

Nairne News



Newsletter of the Nairne and Districts Residents Association

“Railway comes”

By A W King, *The Chronicle* 15 Nov 1934

“The railway line was surveyed in my time. A trial survey was put in on the lower side of the bank of the creek and another survey was made on the higher side of the township. This is where the line was eventually built and it ran through the centre of the market place, spoiling the playground for everything.

After the railway was built, it altered things considerably. I was there during the building of the line and also the opening of the line right through to Serviceton. A special train went through Nairne in the morning and returned at nine in the evening. I was on the first train that carried passengers to Murray Bridge.”



Nairne Railway Station ca 1910.

*Photo: State Library of South Australia image
PRG/280/1/43/598*



Nairne Railway Station.

Photo: Barb Leopold, 2012

The railway played an important role in the history and growth of Nairne. In this issue of the Nairne News, you will find fascinating, personal accounts of life around the Nairne Railway Station, with our thanks to the authors for their kind contributions (see pages 16–21).



Nairne and Districts Residents Association

Editor's note

As we celebrate 175 years since the establishment of Nairne, it is wonderful to look around and see Nairne thriving once again. This is illustrated in this issue of the Nairne News by the number of fantastic things happening around here! A community movie night is being organised as a joint initiative of the NDRA and the District Council of Mt Barker (see page 3), the historic old Johnston's Barn on the Main Street is being given a new lease on life as an artist's studio (pages 4–5) and a new physiotherapist is coming to join the Nairne Medical Clinic (see page 10). The details for the next four Nairne Community Sustainable Markets can be found on page 11—not to be missed for local crafts and produce! The NDRA is also sponsoring a creative writing competition to celebrate what we love about Nairne (see page 15). And our hard-working Councillor Trevor Corbell, as always, has contributed a succinct summary of Council happenings as they relate to Nairne (see pages 6– 8).

The Nairne and Districts Residents Association meets on the third Wednesday of each month (except December) at the Nairne Institute at 7pm. The April meeting was preceded by a delightful account of life in Nairne by long-time residents Helen Carman and Dot Richter. In May, the meeting will start with a Councillor forum where you can meet your Councillors and talk to them about anything of concern relating to Nairne. The June meeting will provide more opportunities for insight into the earlier days of Nairne as we invite another long-time resident to share their experiences. Everybody is welcome, and we hope to see you there!

Please send articles or advertisements for publication in the next issue to:

The Editor, Cathy Smallridge

Nairne News, PO Box 416, Nairne,
SA 5252

Or email: nairnenews@hotmail.com

Deadline: 20 June 2014

The NDRA thanks Jo Parkinson for proofreading this publication.

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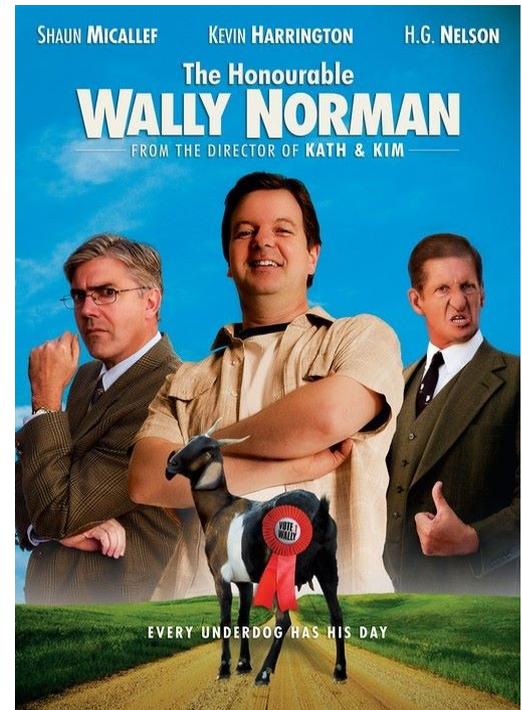
*Conditions apply.

Come to the movies in Nairne!

As part of our celebrations marking 175 years since the establishment of Nairne, the Nairne and Districts Residents Association will be holding an **Old-Style Movie Night** in the **Soldiers Memorial Hall, at 7 pm on 14 June 2014**. As guests arrive and find their seats, the big screen will show an amazing collection of historic still pictures illustrating the unique buildings of Nairne as they once were. Once settled, people will be entertained with some Nairne-related short films and, of course, cartoons. The feature movie will be the 2003 comedy 'The Honourable Wally Norman', which was filmed in and around Nairne. Some local residents may remember the fun, and perhaps were themselves in the background.

Refreshments and special 175th Anniversary memorabilia - tea towels, tote bags and stubbie holders - will be available for sale at the event. Tickets are \$5.00 each and can be purchased online at the Trybooking site: <http://www.trybooking.com/ESZQ>, or visit the Nairne and Districts Residents Association Facebook page for a link. For those preferring to buy real tickets instead of online ones, you can purchase them at your friendly Nairne Market.

The movie night and the production of Nairne's special 175th memorabilia is proudly supported by the District Council of Mt Barker. We hope you can come along and celebrate a little of Nairne's more recent history at this movie night.



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Artists studio breathes new life into Johnston's Mill barn

Welcome to Sophie Langley, a recent addition to the Nairne community. Sophie has moved into Main Street and set up her art studio at the old Johnston's Mill barn. The owner of the barn, Therese Okkerse, has had a long held vision of the barn being open to the community and used for arts in the heart of Nairne. Now with Sophie's help, this vision is beginning to take shape.

Sophie's parents were both artists and creativity is a way of life for her. Her latest venture is 'Dove Art' - a business specialising in garden sculpture. As well as creating larger feature pieces, such as water features and bird baths, Sophie makes smaller whimsical pieces that add an element of surprise and interest when hidden amongst the garden greenery. She is also working on several commissioned pieces.



Sophie Langley working on a new creation at the old barn in Nairne.



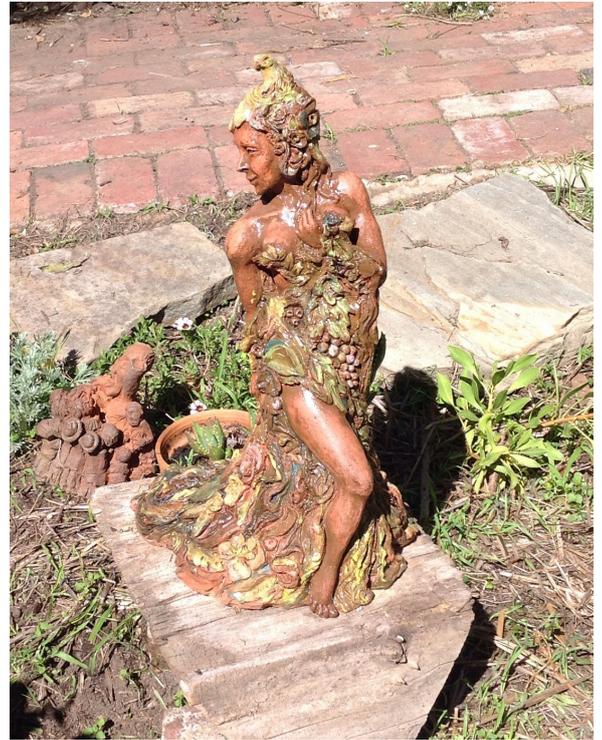
'Old Friends', one of the sculptures to be found dotted around the garden.

