



MTDCA

Dear Member,

Thank you for your continued support of the Association, as the new financial (and official MTDCA) year begins.

We've had some big changes recently, with the resignation of our Chairperson, Kerry Clark. His almost ten years of service to the Association (five as Chair) have been much appreciated, especially with his huge support and knowledge of Mount Torrens. Sarah Pollard (Acting Chair) and Sue Scott (Vice- Chair) have stepped up to new roles, and we welcome Rose Ralph as a Committee member. Sadly, the passing of Linda Green's husband Chris also occurred in July. Our sincere condolences go to Linda and family.

After the successful "Tracks of Change" exhibition at the Coach House in May (and June) the Committee has decided to trial a once a month opening of the Coach House (first Sunday of the month). The exhibition will be continued till the end of the year with the generosity of those who have donated items including Steamranger and the Railway Museum. All are welcome to visit from 11am - 3pm.

The MTDCA Committee (with the support of the Bennett family) have written to Adelaide Hills Council requesting they consider renaming the stone bridge on Townsend Street the "Andy Bennett Bridge" in memory of Andy Bennett. The request sent was unanimously endorsed by the Council and the public consultation process has started. The Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) and the Surveyor General remain to approve the change of name once public consultation occurs.



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Pleasingly we have started to see progress on the repointing of the stone bridge on Townsend Street, and it looks like Mount Torrens may finally have the tourist “Brown signs” at its entrance.

Once again (with Mount Torrens Centenary Park) we will be part of organising the community Christmas Market on December 7th and look forward to a fabulous market. We are also planning the Carols evening in December and appreciate the support of our members both in preparation and "on the day".

Our 2024/2025 AGM has been scheduled for Monday November 10th where we hope to see you all.

With kind regards
Sheree Hunt
Secretary MTDCA

Discover Mount Torrens

Discover Mount Torrens App Making Headlines

Our Discover Mount Torrens heritage trail walking app is continuing to get great coverage! On 28 June, I chatted live with Spence Denny on ABC Radio 891 about the app and how it's helping share Mount Torrens' rich history. We also received a lovely surprise when international travel website Journ e Mondiale published a fabulous review, highlighting Mount Torrens as a rare town that preserves 1850s architecture.

Sharing Our Story with Council

On 1 July, Discover Mount Torrens gave a short presentation at the Adelaide Hills Council Community Forum, showcasing both the “Tracks of Change: From Trains to Treadlies” exhibition and our Discover Mount Torrens walking app. It was a great opportunity to share what we've achieved and thank the many people who have supported the project along the way.

First Sunday of the Month

We opened the “Tracks of Change” exhibition again on Sunday 6 July and welcomed around 28 visitors. Some were first-time guests, while others had returned with friends or family after enjoying the app or attending during History Month. One visitor was keen enough to request a PDF version of the exhibition, which we were happy to provide.

Sarah Pollard

Archive Collection Group

Our group of 4 volunteers (with a floating but influential 5th member) is making steady progress scanning the photos and records in the temporary folders. These were collated by the team in the first few years of archiving and were the first steps in organising the huge number of photos and records originally collected by the late Kym Clark. These records are now being digitised and the hard copies stored in the Archive Shed.

We have successfully secured a grant from the SA History Trust to purchase eHive, a web-based system that will help us catalogue, organise and share the Mt Torrens collection. We can now proceed to the goal we originally had of making the Mt Torrens records available to the community and beyond.



Remember you can bring your photos or information to be scanned, or you can research family or town records. You may not have ancestors from the area (like several of us in the Archiving group) but, like me, you may wonder about the people who lived in your house years ago or how the land that your newer house is built on, was used. It's fascinating for the children too to see how people dressed, what transport was used and what school was like.

We are in the Coach House, 17 Townsend St. Mt Torrens (main street) most Mondays from 10-1. Our next challenge is familiarising ourselves with eHive, with the aim of digitally sharing the Mt Torrens archive later next year.

You will be able to search for specific information or just browse through the collection, finding many fascinating photos of early Mt Torrens, like the one of the 1900 butter factory in Mt Torrens, printed here. If anyone knows of its history, we would love you to let us know.

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Mount Torrens Community Garden

Free tomato seeds available

While it is wet, cold and frankly very miserable outside it is hard to start thinking of getting ready for next season's planting.

Now is the time to plan which beds you are going to use and get them ready. Basically, you need to be putting your organic fertilisers and compost out now and mulching so that you are feeding those very important worms who are going to turn these goodies into nutrients available to plants in about 3 months' time. November onwards the ground in Mount Torrens is usually warm enough to support young seedlings. If you want to grow from seed, now is the time to get started. If you have a sunny window and some way of providing a bit of heat to the soil in your seedling trays, you have the main conditions needed to grow seedlings indoors.

I usually start with plants that need a good lead time and are high value crops. It's a lot of effort but I reap the rewards and I love watching the seedlings grow taller each week, a real reminder that spring is on the way. So, my favourites to get going now are tomatoes, capsicums and egg plants. The Mount Torrens Community Garden saved lots of tomato seeds last season and we are happy to make them available to you. Free!!!

We will have seeds available at each of our regular garden working bees. The 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month between 9am & 11am. We can even give you advice on how to grow them. Just drop by.

Sue

