wheel-making plant was 'regarded as the most complete in Australia, and specimens of wheels to be seen certainly show magnificent work'. He began using native timbers in his work, notably aged peppermint gum timber for making naves (obtained from around Blackwood).

One contract for Messrs Millar Bros for construction work on a railway line, Spencers built 100 wheelbarrows in just nine days. The company specialised in trollies but would build any sort of vehicle to order. An original design was the conversational buggy which had reversible seats enabling the driver and a companion to face each other. Spencers produced some very fine, often expensive, vehicles. In 1903, they released a low-set, elegant two-wheeler, which was named the Prince George It was painted 'black and ultramarine blue, and is picked out and fine-lined with carmine; the trimmings are of blue leather, with brass mountings; and it is fitted with long-distance axles and rubber tyres'. Another design, the Linsday, was 'painted ultramarine blue throughout, and is fine-lined in yellow. The vehicle is trimmed in Crockett's best duck, and is fitted with a lever hood ...' These and other vehicles featured in the company's display at the Royal Adelaide Show in 1903 and made quite an impression.

Their gardener's trolly was capable of carrying 3 tons of produce. This smart looking vehicle was built of hickory throughout, with side panels and seat of kauri. The sides were designed that each could be opened without interfering with the others. The seat was hinged so that it could be turned over out of the way for high loading. The bodywork was painted in ultramarine and picked out in red and fine-lined in canary. The underparts were canary, picked out with dark blue and fine-lined in red.

For one commercial contract Spencers built 80 refuse carts for the Sydney Corporation. At the time, they employed around 40 workmen. Richard Spencer's expertise was widely recognised and for 15 years he was the senior judge of vehicles at the Royal Show in Sydney.

On 1 October 1902, Spencer formed a partnership with his four sons to run the business. Following Richard's death in 1916, one of the sons, Richard Moss Spencer, took over as manager.

*Geoffrey Bishop*

References: Petersburg Times 15/2/1901; Register 6/3/1903; Observer 30/9/1916; Express & Telegraph 27/9/1916



### **Vale Brian Barker**

Mylor History Group president for many years, Brian Barker passed away on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2021. He was remembered at a Celebration of his Life on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021. Condolences were sent on behalf of the Society to Leonie Barker and family

A link to Brian's service is available. Contact the secretary.

## CHANGING ORCHARD PRACTICES

N.S.W.  
DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE

### INSECTICIDES

#### How to Use Them

#### Safely and Effectively



This photograph was taken in a citrus orchard at Kulnura by the N.S.W. Department of Public Health in 1966. The safety precautions for the operators are rather basic compared with what is used today, but for that time it was a significant advancement. The workers are wearing protective clothing and respirators which before this time were not used. Protective clothing was worn but was made from permeable materials and was rarely, if ever, washed.

This was a trial run by the Department of Agriculture in association with the Department of Public Health. Insecticide contamination during spraying operations was chemically analysed from sample areas worn on clothing and in the respirators used by the workers. They made

the comment that ‘use of respirators during the dilute spraying is not ordinarily recommended’ – why one wonders? The results of the trial are not given in the booklet.

One also wonders about the occupational safety aspects of the workers standing on the spraying platform but, at least, the orchard is on flat land. The bulletin also shows the wrong and correct way to handle insecticides. Many of the preparations at the time were dry powders so the use of respirators was essential for safe handling to avoid respiratory problems (as well as poisoning).

Most of the recommendations are sound and are still largely what is in place today. One odd one was to ‘burn used insecticide cartons but don’t stand in the smoke’. Well, yes, but today burning any insecticide or fungicide containers, plastic or cardboard, is **not** recommended. Growers should make use of the Drum Muster programme for safe disposal.

*Geoffrey Bishop*

# **XV<sup>TH</sup> EASTERN REGION HISTORY SEMINAR 2021**

## **LOOKING BEHIND AND FORWARD**

The XV<sup>th</sup> Eastern Region History Seminar was held at Marble Hill on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, hosted by East Torrens Historical Society and Marble Hill Heritage. The weather was kind to us and even the exposed site of Marble Hill experienced a good Spring day which enabled the participants to enjoy the superb vistas to Adelaide and the northern hills.

The first ERHS was hosted back in 1995 by our Society and it has been held every 12-15 months since then, hosted by a different participating group each time. It is a valuable time for exchanging ideas, our successful and our 'didn't work' experiences, and for renewing friendships with members of other heritage groups.

This year's event was attended by representatives eight groups: East Torrens, Burnside, Mitcham, Tea Tree Gully, Mount Lofty Districts, Onkaparinga Valley, Community Alliance SA and Pioneers' Association of SA and reports were presented on behalf of Forest Range & Lenswood, Mylor, and Scott Creek, Bradbury & Longwood. Our special guests were from the Pioneers' Association, possibly South Australia's oldest heritage group, and President Judith Francis described the aims and activities of the group.

Our guest speaker was Ian Hamilton, Heritage Architect of Arcuate Architects. Ian is the heritage adviser for the Marble Hill restoration and has worked on many heritage projects in and around Adelaide since coming here from Scotland. His talk was entitled Battle of the Styles and explored the conflict in the mid-1800s in Glasgow, then the second city of the British Empire, between neoclassic and neogothic styles in architecture. He also drew comparisons with what was happening in South Australia around the same time. Many of the Glasgow buildings he discussed were magnificent structures and some looked very much like buildings in Adelaide built in the same period.