While it is very much an artists workspace, one wall in the barn is set aside for antiques and vintage collectables. There is selling these, and the plan is to eventually display and sell a variety of art works created by local artists. Throughout the year it will also be used for sculpture classes with particular focus, for example, the female form.

Workshops will be advertised on the community Facebook page 'Dove art', and on the web page, which is under construction.

Sophie is facilitating a workshop on Thursday evenings, reading and working through 'The Artist's Way' by Julia Cameron.

Currently the barn, at 55 Main Street, Nairne, will be open to the public on the first Saturday of the month from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm. Please come in and have a look around, have a chat with Sophie and Therese and enjoy another aspect of beautiful Nairne.



'Lady of Mylor', made during the Eye Spy art festival at Mylor.



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- 2) go see the local doctor at Nairne Medical Clinic to get vaccinated as a FREE consult (booking with doctor is required),
- 3) drop off the flu vaccine prescription to the Pharmacy

Councillor's commentary . . .

I hope that you and those near you had a pleasant and safe Easter. Following are some comments on current Council activities.

Annual Business Plan (budget) 2014-15. Council Elected Members and staff are now deep into examining proposals for inclusion in the upcoming District Council of Mt Barker Annual Business Plan (ABP) and for immediately following years. A draft ABP is expected to be considered by Council at its regular meeting on Monday 19 May. The ABP will then be available for public consultation for three weeks (20 May - 13 June) before a special ABP Public Meeting is held on Monday 16 June. The final ABP is scheduled to be put to Council for its approval on Monday 7 July. All these meetings will be held in the Council Chamber.

While there is still much to be considered, the following items affecting Nairne and nearby areas have been foreshadowed for inclusion in the 2014-15 ABP (budget). Others are expected to follow.

Bridge Street pedestrian bridge and footpath access next to the vehicle bridge (design work to be done in 2014-15, installation in 2015-16).

Council contribution (\$50,000) to continuing upgrade of **Nairne Sports (oval) Complex**.

North Road continuing upgrade (\$450,000 in 2014-15).

Matthew Road **BMX track** renewal.

Matthew Road playground equipment renewal (to meet new ASA standards).

Matthew Smillie Reserve playground equipment renewal (to meet new ASA standards).

Mick Murphy Park skate park (either renewal, or removal and replacement by playground).

Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) system to handle excess stormwater at **Little Dublin East Road water treatment facility** (assessment design & approvals 2014-15: \$60,000), installation 2015-16: \$150,000).

Compson/Dalebank Roads junction with Old Princes Hwy (Blakiston) upgrade (\$280,000).

At this stage, no new footpath projects have been anticipated for Nairne, but all such projects already budgeted for in preceding financial years, and still outstanding, are expected to be completed by the close of the current financial year; i.e. 30 June 2014.

Bald Hills Road. On Monday 7 April, Council agreed to the awarding of a tender for the upgrading of the last section of Bald Hills Road (Stage 3B - from near Davison Rd to just short of the Old Princes Hwy). The work is planned to be undertaken and completed by 30 June 2014. The total cost of this project is \$1.255m, and represents the final section of Council's improvement of Bald Hills Road in anticipation of the State and Federal Governments' construction of the **second SE Freeway Interchange** and a major upgrade of the **Bald Hills Road/Old Princes Hwy T-Junction**. Council will be contributing \$3m towards the cost of the interchange, currently estimated at a total of about \$43m.

In addition to the Bald Hills Road Stage 3B upgrade, on 7 April Council also awarded a tender worth \$572,350 for the first stage upgrade of a 260m section of **Alexandrina Road** in Mt Barker, from just west of Hartman Rd to just west of Secker Rd (the section opposite Oborn Road and the SA Potato Co. depot). The Alexandrina Road project is also expected to be completed by 30 June.

With the recent election of the new State Government, and a new transport minister, Stephen Mullighan, Mayor Ann Ferguson and senior Council staff have already met with the Minister to ensure that the commitment to build the new **Bald Hills Road/Freeway Interchange** as soon as possible remains on track.

Detailed planning has now commenced and probably will take about 8-10 months. Indications are that the interchange will feature both west-facing ramps (from and to the City) and east-facing ones (to and from Murray Bridge).

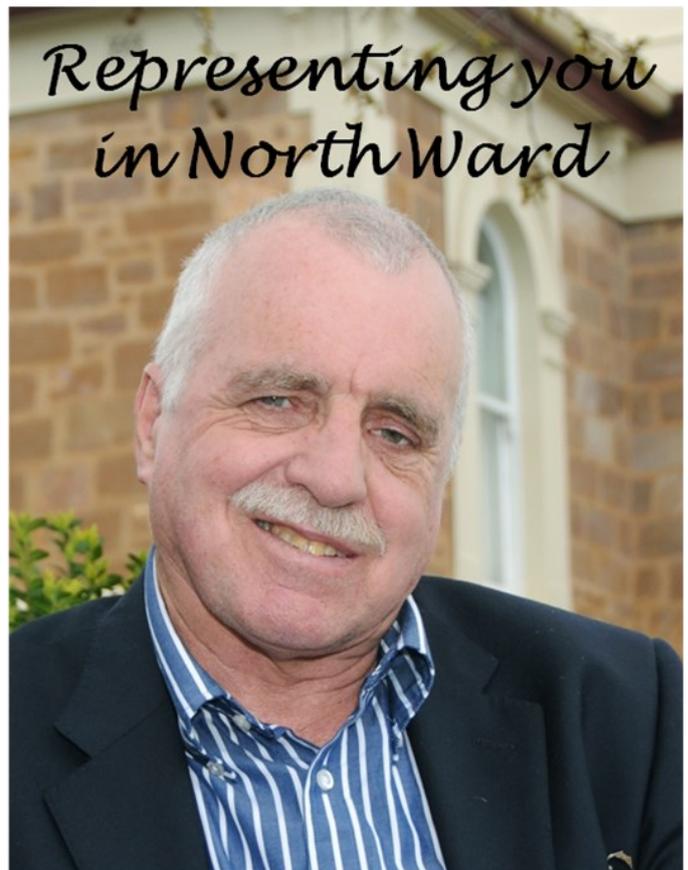
At the time of writing, meetings with the new Minister for Regional Development & Local Government, **Geoff Brock**, were also being set up to make sure the Minister is made aware of the myriad other infrastructure issues affecting the Mt Barker district.

Supermarket options. Following Council's decision late last year that an earlier proposal for a 'Nairne West' supermarket and other services at the corner of Woodside Road and the Old Princes Hwy would not proceed, there has been some renewed interest by various parties in building a supermarket at the eastern end of Main Rd.

