

Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 4

August/September 2026

MTDCA

Chair's Update

It's been a busy couple of months, with our committee members and volunteers putting in many hours across the Association. The Archive Group, Community Garden and Discover Mount Torrens have been busy with a range of activities and projects, while the committee has also been preparing our Winter Raffle. We hope you enjoy this update on what we've been working on.

Raffle

Our Mount Torrens & Districts Community Association Winter Raffle is now underway!

There are some wonderful prizes on offer, including a 3-night stay at Marion Bay Seaside Apartments (valued at \$750) as first prize, a large cement pot with potting mix and accessories as second prize, a gift basket from Botanic Poetry Florist & Gifts as third prize, plus three additional prizes, including a Hair & Beauty voucher.

Tickets are just \$5 each, with the raffle to be drawn on 4 October. To purchase tickets, visit Keith at the Mount Torrens General Store, email mttorrensdca@gmail.com, or keep an eye out for our volunteers over the coming weeks at Klose's Foodland in Woodside, Lobethal and Birdwood where we'll be selling tickets.

Funds raised will help support the Mount Torrens History Centre and Community Events, ensuring we can continue preserving our local heritage while bringing our community together through events and activities.

Mount Torrens Community Winter Raffle Fundraiser



1st Prize

3-night stay at Marion Bay Seaside Apartments
Valued at \$750

2nd Prize

Large cement pot with potting mix and accessories

3rd Prize

Gift basket from Botanic Poetry Florist & Gifts

4th-6th Prizes

Hair & Beauty Voucher plus two additional prizes

Drawn Sunday 4 October 2026
The Coach House, Mount Torrens

Only 500 tickets available
\$5 each



Mount Torrens & Districts Community Association ABN 59 835 798 595

Chair's Update (cont.)

Andy Bennett Bridge

We are pleased to report that the stone bridge on Townsend Street has now been officially named the Andy Bennett Bridge.

The name was formally approved by the Surveyor-General on behalf of the Minister for Planning and gazetted on 16 July 2026.

The Mount Torrens & Districts Community Association, with the support of Adelaide Hills Council, sought to have the bridge named in honour of the late Andrew "Andy" Bennett (1932–2025), a highly respected Mount Torrens resident and long-time business owner who devoted decades of service to the community. The naming is a fitting tribute to Andy's lasting contribution and ensures his legacy will be remembered for generations to come.

Constitution

For an update on the proposed Constitution changes, please see the Secretary's Report in this newsletter.

We encourage all members to take a few minutes to read the proposed changes and let us know your thoughts. Your feedback is important and will help ensure the Constitution continues to meet the needs of our Association and our community. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Sarah Pollard
Chairperson
0407 838 968

Secretary's Update

Dear Member,

In the last newsletter I highlighted the review of our Constitution which is ongoing.

The committee (with some member input) has been discussing membership structure, and it looks like there is support for a widening of our membership base to include those who have an interest in Mount Torrens but may no longer be residents.

The next important question asks "Why does the MTDCA exist" i.e our Objects and Purpose. This needs to be explicitly stated in any constitution.

Objects should be broad enough to allow the association to grow, but specific enough to guide committee decisions. It should be written in plain English and clearly distinguish between why the association exists (objects) and what it does (purposes).

It should be flexible enough to support future grants and partnerships. A grant-friendly constitution is designed to show funders that the association has a clear public benefit, strong governance, and broad authority to deliver community projects.

The objects should focus on community outcomes rather than internal administration, while the purposes should give the association enough flexibility to undertake a wide range of activities.

For a South Australian incorporated association, it's common to include a final "incidental powers" clause, such as: "The Association may undertake any lawful activity that is incidental or conducive to the attainment of its objects."

Secretary's Update (cont.)

In the current constitution the clauses read:

3. OBJECTS AND PURPOSE

- 3.1 Promote and encourage the sensitive preservation of the District lifestyle, buildings and environment.
- 3.2 Be a link between the Adelaide Hills Council, the Heritage Consultant and the Community.
- 3.3 Help prioritise preservation projects.
- 3.4 Lobby for and seek funding for restoration and other associated community projects.
- 3.5 Acknowledge achievements in restoration and ensure recognition.
- 3.6 Be a voice to the authorities to help minimise anti-social behaviour.
- 3.7 Encourage the use of the Mount Torrens Soldiers Memorial Hall and the Mount Torrens Centenary Park as focal points for community activities.
- 3.8 Help develop and promote projects to involve the youth of the town.

Please consider whether these objects and purposes from 2004 are relevant and appropriate to the MTDCA today and reflect what we are here for. The committee is keen to hear members' views.

Sheree Hunt (Secretary) mttorrensdca@gmail.com



Archive Collection Group

We have an increasing number of visitors dropping into the Coach House on Monday mornings. Some have been curious about what it looks like inside and others have searched our collection on eHive and contacted us for information. Google 'eHive mount torrens' for Mount Torrens Archive Centre and see what records we have digitised over the last few months. You may find a reference to your ancestors or your residence in Mt Torrens.

