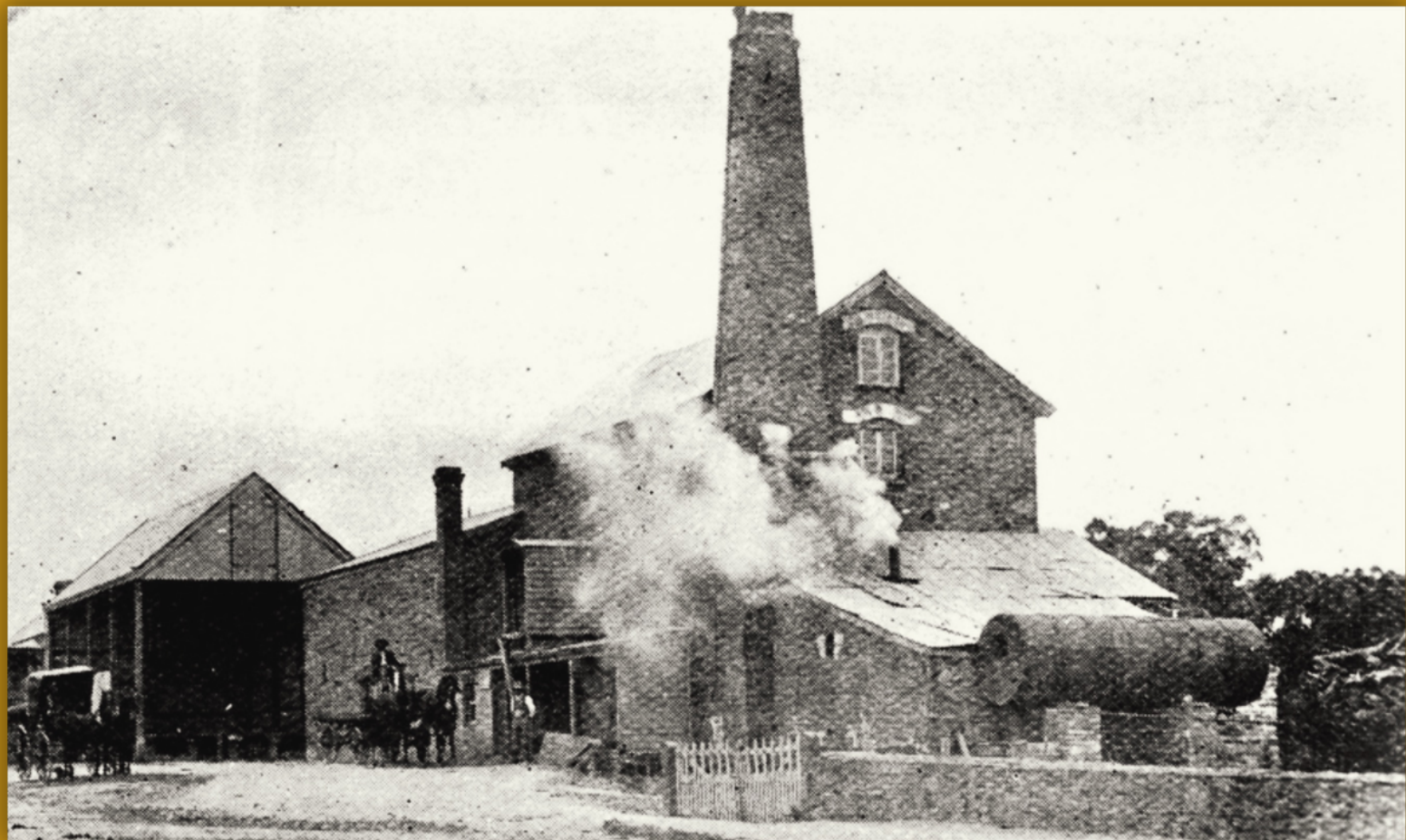


OUR DAILY BREAD

*Celebrating Connections Through Mount Torrens'
Baking History*

History Festival Report 2026



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Discover Mount Torrens

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Introduction

Each year the Mount Torrens and Districts Community Association participates in the South Australian History Festival in May. This year the festival theme was *Connections*. Discover Mount Torrens curated *Our Daily Bread*, an exhibition exploring the history of Mount Torrens through the story of its flour mill, bakery, the people, places and community connections that shaped local life.

Overview

Our Daily Bread explored the rich history of Mount Torrens through the story of the town's flour mill, Sumners Bakery and the wider network of people and community connections that shaped local life.