Three sites are probably in contention. However, all would require rezoning to permit commercial development; each is currently zoned 'industrial' and/or 'residential'. A 'Nairne & Environs Development Plan Amendment (DPA)' is currently being worked up which, if approved, would open the way for more flexible application of the zoning arrangements in Main Road, including the three sites being promoted for a supermarket and other facilities.

Nairne Soldiers Memorial Hall to become a community centre? Following detailed discussions by the Hall Committee and Council staff, it is expected that the Hall will soon become a Council asset. While day-to-day management of the Hall would continue to be undertaken by the volunteer Committee, legal ownership of the facility by Council will relieve the Committee and outside supporters of the heavy financial burden in maintaining the building.

At the time of writing, it is expected that a report will now be prepared by Council staff for Council consideration of the proposal to accept legal ownership. The Nairne Master Plan, prepared about 18 months ago, recognised the need for a viable multi-purpose community centre in Nairne. The Hall becoming a Council asset will open the way for greater investment in the building by developing it for a range of purposes beyond its current capacity.



Cr Trevor Corbell JP

0408 685 759

8188 0261

tcorbell@dcmtbarker.sa.gov.au

District Council of Mt Barker

Councillor's commentary . . .

(continued from page 7)

Council elections. Local government elections are held every four years, and this year's Council elections will be held in October/November. Nominations for all District Council of Mt Barker positions (Mayor and 10 Councillors - 4 in North Ward, 4 in Central Ward and 2 in South Ward) will open on 2 September. Nominations will close at 12 noon on 16 September. Voting will occur between 20 October and 7 November. The count will be undertaken by the Electoral Commission of SA on 8 November. All voting will be postal and is voluntary.

I encourage you to consider running for Council. The remuneration is paltry, and the work can be time-consuming. But you get to meet some really interesting people in our diverse community. If you really want to contribute to the wellbeing of our community, both now and for its future, and be involved in the sometimes challenging work of policy making, I suggest you think hard about what you can contribute as an Elected Member of Council.

Finally, please contact me on 0408 685 759 or at tcorbell@dcmtbarker.sa.gov.au if you want more information on any of the matters raised in this column. You can also contact your other North Ward Councillors, Jeff Bettcher, Lyn Stokes and Simon Westwood. And, for up-to-date information as it comes to hand, go to my Facebook site: 'Councillor Trevor Corbell'.

Cr Trevor Corbell JP



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By Karel Michielsen, Nairne Medical Clinic

If you are eligible for a free flu shot it is because you are at increased risk of getting the flu. If not, getting yourself immunised helps protect the community. Further information is available at www.isg.org.au, or your chemist, or call us on 8388 6288 and make an appointment to get your vaccination and also meet the new doctor, Dr Luke Ganesan.

The Nairne Medical Clinic is also pleased to introduce Megan Wright.

“Hello, my name is Megan Wright and I am very pleased to be introducing myself as the new Physiotherapist working from the Nairne Medical Clinic. I graduated from the University of South Australia about 18 months ago, with a Bachelor of Physiotherapy. Since completing my studies I have worked full-time in a small and busy practice in Willunga. I will be available Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday mornings here in Nairne initially, with a view to becoming full-time in the near future.

Prior to becoming a Physiotherapist, I had my own remedial massage practice, in my hometown of Canberra, with 10 years experience in this area. For those who prefer a physio with a strong hands on approach to managing your aches and pains, I am the person to come to. I believe in performing a thorough assessment of your current situation in order to understand the reasons behind why you have the current injury or condition. From this, I believe it's important to work with you to establish a treatment program based around your own goals of returning to full pain-free functioning. You can expect a hands on approach to your health management, with a home exercise program to help speed up recovery.

I have a strong interest in women's health and I am currently going through the process of advancing my skills in this area. I am also very interested in working with people who experience chronic pain conditions, and using mindfulness practices to help facilitate improving an individual's ability to manage their pain. Hydrotherapy is another area I am passionate about. In the near future, I hope to set up a program for clients to attend at a local pool, where each person will have a unique program designed around their specific condition. The combination of warm water and exercise is a brilliant tool for managing many muscular issues.

I have been living with my family here in Nairne for the last 5 years, and I now look forward to working in this wonderful little town of ours and meeting so many more of you who call Nairne home.”

Immunise Australia Program

Influenza 2014.

The 2014 program starts on 15 March. Annual influenza vaccination is provided free through the National Immunisation Program (NIP) to groups who are at an increased risk of influenza complications.

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Nairne ANZAC Day Service, 2014

The Mick Murphy Park, where the Nairne Soldiers Memorial is situated, was overflowing with people for the Anzac Day Service this year.



Anzac Day service, 25 April 2014.

The ceremony was conducted by the president of the Nairne District Sub-Branch of the Returned and Services League, Anthony Semler. Many local organisations came forward to lay wreaths, including the RSL, the Mt Barker Council, the Country Fire Service, the Nairne and Districts Residents Association, Nairne Bremer United Football Club, the Nairne District Lions Club, the Nairne Red Cross, the Balhannah Scouts Group, the South Australian Police and the Nairne Primary School. The Catafalque Party was provided by the Australian Air Force Cadets, 602 Squadron, from Woodside.

Following the service, a gunfire breakfast was provided by the Red Cross and Lions Club of Nairne.

The Nairne Sub-Branch of the RSL normally meets on the second Tuesday of the month at the Nairne Soldiers Memorial Hall at the western end of Main Street. Meetings start at 7.30 pm and are usually completed by 9.00 pm. Contact Anthony on 8388 0980 for more information.



Anthony Semler at the Nairne Soldiers Memorial after the service.



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Creative writing competition to celebrate Nairne's 175 years.

About 100 years ago, students from the Nairne State School were awarded prizes for their essays on Nairne which were submitted to a competition run by the Daily Herald newspaper.

The Nairne and Districts Residents Association, at their recent meeting in April, has decided to run a similar competition this year as part of our general celebrations of the 175 years since the establishment of our home-town, Nairne.

NAIRNE.

Mr. F. Scott presided at the meeting of the Nairne local committee on Saturday night. It was decided to offer prizes to the third, fourth, and fifth class children at the State school for an essay on Nairne. In each case three prizes (first 10/, second 5/, and third 2/6) will be offered. The editor of "The Daily Herald" will be asked to judge the essays and "Remus" will be asked to publish them in the Children's Page of "The Herald." A sum of £2 was voted to "The Daily Herald" fund.

Excerpt from the Daily Herald, 2 December 1913, page 2.

We will be offering prizes in three **children's essay** categories: 1.) Children in Reception—grade two; 2.) Children in grades three to five; and 3.) Children in grades six and seven. There will also be an **open poetry competition** for the teenagers and adults.

The topic is 'About Nairne and why I like living here'. Please write your name and school grade (if applicable) clearly at the top of your writing, and keep your essay short—just 250 words or less. You can submit your essay to nairnenews@hotmail.com, or address it to Nairne News Editor, PO Box 415, Nairne, or pop it in the drop-box at the Nairne Primary School office. **Entries must be received by Monday 1 September 2014.** Winners will be announced at the final 175th celebratory event at the end of the year. So if you like writing and love Nairne, get your thinking caps on! For some inspiration, here is the essay of one of the prize-winners back in 1914.

