



INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

Number 127 – June 2019

Contacts Mandy Coote 0401 540 024
 Ian Morphet 8298 5585

marionhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Our May Meeting

Greg Drew

The Worthing Mine – Its History and Heritage

The meeting began with a tribute to Rhonda Woodward by Heather Latz.

At our May meeting, we had a very interesting and well-attended talk from Greg Drew, the convenor of the South Australian Mining History Group, on *The Worthing Mine: Its History and Heritage*.

The Worthing mine belongs to South Australia's first mining era. At this time South Australia possessed virtually all of Australia's metal mines. The first was Wheal Gawler at Glen Osmond in 1841. At Kapunda (1844) and Burra (1845) the mining of copper ore began. This brought about the first major decentralisation from Adelaide and brought many expert miners from Cornwall to join in the copper boom.

In 1847 copper ore was discovered at Worthing Farm, owned by Hallett. There was reported to be around one ton of ore, but no preliminary assessment was carried out. *The Worthing Association*, consisting of ten members was formed (in London), each of whom contributed 1000 pounds to the enterprise.

Thus, the Worthing Mine Company came into being. Five Cornish miners were brought to the colony, arriving in September 1847. Operations focussed on section 505 and several shafts were sunk. The mine was developed by levels, equipment was brought out from Cornwall and miners' cottages and offices were built - it was soon realised however that the investors would not reap any return on their investment. The waterwheel arrived at the mine in 1850 but was never erected.

The Worthing Mine Company suspended

Now on Facebook – Type in “www.facebook.com/MarionHistoricalSociety/” and Please “Like us on Facebook”

operations by early 1853, and the share price plummeted from six pounds, ten shillings to fifteen shillings per share. The Worthing Mine engine was moved to the Bremer Mine near Callington. There was no copper ore, and no recorded production. The only ore ever exhibited was in London.

As a South Australian heritage site, it is hoped that the Worthing Mine site, whose engine house is still standing, will be preserved for future generations. It is included along with Glenthorne in a proposed historical national park. It has been all mapped out, but the government appears to have done little about it, so far. Worthing belongs to Australia's earliest mining era and contains the most significant relic of the era – the engine house, which is the oldest remaining Cornish engine house in Australia. In 1984 the Worthing Mine was added to the register of state heritage items. A boundary of land was added around the engine house in the late 1980s, and it became an election issue in 1985.

With development over the last twenty years or so, nothing has been done to reduce the impact on the Worthing Mine or the Field River. Going, going.....

Making History Glenthorne National Park

The areas of land to form the proposed Glenthorne National Park include the Marino Conservation Park.

Marino Conservation Park is a small park situated within the southern suburbs of metropolitan Adelaide. The Mt Lofty Ranges form the eastern backdrop of Adelaide, but in the south, they curve towards the coast at Marino Rocks. Here, on the last high point before the sea is the park covering about 30 hectares and from the crest there are magnificent views over the city, and along Adelaide's metropolitan beaches.

The park was proclaimed as a conservation park in 1989 to help protect its remnant coastal vegetation including ground cover, native grass species and a very significant area of remnant coastal heath vegetation.

The hills above Marino were once part of the lands of the Aboriginal Kurna people. The hills represented the shoulders of the dreamtime ancestor, Tjirbruki and Marino Rocks, his hands. The Park and surrounding areas are part of the [Tjilbruke](#) dreamtime and were a traditional resting and fishing place of the Kurna Peoples.

Since European settlement, the land has been used for grazing and cultivation. A deep gully to the east of the park was quarried for stone during the 1960-70s, then used as a domestic rubbish tip and is now covered by landfill. Due to the presence of methane escaping from this landfill, few native plants are able to survive here, and the area is dominated by a variety of very hardy weeds.

The land has always been Crown Land and maps around 1970 show it as a railway reserve.

20 species of native birds frequent the park, including honeyeaters, falcons, rosellas and magpies. Many native insects breed in the vegetation, and these provide food for the birds. Brown snakes and other reptiles are also present.

The park contains a Botanical trail that features numbered guideposts along the way which describe the botanical features. The 1.5 km self-guided botanical trail starts from the car park with two gentle hills to climb. The path is not suitable for wheelchairs. There are also designated dog trails

The Marino Rocks Lighthouse, established in 1962, is situated within the conservation park. It is managed by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority. The light is the latest of the "Port Adelaide" lights with the first built in 1869 at the entrance to the Port River. Other lights were built including one on Wonga Shoal beacon that was erected on the ruins of the old structure, knocked down by the sailing ship Dimsdale in 1912 killing two keepers.

News from the Marion Village Museum

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.

Now on Facebook – Type in
Please **"Like us on Facebook"**

In addition to the general open days the Museum can play host to groups. On Friday April 12 the Museum played host to the Magill "SeenYa's" group. Fifteen members of this organisation visited the Museum and experienced a modified version of the Heritage Walk conducted by Heather Latz while another 15 less mobile members took a "virtual" walk in the Chapel Hall conducted by David Jarman. All guests were treated to Devonshire tea before heading off to a luncheon destination. There were many thanks to Judy Morphett for her wonderful scones and tasteful décor.

For more information please call Judy Morphett on 8298 5585.

News from the Marion Heritage Research Centre

The MHRC is open throughout the year on Monday, 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.

As part of May's SA History Festival the MHRC held a display, 'Historic Gems of Glenthorne National Park', at the Cove Civic Centre. If you missed this, watch out for it in other Marion locations in the future!

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

Marion Historical Society

**Our next meeting will take place on
Wednesday 17th July 2019**

**Excursion to Watchman House and
Winns Bakehouse
Coromandel Valley
10:00 for 10:30am**

Cost \$8.00 payable on the day

Parking adjacent to Watchman House,
360 Main Rd, Coromandel Valley.

Morning tea and brief history chat 10.30 am.
Proceed by footbridge to Winn's Bakehouse for
museum inspection and history talk.

Walking shoes and a "brolly" may be advisable.
Please advise Ian Morphett of your intention to
attend so the centre can be advised of the numbers
and also of any special dietary requirements
Transport to and from Coromandel may be arranged
if required, contact Ian.

If possible please bring the exact admission money.

“www.facebook.com/MarionHistoricalSociety/” and