



State Heritage Area

# Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 2

April/May 2025

## MTDCA

Dear Member

Welcome to our second newsletter for 2025!

The committee appreciates your continued membership of, and support for, your Community Association.

We are reminded of our vision of “Preserving Heritage, Enriching Community “and our mission “to protect Mount Torrens” heritage, unite the community and to preserve historical sites....enhance the district’s culture, linking stakeholders and promote vibrant community activities”.

The Committee works with that brief in mind front and centre.

Our groups including the Archive Centre (contact Rose Ralph) Discover Mount Torrens (Sarah Pollard) and the Community Garden (Sue Scott) each work towards those goals and I thank them for their dedication in fulfilling their roles.



## MTDCA

On March 1st the first Community Market was held for 2025 at the Centenary Park. It was held in conjunction with the Adelaide Fringe and Adelaide Hills Council “Discover, Play, Pathway” event. A small committee of MTDCA, Centenary Park and community representatives worked hard on putting this together and on the day.

The weather was perfect, with around fifty stalls present, as well as entertainment, fun events and the “Touch a Truck” experience. Although we had about double the numbers of attendees compared with the March 2024 event, numbers were down compared with other “Touch a Truck” events in other council areas. With the change in focus away from bikes and “Bikeway”, cyclists were notably absent (from our food stalls especially), however numbers of small children were well up! Stall holders were overall very positive, and many have already booked for the Christmas market on December 7. We thank all who contributed to this event which does represent a significant fundraiser for the MTDCA and the community. Our involvement is crucial to the markets continuing.



Please read Sarah’s excellent summary of this year’s History Festival event in May and Sue’s community garden work. Volunteers are always welcome! We are awaiting the outcome of our recent grant application to get our Archive collection online, thank you Rose.

Raffle tickets are now available at the Post Office Mount Torrens, various sites in the hills but also can contact Kerry 0467 276 421 or direct message the MTDCA through the facebook page. @Mt Torrens & District Community Association

Please, take care of yourselves and your loved ones!

Sheree Hunt  
Secretary MTDCA



## MTDCA Archiving Group

An exciting time of change for our group. We are now ready to start trialling our new cataloguing management system, eHive. This is a web-based cataloguing system used worldwide by hundreds of cultural institutions.

We are trialling eHive for free initially.

Jo Shaw from the Forest Range and Lenswood History Group Inc. visited us on Monday, 24th, February, to demonstrate how her group uses the system.

It appears to be an easy-to-use system that requires no special training. There is a built-in help guide and the company take care of secure hosting, backups and software and hardware upgrades. We have noted that the admin. is helpful and prompt in responding.

We have submitted a MaC grant application to cover both Registration and the cost of migrating data from the Mosaic system we previously used. Our decision to change from one system to another was based on the greater accessibility of eHive.

Our second visit from Jo and Suzette from the Forest Range & Lenswood History group was again very informative and they are willing to continue helping us as we proceed. Once we are registered and our information from Mosaic is received, we can set up a profile page and begin to load our photos and records.

And then, excitingly, in about 6 months we will start advertising our online collection and become as widely accessible as possible so people can search the Mt Torrens history archive.

There's obviously a lot of learning to take place but we are all looking forward to the challenge!

Rose Ralph  
Coordinator.

# Mount Torrens Community Garden

The Garden has made good progress with the doing and admin side of our mission.

We have spent and acquitted our most recent grant.

We now have a formal executed agreement from the AHC for the operation of the Garden in the Dunfield green space.

We also have written permission from AHC re: where we can erect the garden shed donated to us by Chris and Irene Barry.

We have a builder Mike Ferguson who has agreed to submit our plans to council and oversee the erecting of the shed. Glen has designed, priced and agreed to build (with help) the relocatable shed foundation. The MTDCA has agreed to our slab funding request. Ross has agreed to assist with the leveling of the site. Various members of the garden group will assist with the physical work of collecting and building the shed.

Growing the plantings and food is ever expanding and if you take a trip to the site, you will see that we are making great use of the additional wicking beds. The fruit trees are powering ahead and have had their first summer prune. The mulch and straw have been spread and three inground veg patches have been created.



## Mount Torrens Community Garden

We have grown and given away many kilos of fruit and vegetables. The garden group receives regular feedback from or about people using the produce. Some of the stories we have been told really warm our hearts. To quote one “I think it is the only fresh food they eat”.

We have now added posters and handouts, designed by Ella Homer to our promotion.

Our Facebook page has stalled whilst its designer is temporarily interstate. Meanwhile I make regular posts on the Mount Torrens Community Facebook page using my account.



We had a display that was well received at the Market Day. I had a number of conversations with people who talked about how they regularly visit the garden to pick produce. Thanks to Sarah for jazzing up our display with foliage and rustic garden artifacts.

Our membership remains about the same. We have three very regular very committed members. Another four that come about every third or fourth working bee. And a further three that have said that they are interested in joining us. Hopefully we will be able to capitalise on this interest and grow the number of committed members.

## Discover Mount Torrens

### Step Back in Time This May – Mount Torrens Celebrates History Festival

Preparations are in full swing for Discover Mount Torrens' participation in South Australia's History Festival this May, "Tracks of Change: From Trains to Treadlies".

Did you see – or hear – our life-size working railway crossing lights and bells at the recent Mount Torrens Market? This is part of our History Festival exhibition!



### Exhibition Details – Coach House, Every Weekend in May

Our "Tracks of Change" exhibition will be held at the Coach House, 17 Townsend Street, and will be open every weekend during May from 11am to 3pm. Look out for the Mount Torrens railway siding sign at the Heritage Reserve – a perfect photo opportunity and a welcoming sign that you've reached your stop!

### Guest Speakers & More – Stay Tuned

We're also hosting guest speakers during the month, sharing fascinating stories of the railway. Keep an eye on our social media pages for speaker announcements and event details:  
Instagram: [@Discover Mount Torrens](#) and [@mt\\_torrens\\_district\\_community](#) Facebook: Mt Torrens & District Community Association

### New! Heritage Trail Walking App

While you're visiting, don't forget to download our brand-new Heritage Trail Walking App – your guide to uncovering the history and charm of Mount Torrens at your own pace.

### Raffle Tickets Now on Sale – Win a SteamRanger Family Pass!

Be in the running to win one of five family passes for a return journey on the SteamRanger Highlander – from Mount Barker to Strathalbyn. It's the perfect family outing or a memorable gift! Raffle tickets are \$5 each - look out for us selling them at Klose's supermarkets in Woodside, Birdwood, and Lobethal, as well as the Mount Torrens General Store. The raffle will be drawn on June 1st.

So, mark your calendars, bring the family, and Discover Mount Torrens this History Festival!