FIRST PRIZE ESSAY ON NAIRNE

By Starling (K. Mathews)

Nairne is situated about 25 miles southeast of Adelaide by road and 35 miles by rail. It was named after the late Matthew Smillie's wife, a part of her name being Nairne. The township was founded in the year 1836 and was a part of a survey of 4000 acres. It was about two miles from Nairne in the year 1840 that the late Hon. John Dunn built his first windmill and made the first flour mill in the State. Some years after Mr Dunn had two stone flour mills in Nairne. It was within two miles from this town, at the Bald Hills, that the finest wheat was grown by Messrs Frame, Bell, and others in 1861, winning a gold medal at the London Exhibition, and in the same year at Paris in 1862. In 1908 Mr J. Frame, a grandson of the late Mr Frame, caused a sensation in the great Franco-British Exposition, London, by beating his grandfather's record with a beautiful sample of wheat, going 70 lb. to the bushel. A resident of Nairne, the late Mr Samuel Day, helped to bring the first sheep over the Mount Lofty Ranges. It is noted for its butter, cheese, bacon, wool, sheep, and its fruits—apples, pears, plums, cherries, and blackberries. It has two saleyards. Elder, Smith, & Co. hold their sale every other Tuesday, and Bennett & Fisher every third Thursday. It has a church, institute, post office, police station, bacon factory, two hotels, two butchers, a baker, a bootmaker, several stores, and many private residences.



Nairne Railway Station

By John Taylor, Nairne District Lions Club

The rail line from Adelaide reached Nairne in 1883, which for several years was the end of the line. It was at this time the railway stations buildings were constructed, making Nairne Railway Station one of the oldest railway stations in the State.

In the 1970s, South Australian Railways, the original owners, was sold by the state government to Australian National Railways, a commonwealth Government rail body. It was in the later 1970s that the Nairne Railway Station ceased to exist as an operating freight and passenger rail station. Because of the improved road transport, passenger buses and changes to local industries, the rail system had become basically obsolete and the amount of freight and passenger traffic was pretty well non-existent. In my younger days, during the 1950s, the station was quite a busy place. There were daily passenger trains to and from Adelaide. The Melbourne Express stopped to pick up passengers to Melbourne, and Chapman's smallgoods loaded their produce daily on the passenger train to Adelaide. There were stockyards at the Railway Station with cattle, sheep and horses being freighted in and out - from the saleyards and for Chapman Smallgoods. Chapman Smallgoods, before they changed to oil-fired boilers at the factory, would have rail wagons of coal delivered to the station.

Starting in the late 1950s, Nairne Pyrites at Brukunga had their explosives delivered to Nairne by rail. A rail siding was constructed just east of the township, by Hogans Road, where the

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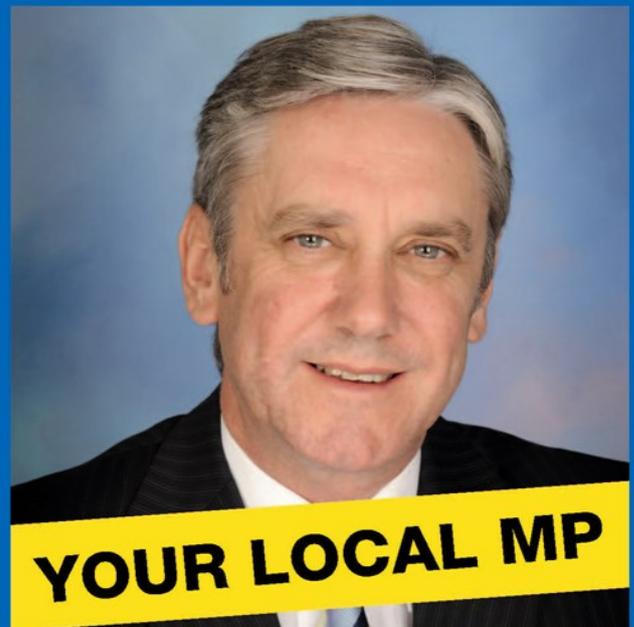
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concentrate from the mine was loaded into rail wagons for shipment to Adelaide. Local farmers had items such as fertiliser delivered by rail. These things, plus all the other minor bits and pieces, made a quite busy little place for the stationmaster and porters who were manning the station 24/7.



The stationmaster, Mr Bill Joyce, lived with his family in the residence attached to the station building. The Park at the railway station is named after Bill Joyce who, from the late 1940s, was stationmaster at Nairne for some 24 years. Mr Joyce, as well as being stationmaster, was a very active member of the community. Among other things, he was a member of the Soldiers Memorial Hall committee and the Group Leader of the Nairne Boys Brigade.

The local rail maintenance gang was also based here and they went out every day to do rail maintenance, etc. From time to time, when major works were to be done, a tent camp was set up where Bill Joyce Park is now situated and a large crew of men would be based there to do the allocated project.

When the rail system still used steam trains, quite often they would stop at Nairne to take on water from the old overhead tank at the western end of the rail yard. The water for this was piped from what we called the reservoir - situated alongside Woodside Road, opposite the Strawberry Farm just past Murray Road. The trains would also clean out the cinders from the engine furnaces.

With the advent of diesel locomotives and larger steam engines during the 1950s, the goods shed, which is now a ruin, was modified to its present shape - the old design had an archway over the railway line and the wagons pulled up to a platform under this. A new signal control room was also added on to the front of the station building to update the controls. But apart from these modifications, the station is basically as it was when first constructed back in 1883.

When the rail was busy there were some railway cottages in Lower Nixon Street, most of which were demolished some years ago.

For what it is worth, this is a basic history of what I can tell you of the Nairne Railway Station. As for the Nairne and Districts Lions Club involvement, this started back in about 1985, when what is now Bill Joyce Park was just an overgrown rubbish dump and we Lions decided the town deserved better so we set about fixing it. After some negotiations, we obtained a lease for the section of land from ANR and, through a lot of hard work, tidied it up into a park.

Soon after, the railway station became abandoned - apart from some switching gear the ANR still had there. Vandals moved in and started wrecking the place. So we (Nairne Lions) decided to try and save it. After some lengthy negotiations, by 1993 we had our lease extended to cover the railway station. Since then, through renting out the residence, with Council and Government grants and many, many hours of volunteer work, we have maintained the building and surrounds and tried to improve it - and we are still doing this as we speak. Hopefully, sometime in the future, if we can get cooperation from State and Local government, this beautiful bit of our heritage and history can be transformed to community ownership and then guaranteed preservation for future generations.

And it Happened at Nairne...

By Ray Jaensch

A few weeks ago a friend asked me if I had any stories relating to the town of Nairne. The inquirer was aware that I had grown up at nearby Callington, and that I had a flair for telling and writing true anecdotal stories from the past – especially stories related to my almost 40 years of service in the railways of this state of South Australia. And so I submit a couple of stories herewith for your Nairne magazine.

