



INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

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Contacts Mandy Coote 0401 540 024
 Ian Morphet 8298 5585

marionhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Our July Excursion A Visit to Watchman House and Winn's Bakehouse Museum at Coromandel Valley

On our arrival at "Watchman House" our group of 14 received a warm welcome from the volunteers at the house. The premises were built in about 1890 as a butcher shop and residence for Oliver Winn and his wife Sarah (nee Wait). The Jones and Watchman families owned the place over time, and it was ultimately purchased by the City of Onkaparinga in 2002.

We had a look at the photographs and displays in the various rooms of the house and were then escorted to the rear dining room where morning tea of sandwiches and home-made cakes had been prepared for us. After a delicious morning tea, Trevor Conlon told us about the history of "Watchman House" and the "Winn's Bakehouse". He also explained that these two buildings plus the "Gamble Cottage" located at 296 Main Road, Blackwood are all managed by the Coromandel Valley & Districts Branch of the National Trust of South Australia but run by a very enthusiastic group of volunteers whose aim is to preserve and promote this important part of Coromandel Valley history. "Watchman House" is a community facility where people can "drop in" on open days, fostering a community spirit. "Watchman House" is a fine example of an early dwelling and a credit to the many people involved in the renovations.

We then walked a short distance to "Winn's Bakehouse Museum" which was built in 1878. Originally the Bakehouse had two ovens with a capacity to bake 220 loaves in each oven. Deliveries were made by horse and cart as far as Shepherds Hill. Both properties and businesses were operated by Walter Winn. The "Winn's Bakehouse Museum" has one of the original

ovens and wood-fire furnaces. The rest of the building has been set up as a museum with a large display of historical items and pictures. Trevor Conlon gave us a talk about the history and workings of the Bakehouse.

The enthusiasm of the volunteers from the "Watchman House" and "Winn's Bakehouse Museum" made this outing very enjoyable and memorable to all of us who attended.

We will look forward to visiting "Gamble Cottage and Garden" in the future.

Making History Glenthorne National Park

The areas of land to form the proposed Glenthorne National Park include the O'Halloran Hill Recreation Park.

This park is probably seen by more people every day than any other park in South Australia. It is bounded by Main South Road in the east, Ocean Boulevard in the west and has the Southern Expressway and the Veloway cycling track running through the centre of the park. It also has many walking, and cycling tracks and horse-riding trails running through it.

The site falls within the country of the Kaurna Aboriginal People of the greater Adelaide Plains and Foothills but there are no known sites of former Aboriginal occupation within the park.

The site takes its name from O'Halloran Hill, the most elevated point in the park, located near the intersection of Ocean Boulevard and Majors Road. This prominence was named after Major T.S. O'Halloran, former Police Commissioner who owned the adjacent property now known as "Glenthorne".

The entire site was cleared and used for grazing and farming for more than 90 years. Very little natural vegetation remains but important stands of Grey Box remain in the park.

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Located within the park on the western side of South Road are the remains of a heritage listed cottage now known as “The Pea Farm”.

The cottage was built in 1859 and sold to the Trott family in 1877. Frederick Trott lived in the cottage and later became the first Mayor of Marion

The land adjacent was described as very rich arable and grazing land.

In World War II the Department of Agriculture decreed that peas should be grown to serve the demand for tinned peas by American servicemen stationed in the Northern Territory; at one stage peas were canned on site. It was at this time that the house became known as “The Pea Farm”

Also located on the site is a licensed bluestone quarry known as “Tapley’s Hill Quarry” the stone from which was used in the construction of many old structures in the city of Adelaide. The quarry is still registered for the extraction of stone but limited to the stone being used for the restoration of these structures. This bluestone is unique and bluestone from other bluestone quarries would not match the existing stonework.

The State Planning Authority purchased a variety of land parcels in the 1970s for the development of future public space requirements. This included O’Halloran Hill. The Authority initiated revegetation programs in 1974 and 1975 with mass plantings in 1979 and 1980. Due to difficulties in obtaining the number of seedlings required the plantings were not restricted to species indigenous to the area and included species native to other parts of Australia. This proved to be a costly mistake as some species are invasive in this location and thousands of dollars are being spent to remove or control the invasive species.

The Park was officially declared on 7th September 1989.

In addition to cycling, walking, horse riding and other recreational activities portions of the site are used by Riding for the Disabled, the Model Aero Club, the Southern Field Archers and the Sturt Pistol Club.

Additions were made to the park in 2016 following the completion of the Southern Expressway expansion

The park has been revegetated over the past 40

years and provides habitat for the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo and the Common Brushtail Possum, both State rated, a further seven regionally rated fauna species and ten woodland bird species considered to be declining in the Mount Lofty Ranges.

Mountain bike/walking tracks have recently been created within the park. The tracks are named and classified by degree of difficulty. There are now about 20km of these cycle tracks, some are for dual use and some for cycle use only - probably to protect the walkers. In addition to these there are other walking and vehicle tracks. They are very popular and a great drawcard to the park.

News from the Marion Village Museum

Just a reminder that the Museum is open every Sunday 2pm to 4pm and is now open on Tuesdays 10am to 12pm as well. Come and have a look at our new displays. Just the thing for a wintery day!

For more information please call Judy Morphett on 8298 5585.

News from the Marion Heritage Research Centre

The MHRC is open throughout the year except January on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10am - 4pm. Visitors are always welcome and there is plenty to keep you interested.

Watch out for our events in the Marion Libraries’ What’s On! booklet, the local newspaper or this newsletter.

Watch out for the final talk, on the 16th of September, in the series about the history of Glenelg’s Development, by author Beth Duncan.

For more information please call the Heritage Research Centre on 7420 6455.

Marion Historical Society

**Our next meeting will take place on
Wednesday 18th September 2019
7.30pm at Coinda**

**Howard and Rosalie Speed
(Port Adelaide Camera Club)**

*Early Photography and Photographers in
South Australia*

Members – If your contact details change, please advise Ian Morphett on 8298 5585 or email marionhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

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