

# National Seniors

## AUSTRALIA

### ADELAIDE NORTH-WEST BRANCH NEWSLETTER

**May, 2024**

Meeting at 1.30 pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month at  
Lockleys Baptist Church house, 244 Henley Beach Road, Underdale

Entrance & Parking - Drive through carport to rear of building

#### COMMITTEE

President ..... Brian Mibus (0417 887701)

Activities Coordinator ..... Annie McCall

Vice-President .. Trevor Molde (0417 838740)

Committee ..... Jeanette Molde

Secretary ..... Kathy Hancock (0432 101372)

Newsletter..... Trish Mibus (0407 605091)

Treasurer ..... Mavis Smith

#### 2024 CALENDAR

DATE	ACTIVITY	AFTERNOON TEA
<i>All dates are Wednesdays</i>		
May 22, 1.30 pm	<b>GUEST SPEAKER – Robin Jarman –Tour Guide Life</b>	Lucie Bray
June 12, 10.30 am	<b>LUNCH OR OUTING – Pancakes at the Port</b>	
June 26, 1.30 pm	<b>GUEST SPEAKER from West Torrens Historical Society</b>	Jenny Mathews
July 10, 12 noon	<b>CHRISTMAS IN JULY LUNCH – Findon Hotel</b>	
July 24, 1.30 pm	<b>GUEST SPEAKER – How to look after your eyes - Domenic</b>	Jeanette Molde
August 14, 12.00 noon	<b>ADVOCACY DAY – Bring your issues. Shared lunch</b>	
August 28, 1.30 pm	<b>GUEST SPEAKER – Robin Jarman –Sudoku</b>	Lynda Scantlebury
September 11, 10.30 am	<b>LUNCH – The Bay Discovery Centre/Bakery</b>	
September 25, 1.30 pm	<b>GUEST SPEAKER – David Jarman –Wetlands</b>	Mavis Smith

<b>DATE</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>AFTERNOON TEA</b>
<b>All dates are Wednesdays</b>		
October 9, 10.30 am	<b>OUTING &amp; LUNCH – Airport – Vickers Vimy tour and lunch at café</b>	
October 23, 1.30 pm	<b>GUEST SPEAKER – Hearing Dogs</b>	Dawn Thomas
November 13, 12 noon	<b>LUNCH – Lockleys Hotel – Christmas lunch</b>	
November 27, 1.30 pm	<b>GUEST SPEAKER – Genealogy SA – Allison</b>	Kathy Hancock

## **Our April Speaker – David Jarman**

### **OAKLANDS AND ITS TRAGIC END**

When the Act of Parliament at Westminster was passed in 1834 to establish a new colony on the southern coast of Australia, two important conditions were set down regarding the rules of settlement.

- People of all religions were welcome to settle
- No convicts were to be sent to the colony.

Early settlers had to be people with money who would purchase land and if they required labour, would employ working class people who had assisted passage from the United Kingdom under the Wakefield system.

**Samuel Kearne**, a wealthy wine and spirit merchant, bought land site unseen for £840. The land extended from what is now Marion Road to Oaklands Road and Morphett Road and ran south for some distance. The agent showed Kearne a plan which showed a river running through the centre, but this turned out to be the Sturt Creek.

Kearne sold up in England and bought a ship, the 'Joseph Albino' to sail to Australia. On board with him were his wife, Mary Hannah Kearne and his sons Samuel Jnr and John, together with servants, including maids and farm workers. Because he wasn't sure what building materials were available in the colony, he also brought all the bricks, glass, wood and slate needed for the construction of his mansion. The building material acted as ballast in the ship. Also on board he had plants, including oak trees.

Kearne thought he would be able to sail his ship up the river to his land, but when he arrived he found Sturt River was a tiny stream

which runs dry in summer. He then sailed to Port Adelaide and transported all his possessions to the site by bullock wagons.

He built his homestead of 22 rooms beside the Sturt River. The homestead was much bigger than any other in the colony. (Morphett House had 5 rooms.) The walls were 2 ft thick and the storeroom had a well inside. It also had a cellar where they stored food and later wine made from grapes grown on the property.

The 'Joseph Albino' was sold, with 2 conditions – Kearne wanted the ships bell and the wood from the poop deck. Today the bell is in the possession of a member of William Pethick's family (4<sup>th</sup> owner of Oaklands) and is housed in Canberra.