All of my stories are penned from memory and many of them involve dialogue, and it will be understood that dialogue can seldom be remembered verbatim – especially when the event took place many years ago. So wherever dialogue occurs, I recall it to the very best of my ability, while taking into account the temperament and the personalities of the characters involved, and also the demeanour and attitudes that prevailed at the time and the scene where the event occurred.

With all of those factors in mind, I shall now elaborate on a couple of stories that I had previously penned in relation to two stints of relieving that I undertook in the Nairne signal cabin while I was on the SAR relief staff in 1955 and 1956. At that time, Bill Joyce was the stationmaster at Nairne and there were two porters-acting-signalmen – Ray Fishlock and Bruce Errington. Just prior to that time, a Nairne lad, Len Warren, had held one of the latter mentioned positions, but Len had moved on. There was also a resident ganger and a per-way gang consisting of several packers. The stationmaster used to work the day shifts – about 7 am to 5 pm – and the porters worked the afternoon and midnight shifts. Overtime was usually cut out by one of the porters from the Mt Barker Junction, Don Buckley.

Life at Nairne Railway Station in those days could be busy. There was often two and three platform trolleys standing on the station platform stacked with cartons of smallgoods to be loaded into the brake vans of passenger trains that stopped at Nairne. Wagon loads of the same goods consigned to country and interstate destinations were attached to goods trains at Nairne on a regular basis, and incoming loaded livestock vans were detached at the station for unloading. At the same time, pyrites was being loaded into rail wagons at a specially constructed siding situated about three kilometres east of the Nairne stations.

The officer on duty operated the signal cabin, as well as attending to the issuing of tickets and the handling of local and interstate bookings for rail travel. Consequently, one used to “have one’s moments” when relieving at Nairne. It could get busy. However, it was handy for me - my parents still lived at Callington at that time, I lived at home and I rode my motorbike to and from the shifts that I worked at the Nairne railway stations.

This story, which relates to my relieving in the Nairne signal cabin, is one that leaves me with egg all over my face. However, that doesn’t really bother me. I truly believe that fact will always be stranger than fiction – and a darn sight more interesting! If it happened, I love to tell it! And if I happen to be the ‘villain’ in that story, then so be it! Stiff cheddar.

After 12 months of service I was due for my first three weeks of annual leave – and of course my first free pass! Big deal! So I headed off to Mt Gambier on the then Bluebird service that left

Adelaide at 11:20 each day, Monday to Saturday. It was on this excursion that I met railcar driver, Peter Bampton.

Now Peter was a great guy. He had been a Port Adelaide footballer of some renown in the SANFL. Records show that he was the team's 'best and fairest' player in 1925 and captain of the team in 1927 – no mean achievement in either case. Anyway, I latched onto Peter very early in the train journey after I joined the train at Callington, and I spent most of the journey to Mt Gambier riding and talking with him in the driver's cab of the leading Bluebird rail car.



Railcar driver, Peter Bampton, stands in the doorway of the leading Bluebird Railcar at Murray Bridge Station in 1953. The 3-car set (car—trailer— car) was on the Mt Gambier to Adelaide service.

Photo: Ray Jaensch

It soon became evident that Peter had a fairly 'heavy foot' and he wasn't renowned for 'dragging the chain' when it came to driving a train from point A to point B. We had a great time going to 'The Mount' and back, and as we neared Callington on the return journey, Peter said to me "Eh listen, Ray, I'm driving the Moonta Bluebird tomorrow afternoon – why don't you come to Moonta with me? I'll get you a bed in the barracks at Moonta, and you can come back with me the next day!" He didn't have to ask me a second time! (I'd be first to admit that I'm a 'big kid' who's never grown up and I've always loved trains! And still do!) And so, it was home to Mum and Dad at Callington to break the news that I'd only be home for one night and then I'd be off to Adelaide and then Moonta the next day. Well, Mum and Dad were used to this sort of thing with me and so off to Moonta I went and, of course, Peter Bampton and I became really good friends.

And then came an evening some two or three years later when I was relieving in the Nairne Signal Cabin. I believe it was on a Friday night, and in those days there was a five minute difference in the scheduling of the Adelaide to Taillem Bend service on Friday and Saturday nights. A single Bluebird railcar was normally used on the service and as the train approached the Nairne station on this particular night, I looked up at the clock in the cabin and I thought to myself "Blimey, he's running five minutes early!" When the train came to a stand in the station, I walked out onto the platform and I saw that the driver was Peter Bampton, so I stepped up into the front driver's section of the Bluebird and greeted Peter - then I told him that he was five minutes ahead of time. He replied "Eh listen, how could we be five minutes ahead of time Ray? Mt Barker Junction wouldn't have let us go five minutes early and we couldn't pick up five minutes on the short run from there to here!" To which I said, "Well I dunno, but you're five minutes early Peter!" And then I began a conversation with my friend while I glanced at my watch every minute or two as I waited for what I believed to be the correct departure time of the train. After about five minutes had passed, Peter said, "Eh, are you sure you're not mixed up with Saturday's timetable, Ray - you

know there's five minutes difference in the two schedules?"

Peter's words hit me like a bolt out of the blue – he was right - I was confused, I wasn't thinking straight! And now the blasted train was five minutes late! What an idiot!

I made a dash out of the front of the railcar and back up into the signal cabin to clear the signal for the train to depart. As I leaned out of the window to frantically wave 'right-away', Peter came to the door of the Bluebird and yelled out, "She'll be right, Ray. Don't worry about it - I can easily make up five minutes between here and Monarto South!" And away went the train with Peter Bampton at the controls. And yes, he did make up the time too! I listened in on the Train Control phone about thirty minutes later and I heard the Porter at the Monarto Station report "The Taillem Bend Bluebird was in and out of Monarto South on time!" Phew! Good ol' Peter! He got me out of that one!

And so, Peter Bampton must have been pretty slick as a footballer and he was no 'slouch' when it came to driving trains either. He's long gone, and perhaps he's up there somewhere driving trains on that big railroad in the sky. And if he is, I'll bet they're all on time! Good on yer, Mate!



31 Princes Road, Mt Barker, 5251

Phone: 8391 2747

Email: communitycentre@internode.on.net

Web: www.mtbcc.com.au

OVER 50's EXERCISE CLASSES

Research shows that regular exercise can have a positive effect on some chronic conditions, and can also enhance your mental wellbeing, improve balance, and enhance older people's ability to maintain an independent lifestyle.

Weekly classes, including Strength for Life classes, are conducted at various locations, including Nairne. Cost per session: \$6.

A joint initiative between the Mount Barker Community Centre, the District Council of Mount Barker, Lions Clubs of Mount Barker and Hahndorf.

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- Learn to use a computer
- Introduction to Word
- Introduction to Excel
- Digital editing of photographs
- Social media
- Emailing Skills
- Windows 8

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- Yoga (Nairne, Wednesday mornings)
- Bridge
- Canasta
- Tai Chi Qigong
- Men's shed

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- Foodwise
- Sport Ability hub
- Community fun and fitness

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Tuesdays – Fridays, 9 am – 1 pm

Phone: 8391 5059

An Old Railwayman's Dream

By Ray Jaensch

Sometimes I just sit and ponder on those good old days of yore,
 When a worker served with diligence, and dignity, and more.
 When a railway man was someone, and he walked with his head held high,
 As he carried out his duties with aplomb, and a watchful eye.