Presented in the historic Coach House, the exhibition brought together photographs, objects, original artifacts, and collections. Support from the Lions Club of Onkaparinga helped create an engaging and welcoming experience for visitors of all ages.

Our Daily Bread attracted 254 visitors during the History Festival period and generated strong community engagement and positive feedback.



Opening Event

Our Daily Bread was officially opened on May 3 by Drew Sumner, whose family operated Sumners Bakery since 1903 . The opening was attended by Ashton Hurn MP, Member for Schubert and Leader of the South Australian Liberal Party, Adelaide Hills Council Mayor Nathan Daniell, Councillors Malcolm Herrmann and Rick Gladigau, invited guests, visitors and community members.

For Drew, the opening provided a chance to step back in time, revisit family memories, and reconnect with former bakery employees. Their shared stories and recollections became one of the most memorable and meaningful aspects of the exhibition.

The exhibition was open to the public every Sunday throughout May from 11:00am to 3:00pm.



Discover Mount Torrens Chair Sarah Pollard and Mayor Nathan Daniell



Drew Sumner, Ashton Hurn MP, Cr Rick Gladigau



Previous Sumners Bakery employees with Drew Sumner at the opening.

Left to right: Ann Jarman, Veronica Nourse, Joylene Burton, Ian Kucina, Drew Sumner, Dave Geary

Attendance and Community Response

The exhibition attracted 254 visitors across the History Festival opening period, with attendees travelling from across the Adelaide Hills, metropolitan Adelaide, and regional South Australia.

Visitor feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many commenting on:

- the quality and professionalism of the displays
- the strong sense of nostalgia and local connection
- the storytelling and interpretation
- the welcoming atmosphere created by volunteers

Many visitors shared personal memories and stories connected to Mount Torrens, contributing to meaningful conversations and intergenerational connections that reflected the History Festival theme of *Connections*.

It is important to note that *Our Daily Bread* was open on Sundays only during the 2026 History Festival period, whereas previous exhibitions were open on both Saturdays and Sundays. Despite fewer opening days, attendance of 254 visitors represents a strong result and reflects the continued popularity of Mount Torrens' History Festival exhibitions. By comparison, attendance was 265 visitors in 2024 and 410 visitors in 2025.

Community Collaboration

The exhibition was made possible through the contribution of our volunteers, local residents and collectors. In particular, the support of the Lions Club of Onkaparinga played an important role in helping bring *Our Daily Bread* to fruition.

Special thanks are extended to:

- Lions Club of Onkaparinga
- Drew Sumner
- the Mount Torrens & Districts Community Association volunteers
- Leonie Feutrill, Rose Ralph and Dave York, and Craig Pollard for loaning collections, ephemera, objects and photographs
- Lobethal Bakery for donated apple strudel
- Everyone who contributed stories, memories, and support

The event demonstrated the strength of community collaboration and the ongoing public interest in preserving and sharing local history.



Visitors enjoying the exhibition



Outcomes

Our Daily Bread successfully:

- increased awareness of Mount Torrens' local history
- encouraged community participation and storytelling
- strengthened local pride and identity
- and attracted visitors to the township during the History Festival period

The exhibition also strengthened ongoing interest in the Mount Torrens History Centre and local heritage activities, helping build momentum for future exhibitions and events.

Following a visit to the exhibition, Federal Member for Mayo Rebekha Sharkie highlighted *Our Daily Bread* in a speech to Federal Parliament, recognising the uniqueness of Mount Torrens and the importance of preserving local history.

View Rebekha Sharkie's Parliamentary speech

<https://youtu.be/fb7yC6QgPik>



Leonie Feutrill, Sarah Pollard, Rebekha Sharkie MP, Dr Sheree Hunt, Karen Clark



Highlights

Key highlights included:

- Drew Sumner officially opening the exhibition
- Reunion of former Sumners Bakery employees at the exhibition opening and throughout the History Festival
- the original baker's oven on loan from local residents
- vintage baking tools and kitchenalia
- photographs, ephemera and stories from Sumners Bakery
- Architectural photos connecting the town's buildings and community life
- QR codes provided access to additional information throughout the exhibition



Conclusion

Our Daily Bread highlighted how local history can connect people through shared experiences, memories, and place. The exhibition not only celebrated Mount Torrens' milling and baking history, but also showcased the enduring community connections that continue to shape the township today.

With 254 visitors, strong volunteer participation and overwhelmingly positive feedback, *Our Daily Bread* was a highly successful contribution to South Australia's History Festival 2026 and demonstrated the power of local history to bring people together.