Following lunch which was catered by members of ETHS Committee, guided walks of the Marble Hill precinct were led by Patricia Michell, assisted by James Coventry and Geoffrey Bishop. Attendees were astounded to view the restoration work on the main building from the lookout to the south of the building. The size and grandeur of the building is now very evident.

Our thanks to Patricia and her family for hosting the venue for the seminar which ran very smoothly and to time! Thanks to Patricia and daughter Isabel and ETHS members who helped out on the day, the latter ably handled the catering for morning tea and lunch. All in all a most enjoyable day and we have received some lovely feedback from participants.

***Geoffrey Bishop***



TEA TREE GULLY & DISTRICT  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Thanks to Carole Simmonds from Tea Tree Gully for  
an excerpt from her article on the Seminar.*

“For the first time the Pioneer Association attended and their President explained how the structure of their society worked and how they wanted and needed others groups to get involved in the history of the ordinary people who came to South Australia and settled in the early years. The president went on to explain some of her family history which was quite colorful and not unlike so much family history of those days.

After the group reports, a lunch was served consisting of soup, sandwiches and a generous helping of warm apple crumble and cream – it was delicious and served by members of East Torrens HS. Well done to them.

After lunch we went on a site tour which is a restoration project in action and a guided walking tour of the grounds and stables. The hill-top walk was on rather uneven ground so transport was arranged for those of us who would have found it difficult, while others, more agile, walked the short trek up to the hilltop lookout. The views were absolutely beautiful and the Marble Hill residence (still a building site) could be viewed from the hilltop lookout.”

## *AVENUE OF HONOUR*

**The Mylor History Group is aiming to keep the World War One history of Mylor alive.**

The town's Avenue of Honour, which is located on Strathalbyn Road near the Mylor General Store, comprises 11 Oak trees that were planted after World War 1 to commemorate the 11 Mylor servicemen who were killed during the war. Long term member Barry Dixon said that for such a small town, 11 was a large number to come out of just one town.

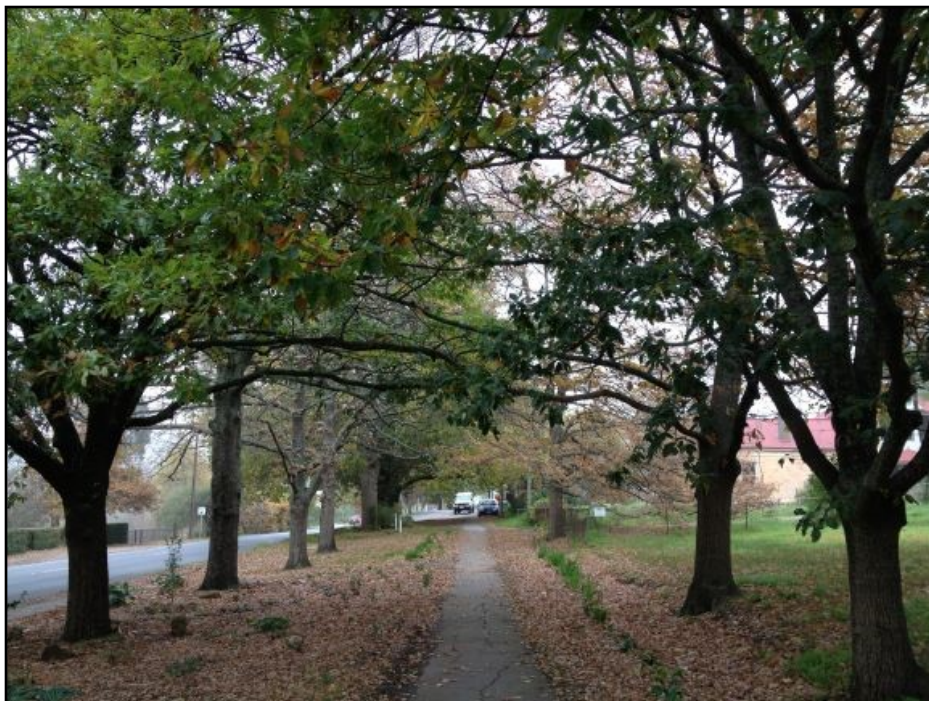
"They deserve to be remembered and it should be restored so that other people see the memorial and keep the history alive." Barry said.

Barry said that there were plaques originally along the avenue to commemorate the soldiers and that two of the original trees have unfortunately died. "We went to Veterans SA to get a grant and to the Adelaide Hill council, who have both been very helpful." Barry said.

"We now have 11 large rocks for plaques and the council have supplied and replanted two new trees so it is back to 11."

"The Mylor History Group were due to hold the re-dedication ceremony for the Avenue of Honour after their Remembrance Day service but have had to postpone the ceremony until 2022 due to Covid-19 restrictions. We were going to have a smaller service at the avenue and then have a bite to eat at the Mylor Hall afterwards." Barry said.

Barry said that there will eventually be a display in the Mylor Hall related to the avenue and the men and women who served in World War 1, which will include works by students from the Mylor Primary School. "We feel that it should not be forgotten."



***The Avenue of Honour located on Strathalbyn Road in Mylor.  
(Mylor History Group)***

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***The Answers:-***

***Top left:- Versailles. Top right :-  
Mermaid Inn, Rye, Sussex UK.***

***Bottom left:- V & A Museum, London  
UK (original in Rome)***

***Bottom right:- Fisherman's Bastion,  
Budapest, Hungary 2007 (RLR)***