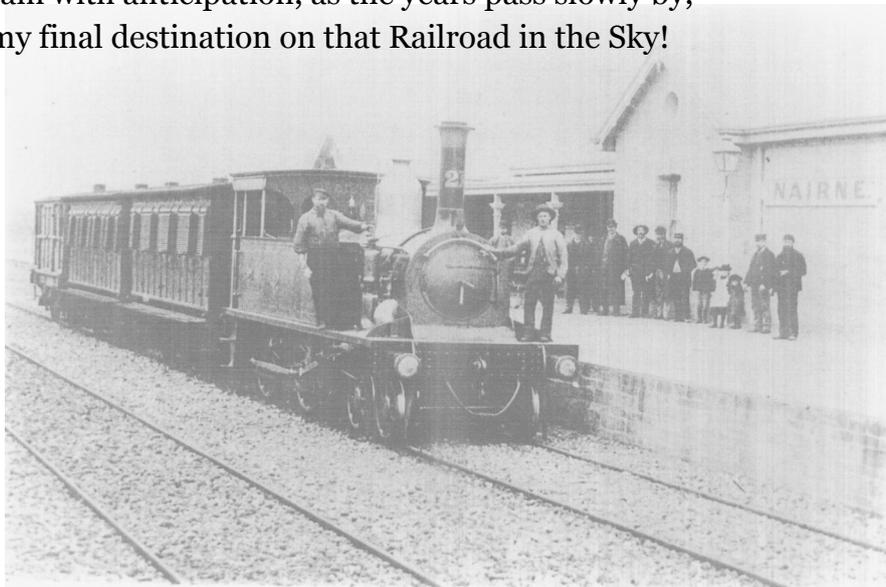
And I think of all the changes that have come since yesteryear,
 And of all my dear old workmates, and I shed a silent tear.
 Some have gone to greener pastures – to that Railroad In The Sky
 And I wonder do they sit there watching ghost-trains passing by!

And the old-time Engine Drivers – the Men Of The Iron Horse
 Are they driving trains up yonder on a long and winding course?
 And the Guards and the Stationmasters, are they working up there too?
 And do the saints all come with questions that they ask of the “Man-in-Blue”?

Would they use the same old Rule Book – and the same Appendix too?
 Would they still get Fines and ‘Cautions’ every time they make a blue?
 Are the tracks there made of silver?...Are the stations lined with gold?
 When you have these weird sensations, well, I guess you're growing old!

And I hear the young blokes talking when they're working trains today,
 But they speak a different language, and I don't know what they say!
 And it seems that things keep changing – even here in my old game
 Giving proof to the proclamation that nothing stays the same!

So I'll just seek consolation in those memories from the past
 Well aware of the affirmation – even those are fading fast!
 But I'll dream with anticipation, as the years pass slowly by,
 Of my final destination on that Railroad in the Sky!



*Photo: Nairne
 District Lions
 Club Railway
 Station Archive.*

Red Cross, Nairne Branch.

By Barb Milne

Our Branch meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the Month in the Nairne Institute at 12.30 pm. Visitors are most welcome. For enquiries, phone Barb on 8388 0642.

Red Cross Calling was held during March and our members collected donations at local shopping centres etc. where we raised over \$1000. Many thanks to all volunteers and donors.

Of interest to older members of our community and people living with an illness or disability, Red Cross provides free daily phone calls to check on the wellbeing of people who are at risk of an accident or illness that may go unnoticed. The calls provide reassurance, as well as helping people to maintain their independence. Friendly Red Cross volunteers make calls each morning 365 days a year. If the call is not answered, Red Cross takes action to ensure everything is okay.

There is also now available a very helpful First Aid app. The Red Cross First Aid app is a free, comprehensive pocket guide to First Aid, giving you access to the most up-to-date First Aid information anytime, anywhere: <http://www.redcross.org.au/first-aid-app.aspx>

Australian Red Cross - State Office, new address : 212 Pirie Street, Adelaide, 5000

Phone 08 8100 4500

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Please contact Chloe on 0438 880 342 for further information.

Registration Number: DECD 0033 HM

Chloe's Family Day Care offers a day care service based in our family home, which provides your child with a supportive, caring and hygienic environment. I have a Certificate 3 in children's services and am currently studying for my diploma. I have valid first aid certificates and police checks for working with children. My home is fully compliant with Family Day Care's strict guidelines and insurances.

I am located in Dawesley and currently have limited vacancies Monday to Friday from 6am to 6pm. Be quick to secure your position for term 2!






INK POT ARTS WORKSHOPS TERM TWO 2014



DRAMA

CHILDREN OF THE BLACK SKIRT by Angela Betzien. Directed by David Hirst.

10 weeks starting Thursday 1 May, 12-18 year olds, 5.15 pm – 7 pm, Mount Barker Town Hall

Ink Pot Arts is proud to present this production featuring social justice issues by award-winning playwright Angela Betzien, to be staged as part of the 175th retrospective of the district. Holiday rehearsals will take place in the July holidays, with performances 1 - 3 August 2014.

LIVING HISTORY PROJECT—From Footprint to Footplate by Brian Fox. Directed by Jo-anne Sarre.

Opportunities to be a part of 'history in the making' are being offered through this exciting project in partnership with SteamRanger Heritage Railway. Ink Pot Arts is creating a 40,000+ 175 year historic theatre production. Skill building workshops in performance will be offered throughout terms two to four, for adults, teenagers and children. For more information, contact Jo-anne via the details below.

CIRCUS Workshops with Tony Hannan

9 sessions starting Friday 2 May for 7-12 year olds, 4 - 5 pm Fridays, Mount Barker Waldorf School Gym

Circus is fun, infectious and a great way to develop coordination and confidence! Ink Pot Arts is proud to offer Cirkidz founder Tony Hannan's workshops, which provide participants with a chance to develop a variety of circus skills, tasted throughout the term – manipulation skills (hula hoop, diablo, plates etc), games, mat skills and trapeze. Participants will be developing their skills to present as part of an Ink Pot end of term/solstice showcase on 21 June.

AHUG (Adelaide Hills Ukulele Group)

Ink Pot Arts is excited to bring you a whole new experience for sharing a passion for the Ukulele. Each month, guest artists from near and far will share their favourite tips in a range of skills, with opportunities for jamming at the end of the session. "*Ukulele washes away the dust of everyday life*" - Unknown author.

Beginner and Intermediate Ukelele groups with Christopher Carr. 9 sessions starting Monday 5 May at Ink Pot Arts' Creative Hub, upstairs in the Town Hall.

AHUG Ukulele Guest Artist Evenings for all ages, 7.30 - 9.30 pm, 2nd Wednesday of the month.

The Gathering Wave all-comers choir 6 - 7.30 pm Tuesdays (2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month) at Wundalea Day Centre, Wellington Road (near Mt Barker hospital)

Composer and social entrepreneur, Pat Rix is widely respected as a national leader in social inclusion and internationally recognised for bringing community and professional artists, with and without a disability, together for high quality performance. The group performs at various locations throughout the year.