Trees were planted, including the oak trees, 4 of which are left today. He also planted pepper trees, palms and olive trees most which are still there today. He built a bridge across the Sturt River because he had to farm land across the river.

In 1848 Samuel Kearne was bucked off his horse and suffered broken ribs and a broken hip. He never recovered and died in 1857, aged 65.

His sons took over the property and married local girls, sisters Martha and Hephzibah Featherstone, who came from a wealthy family. Their family home and land eventually became Minda Home.

In 1859 the Kearne brothers sold the property and moved back to England with their families and their mother.

In 1867 the property was sold at auction for £8,000 to the **Hon John Crozier**. Crozier came out as an 18 year old and took a job looking after merino sheep and supervising convicts in New South Wales. He made a lot of money from wool.

He became a politician and served for 20 years as the member for Brighton in the Legislative Council in South Australia.

Crozier made wine, was involved in establishing the Adelaide Hunt Club, planted fruit trees and grazed cattle. He also bred top class racehorses and, with John Morphett and Sir Thomas Elder, established the Morphettville Racecourse. In 1875 he became the first Clerk of the Course.

The Hon John Crozier passed away in April 1887. He was so well respected that the bells of the town hall tower were rung. He is buried in St Jude's church cemetery at Brighton. Oaklands remained in his family until 1907.

**Thomas Tait** purchased the property in 1907. Tait was a builder and came out from England and worked in the mines in South Africa, where he met his wife, Kate Johnson. They married in 1882 when Kate was 17 and set sail for Adelaide in 1884. Tait found it difficult to get a job and went to Silverton to look for work. Kate stayed in Adelaide and obtained a job as a domestic servant. Kate removed her wedding ring as married women weren't supposed to work. Tait and four friends paid £1 each for a horse and dray to transport their possessions and tools. They saved money by walking all the way beside the horse and dray. Tait had 5/9 in his pocket when he arrived in Silverton. He soon found work as a builder for the mines and Kate was soon able to join him. Tait built and owned several hotels, shops and warehouses in Broken Hill and had shares in the Silverton Railway Company and invested in cattle stations in the local area owned by the Kidman family.

He became quite wealthy and visited Adelaide several times a year for business. In 1906 he bought Oaklands at auction for £15,000. Tait lived in semi-retirement running the farm and breeding thoroughbred horses. He was the first person in the district to own a Model T Ford.

Tait lived next door to Mr Hamilton of Hamilton Wines. Patriti Wines now has the job of getting these vines back up.

When the 1<sup>st</sup> World War began, Tait had to sell part of his land to the government for use by the Light Horse Brigade to train horses which were shipped to the Middle East. This land is now the Warradale Army Camp. The Tait's also bred horses and sold them to India for the war effort.

Tait's children – Annie married a wealthy farmer from Glenelg, Jane married into the Kidman family, and their son, Thomas Jnr never married.

The railway line from Adelaide to Willunga, built in 1913 cut right through the Oaklands estate, with the line creating problems for access to part of the property and a danger for livestock. Tait sold the land on the southern side of the railway line and later sold and subdivided the land on the eastern side of the estate. Oaklands railway station is named after the estate.

Tait sold Oaklands in 1923 and moved to Glenelg to live with his eldest daughter, Annie. He died in 1924. Sir Sidney Kidman bought most of his prized stud horses.

The last own of Oakland was **William Pethick**, Pethick paid £10,000 for a very reduced size property. The family had land in Willunga and bought land near Oaklands. One of the blocks they purchased was called 'Alice's block', on which he grew grapes. Today this land is the western oval of Westminster School. The family sold grapes at the East End Market and had a stall next to Mr Beerenberg. The Pethicks also bred racehorses, with one of his horses winning the Adelaide Cup in 1933.

William Pethick passed away in 1944, with his sons continuing as orchardist and market gardeners on the property.

In 1949 the government purchased the whole property for a hospital. With a change of government, in 1966 it was decided to build the hospital in Bedford Park, near the university. Today it is the Flinders Medical Centre. The land around Oaklands was then designated to be made available for the MATS plan, which included a new north-south freeway. This freeway was never built.

The house remained empty and was vandalised. It was deemed too expensive to restore and was bulldozed in 1967, with much of the building material brought out from England bulldozed into the cellar. The house site is now a car park.