When we see an old building, we often wonder what its history is and who once lived there. In the last few weeks "Elephant House" in the main street has been offered for sale. An unusual name given to it by an earlier tenant in the late 80's to early 90's. He had several businesses there including a café. But why that name? Get in touch if you know the answer! It was later named 'Gypsy Dreams' by another tenant who sold Incense and similar products.

But originally the land was owned by George Dunn then sold to Benjamin Walker. In 1863 a two-storey shop and residence were built on the property. Later owners included storekeepers Theodore Lange (1883-91), George and Sarah Fountain (1891 to approx. 1892, when this photo was taken), and whose descendants still live in the area, and members of the Mullins family (1896-1960).



It has been a general store, a post office, a coffee lounge and a residence. The single storey residential wing to the north was added in 1890 by Patrick Mullins. His widow, Elizabeth, ran the Post Office from 1903-1924. The attached garage was added prior to 1891 at which time an external staircase was moved inside. Later, it was a mechanical business, a butcher shop, a fish and chip shop and then a café. And in between rented out as a residence.

VISIT US AT THE COACH HOUSE IN THE MAIN STREET (17 TOWNSEND ST).

WE ARE OPEN MONDAYS, 10AM - 1 PM.

OR other days by appointment.

Contact: Rose 0432 477 616 Email:

mt.historycentre@gmail

Rose Ralph, Acting Manager.

Kerry Clark, Chris Barry, Leonie Feutrill, Sheree Hunt.



Discover Mount Torrens

Brown Tourist Signs

You may have noticed the new brown tourist signs now welcoming visitors to Mount Torrens. This project has been two years in the making, beginning with a conversation over coffee with former Adelaide Hills Council Councillor Melanie Selwood before being progressed with the Adelaide Hills Council. It's wonderful to see the signs finally in place. They are a fantastic addition to our town and will help highlight Mount Torrens as a heritage destination well worth stopping to explore. It was also lovely to see the project featured recently in The Courier.



Sarah Pollard, Leonie Fuetrill, Kerry Clark

Walking App

We're also pleased to see our self-guided Discover Mount Torrens walking app continuing to grow in profile. The app allows visitors to explore the town at their own pace and will soon be added to the Walking SA website, helping introduce Mount Torrens to an even wider audience. If you haven't yet seen the app, check it out here:

<https://discovermounttorrens.stqry.app/>

Our Daily Bread

The Coach House continues to open on the first Sunday of each month, and our Our Daily Bread exhibition has proven to be extremely popular. We've been delighted to welcome many former Sumners Bakery employees, and extend a big thank you to those who have generously loaned photographs and memorabilia. The incredible photo album documenting the social lives of Sumners employees is a cracker! If you enjoy local history or would like to take a trip down memory lane, it's well worth a visit.

Discover Mount Torrens (cont.)

New Interactive History Display Completed

Our new interactive pull-out history display has now been completed, with the final panels installed in the Coach House. The project was partly funded by a grant from the History Trust of South Australia, with additional funding provided through Mount Torrens and Districts Community Association fundraising.

What began as an ambitious idea around 18 months ago has become a unique way of sharing Mount Torrens' history. The project has involved many volunteer hours researching, writing, designing and installing the display.

A special thank you to former Mount Torrens and Districts Community Association member Glen Donhardt, whose building skills brought the concept to life. Glen designed and built the custom false wall that conceals the display, making it possible to create an interactive exhibition within the limited space of the Coach House.

The display features six pull-out panels, each exploring a different aspect of Mount Torrens' history, including its architecture, industry, shopping, community life, street life, and the fires, floods and snow that have shaped the town.

If you haven't visited the Coach House for a while, we'd love to see you. Pop in and explore our new interactive history display and discover the people, places and events that have shaped our town through the years!

COACH HOUSE
17 TOWNSEND STREET

OPEN 1st SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
11am - 3pm
or by appointment

Sarah Pollard 0407 838 968



Community Garden

As most of you are aware MTDCA was gifted a 3m x 3m garden shed by Chris and Irene Barry for use in the Community Garden.

We gained a grant of approx. \$1,000 from the Torrens Valley Lions to pay for the Development application and construction of the shed.

As we were building the shed on Adelaide Hills Council land, we have had to gain a number of levels of approval from the various sections of the council and Plan SA. This process has added cost in both time and money, however

We have final approval !!!!!

The gardening group will level the site and lay dolomite this Saturday (1st August) and will raise the shed the following fortnight with internal paving to commence the next fortnight.

If anyone would like to come and help on any of the following dates it would be great fully appreciated.

Dates: (dependent on weather and people availability)

- Levelling dolomite foundation – Saturday 1st August
- Erecting Shed - Saturday 15th August
- Internal paving of shed - Saturday 5th September

Thank you
Sue (on behalf of Garden team)