Bookings: quill@inkpot.com.au or 8388 0353/0429 673 327

Come & Try options available for all classes

15% discount on fees for second child in a family

Want to support Arts opportunities in the Mount Barker district?

Become a Friend of Ink Pot Arts to make a difference and enjoy special ticket deals and discounts from our sponsors! All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

For more information ring Jo-anne on 0429 673 327.



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Trees For Life

Learn how to look after our precious bushland

Trees For Life offers the opportunity to learn about managing bushland for biodiversity through Introductory Bush Regeneration Workshops. The workshops are held 9.30am-5.00pm, including a classroom session and 1-2 hour field trip.

Who should attend:

- Landholders who own remnant bush
- Community members
- Anyone wanting to take part in Bush For Life volunteer activities.

Workshop content:

- The diversity of our native vegetation and basic ecology
- Bush regeneration principles
- Minimum disturbance techniques
- Working safely in the bush
- How to get involved in the Bush For Life program
- Field trip including demonstration of bush regeneration techniques

One Day Workshops

Saturday	3	May	Victor Harbor
Thursday	22	May	Tea Tree Gully
Saturday	21	Jun	Hallett Cove
Wednesday	23	Jul	Mitcham Hills
Saturday	9	Aug	Littlehampton
Sunday	17	Aug	Norton Summit

Phone 8406 0500 | www.treesforlife.org.au

Adelaide Hills Farmers Market – food with a face, a taste and a place.

By Peta Page.

It's nice to notice and experience all the seasons, and really, you need to get outside to do it. In May and June you can breathe in the brisk air, enjoy the pretty autumn colours and do outdoor activities at the Adelaide Hills Farmers Market. Join in the making, creating, learning, celebrating and of course, eating! One of the endearing things about having the support of the hills community is the breadth of the events and groups that we can host at the market. Throughout May there will be:

- **May 3 – Autumn Garden Talk by Green Platypus Gardens** – a small local business inspired by permaculture design principles.
- **May 10 – Windowsill Farming Workshop** run by Karen Montgomery - make and take home a gift for Mother's Day. At this market you will also find the kids from Echunga Primary selling flowers and cards for mum, as a fundraiser.
- **May 24 – Annual Apple Festival** held to celebrate all things pome (apples and pears) thanks to Bluestone Estate. There will be an apple crush, games for kids and adults, tastings and much more.

The line-up for June is still being finalised, but we do know that the big event to mark in your diaries is our **Cake Competition on June 28**. Even if you aren't a baker yourself, it is worth coming along to check out the incredible cakes – the beauty and quality of the entries over the past 2 years has been outstanding – and I'm sure this year will be no exception. Email us at info@ahfm.org.au to enter.

You can also email us to get involved in the community side of the market, such as doing a monthly volunteer stint being the warm face of the market at the Info Tent...

Please note our new operating hours are 8:30 am – 12:30 pm each Saturday at 23 Mann Street, Mt Barker. If you want to check-in with what events are planned, or which stallholders are coming along, head to our website, www.ahfm.org.au



CARERS SUPPORT GROUP

Facilitated by Anne Dullaghan

This Group is held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Adelaide Hills Community Health Service, Mount Barker, from 11 am until 1.30 pm. Dates for 2014 are:

Thursday 8 May

Thursday 12 June

Thursday 10 July

Thursday 14 August

Thursday 11 September

Thursday 9 October

Thursday 13 November

Thursday 11 December



For more information contact Anne Dullaghan on 8393 1833

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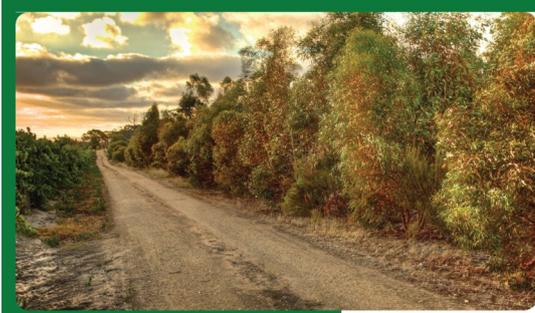
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www.treesforlife.org.au**

Uniting and Lutheran Church News

Nairne Uniting Church Celebrating 130 Years: This year, the Nairne Uniting Church will be celebrating 130 years of worshiping in the church as it presently stands in Allargue Street, Nairne. A special Thanksgiving Service will be held later in the year and the organisers are looking to invite past members of this church, as well as those presently involved, to attend this service. If you can help by providing names and contacts for any past members, or if you have any relevant memorabilia or photographs which could be displayed in the historical display which will be set up in the church hall for this special celebration, please contact Helen by phoning 8388 6350.



Church Services:

Uniting Services are held each Sunday commencing at 10.30 am, except for the third Sunday of the month when they combine with the Lutheran Congregation for service at 8.30 am.

Lutheran Services are held each Sunday commencing at 8.30 am, except for when there is a 5th Sunday in the month when they join with the Uniting Church for worship service at 10.30 am. Pastor John Ridenour officiates at the Lutheran Services.

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- ◆ ◆ Swags
- ◆ ◆ Shade cloth panels stitched together

Phone

8388 6564

News from St James Anglican Church, Blakiston.

By Ronda Jaensch

As the theme for this Newsletter is history, it is appropriate that we look at the history of the St James church built on the hill between Nairne and Littlehampton. It was the first church built in the Hills and Murraylands area.

It was built in 1847 of the old gothic style, with stone which was quarried near the Mt Barker summit. (The summit can be seen from the front steps of the church). The front doorway and the vestry doorway are also of the gothic style, although the vestry door itself is oblong and quite low, so priests need to remember to lower their heads so as not to scrape the tops of their heads.

The builder was Benjamin Gray, a local identity who once owned and built the Grays Inn at Mt Barker. Benjamin Gray is buried in the St James cemetery and he is often referred to as the founder of Littlehampton.

The first land survey was made in the Mt Barker area in 1839 but, previous to that, people squatted in the area. Escaped convicts and bushrangers were to be encountered in the hills in these first few years.

The beautiful stained glass window has been in the church since the 50th Anniversary of the building and replaced one with blue glass diamonds, similar to the side windows. The window depicting Jesus as our Shepherd and St James was made by Montgomery and Grimbley (well-known glass makers in that era) and was provided by the congregation. The seats are made of locally hewn gum wood.

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The site of the church obviously caused some friction within the parishioners at that time but, by 3 November 1846, it was all settled and building proceeded. The church measures 43 foot long by 23 foot wide, plus the chancel, and seats 140. An interesting note is that there were no foundations but the building was erected on flag stones, this is still evident as the centre carpet shows the various shapes of the stones and is uneven.

The name of the settlement came about when Capt Francis Davison bought land in the area in 1840 and named it after his home in England.

Across Princes Highway there is a restored school building. This was originally St James School and was built on Glebe land in 1848. It appears that it was only used as a school for about 20 years, as schools opened up in Nairne. Later, it became a Sunday School and was used as this until 1950s when the current hall was built near the church. The traffic had increased on the highway and it became dangerous to bring children across the road to the church, necessitating change.

There is belfry on the eastern side of the church which was built and donated to the church in memory of Dr Octavious Weld in 1911. Dr Weld lived at Mt Barker and was well loved in the district.

The first wedding in the church took place on 8 May 1847, just 10 days after the opening and was that of Erich Von Doussa to Anna Dorothea Schach, but there had previously been several weddings in homes.

History shows that the church has served several generations faithfully and it is still open and active in that capacity with **worship at 10.30 AM EVERY SUNDAY**. All are welcome to visit and see this historic church, which is now on the National Heritage listing.



Stained glass window in Blakiston's Anglican church.

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Nairne-Bremer United Football Club Inc

THOMAS FOOD INTERNATIONAL OVAL was in pristine condition for our season opener against Sedan Cambria. A good crowd turned up to see how the RAMS would fare and they were not disappointed.

Overall, it was a fantastic day and a big thank you must go out to everyone that helped kick start the season. Many put their hand up to help out in all areas and a great turn-out for Ladies Day really set the mood. With all grades winning well and a packed house for presentations and the Players Auction, we could not have asked for a better start.

A big welcome to the new players and families, welcome back to those returning from time away and it's good to see the many who have been with us for a long time now.

Now's the time for us all to come together as we take the 2014 season head on. A no-excuse attitude is needed from everyone on and off the field if we are to have the ultimate success and we are really looking forward to the journey.

Our social calendar for 2014:

25 April	Anzac Day Night game at Nairne
3 May	Presentations - Grays Inn
10 May	R Party
17 May	Presentations - Grays Inn
14 June	Mock Wedding
21 June	Modified Function
5 July	Presentations - Grays Inn
12 July	Life Members & Sponsors Day / 84, 89, 94 Premiership Reunion
19 July	Presentations - Grays Inn
26 July	Miss Nairne Bremer & Players Review
9 August	Presentations at the District Hotel
16 August	Theme Night

Don't forget there are meals at the club every Thursday night. Bring the whole family for reasonably priced meals.

HELP NEEDED. Again this season we are looking for your help to work the canteen, BBQ, and as drink runners. We ask you to please see us at training or this week's game to put your name on the roster. We have scheduled time slots per team but you have the chance to choose the date that works best for you. Being a part of the club means everyone needs to do their little bit to ensure it runs smoothly. Your help is appreciated and all strong clubs have a strong volunteer network. For all club details check our Facebook site, email bronte@pak-rite.com.au to be added to our weekly RAMPAGES email, or call 0408 606 882. Go ewe rams!

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EMERGENCY Fire, Police, Ambulance 000

Fire—general

Fire Ban information	1300 362 361
CFS Regional Office	8391 1866
Fire station (Nairne)	8388 6246
Fire station (Brukunga)	8388 6255

Medical

Nairne Medical Clinic	8388 6288
Nairne Community Pharmacy	8388 6422
Mt Barker Hospital	8393 1777
Poisons Information	131 126

Police

For attendance	131 444
Mt Barker Station	8398 1700

Legal

Legal Aid Service	1300 366 424
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Local Justices of the Peace

Kym Bartholomew	8388 6615
Trevor Corbell	0408 685 759
Greg Hutchinson	8538 5028
Paul Wells	83880502

Local Members of Parliament

<i>State:</i> Mark Goldsworthy	8391 5599
<i>Federal:</i> Jamie Briggs	8398 5566

District Council of Mt Barker

General enquiries	8391 7200
Waste Transfer Station	8388 1099

North Ward Councillors

Jeff Bettcher	0433 767 914
Trevor Corbell	0408 685 759
Lyn Stokes	8538 5160
Simon Westwood	0427 383 838

Businesses advertising in this issue.

Adelaide Hills Appliance Service	p 29	Littlehampton Veterinary Clinic	p 26
All Decked Out	p 12	Mount Barker Bottle and Can	p 12
Car Upholstery and Canvas	p 27	Nairne Community Pharmacy	p 5
Chloe's Family Day Care	p 22	Nairne Corner Takeaway	p 3
Crystalview Window Cleaning	p 8	Paul King Plumbing	p 2
District Hotel	p 32	Pope Nitschke Real Estate	p 32
Earth Adjustments Earthworks	p 28	Shadehunter Umbrellas	p 24
Gary Barlow Master Gas Fitter	p 27	Sheehan's Hardware	p 8
Hillier Tiling	p 16	Somerled Services	p 12
Hills Sitting	p 9	Town and Country Custom Cakes	p 9
House of Healing, Naturopath	p 14	Unfold Yoga	p 26
Littlehampton Child Care Centre	p 14	Yab's Maintenance	p 29

Thank you to the following premises providing space to distribute this newsletter:

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ◆ Corner Takeaway | ◆ Millers Arms Hotel | ◆ Nairne Post Office |
| ◆ District Hotel | ◆ Millie's Bakery | ◆ Nairne Community Pharmacy |
| ◆ 68 on Main | ◆ Nairne Service Station | ◆ Sheehan's Hardware |
| ◆ Foodmart | ◆ Nairne Market | ◆ Kanmantoo General Store |



District Hotel.

77 Main Street, Nairne.

Ph: 8388 6228



Counter Meals.

Lunch 12 - 2 pm Thursday-Sunday **Dinner** 6 - 8 pm Thursday-Saturday
(all other times by booking)

Meal specials:

Thursday Night - Schnitzel night

Friday Night - Kids eat free (conditions apply)

Saturday Night - Steak night

For more information see front of hotel, or speak to our friendly staff.

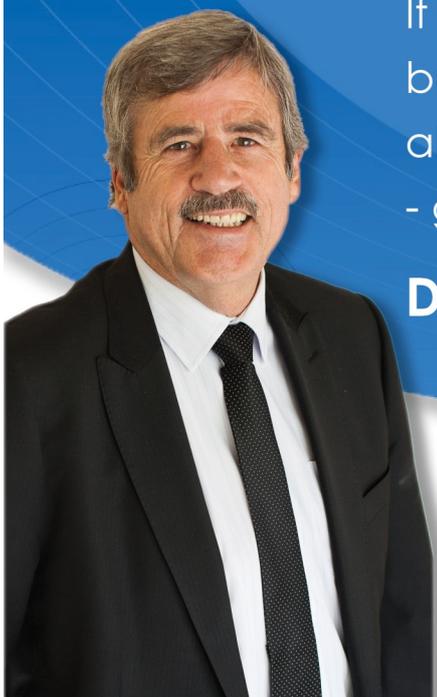
BARGAINS Liquor Store - good range of takeaway available.

EFTPOS now available. We also have an ATM.

SERVICING THE NAIRNE DISTRICT FOR OVER 30 YEARS

If you're thinking about selling, looking to buy or would just like a coffee and a chat about what the real estate market is doing - give me a call.

David Smart 0407 958 970



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national**
REAL ESTATE

| Pope Nitschke

www.popenitschke.com.au