



## Are you ready for the 153<sup>rd</sup> annual



### Mount Pleasant Show?

### ...but is it the 153<sup>rd</sup>?

The Mount Pleasant Show has become an institution for the district, and for all but two of the 153 years, it has been held within the town boundaries; initially in the vicinity of the current Soldiers Memorial Hall, and then on land adjacent the church building (now Townsend House) situated on Showground Road. All in all there was 13 acres of land acquired there over time by the Show Society, taking in the land between the current Saleyards and Showground Road, up to the School.

Whilst the 1941 Show had been quite successful, it was decided at the Annual General Meeting in December 1941, that due to petrol rationing, the likelihood of a successful Show was reduced, and so it should be postponed for the following year, although members were encouraged to maintain their membership for a minimum sum of 5/-. During 1942 the Defence Department had control of the Showgrounds for an Army Camp, with the 8<sup>th</sup> Auxiliary Horse Transport Regiment using the grounds for accommodation whilst training pack horses for shipping to New

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Mount Pleasant  
A. H. & F. Society Inc  
150 years of history  
1863-2013



**+ Did you know**  
that a book has been written about the Mount Pleasant Show? Historian Paula Bartsch recently published a book that covers 150 years of the Mt Pleasant A. H & F. Society's history. The book is available for purchase from the Show Office, for \$25.

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## The Show....

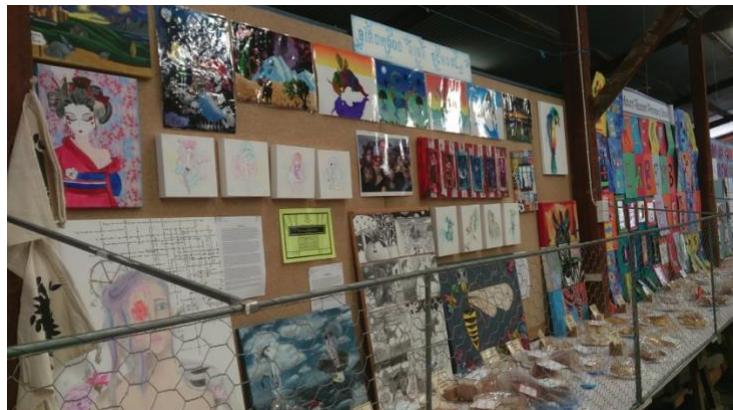
Guinea, but the camp moved to Moculta in June 1942, as the conditions around Mount Pleasant had become extremely wet and boggy. In December 1943 it was decided to resume the Show for 1944, on March 18<sup>th</sup>, making two years when it was not held, but giving minimal time for patrons to prepare their entries for the various sections. Mr A. L. Starkey, as President, made the comment 'that outside entries were better than had been expected,' but that 'the indoor entries were weak.' The ring had been surrounded by a new pipe fence, and this was early on lined with cars.

At the December 1944 Annual General Meeting there had been an offer put forward by the Presbyterian Church, for the Show Society to purchase the church building. The Show Society asked that repairs be made to the roof of the Hall, after which consideration would be made to the offer; it was during 1945 that the Presbyterian Church sold the building for £500. This building had been used each year for the Indoor Exhibition Hall, and this continued throughout the life of the Show at this vicinity, until 1977, after which time the Show has been held at Talunga Park.

The Poultry Shed and Exhibition Hall were removed from the old Showgrounds to Talunga Park; the roof of the former being transported in one piece on Graham Elliott's low-loader. What a sight that must have been... with it moving onto Saleyard Road, Chibnall Road, McGorman Road, and across Melrose Street to Talunga Park. Both buildings are still in use today, although now somewhat extended as needs have demanded.

A history of the Show and the Society was written for the 2013 Show, and is still available for purchase from the Show Office on Show Day, which, this year, is Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. It is a detailed history of the Ploughing Matches, which preceded the Show, and how the event has changed throughout the years. There are many photographs and if you regularly participate in the Mount Pleasant Show... your name may well be within its pages!

**Paula Bartsch - Historian**



## Our Library



Have you checked out the Library lately? You may be surprised at what you find! Apart from books, there are computers, a range of DVDs and a wealth of information on our district. Drop in and say gidday to Julie – she'd love to show you around and help you broaden your horizons.



Do you know any of these people? We would be very interested to hear who you think they might be!



## Uncovering Mount Pleasant's past:

# The Balhannah-Mount Pleasant branchline

Did you know that Talunga Park is situated on the old Railway Station and grounds?

The first meeting in reference to a railway was in 1858 at Macbeath's Inn Mount Pleasant, but it would take another 56 years and many discussions before the railway was agreed to.

### Railway discussions

In the 1880's there were many meetings and deputations to politicians about routes and prices; the original proposal in 1858 described a line to come from Gawler through Mount Crawford and thence onto the River Murray. The Government however, wasn't interested.

Discussions were still being had in 1891, when during a meeting of over 100 gentlemen Mr H. Giles moved "That this meeting favours the construction of a branch line of the railway from Balhannah to Mount Pleasant by the most desirable route". Again this meeting was ignored.

A similar proposal was made in 1896 but a week later at a meeting organised by the Onkaparinga District Council, a Mr Charles Dunn moved against the railway and another 10 years lapsed before meetings were held again. In 1910 and 1911 more rail routes were proposed. One was through the Gorge to Gumeracha and Mount Pleasant. Another considered a railway to the Murray Flats through Angaston and another to the Murray Flats from Birdwood. A meeting held at Springfield considered the railway from Mount Pleasant to Sedan, descending from Mount Pleasant to the ranges through a corridor such as Milendella Creek to Murray Flats, and then heading off to Sedan.

### Finally, a railway is established

Act 1180 of 1914 finally authorized the building of the Balhannah to Mount Pleasant line. Initial work was started in 1915 by the South Australian Railways and then taken over by contractor H. Teasedale-Smith. The line was finished in September 1918. The people of Mount Pleasant were disappointed to find that there was to be no official opening because the Government didn't want any more expense. Because there was no opening the children of the schools on the line were given a free ride to Oakbank where they had a picnic before returning home.

### How the railway ran

The line was 21 miles 17 chains long and 5'3" gauge. It was



originally planned for a turntable at Mount Pleasant but these were abandoned in late 1918, in favour of the two spurs of a triangle, which curved towards the river and met at an apex. A locomotive shed was built for housing overnight, and this allowed for the turning of a second locomotive if needed. Water was available for the steam engines from a dam nearby.

The train left Balhannah at 9.30am arriving at Mount Pleasant at 11.05am. The return trip from Mount Pleasant was at 3.00pm and got to Balhannah at 4.45pm. Passenger trains used 75 old railcars and came down at 5.30pm for the city and returned in the morning.

The main stations were constructed of timber at Oakbank, Woodside, Charleston, Mount Torrens, Birdwood and Mount Pleasant with a number of small sidings where the train might stop.

### Mount Pleasant Railway Station

Was officially 1,410 feet altitude, had a passing siding, passenger platform and station building adjacent to the River Torrens.

### Easter time

An interesting aspect of the Mount Pleasant line was the Easter Oakbank Races where up to 19 trains would take race goers into the Hills. The last Easter train ran in 1962.

### Carrying our troops

Troops were carried to Woodside Army Camp on the train. Their siding was called Riverview.

### Passenger travel

Only one mixed train per day which arrived in the morning and departing at 3pm led to discontent with the locals as it was felt this did not fit with business activities.

### The end is nigh

During 1962 freight carried on the line (3,700 tons and 33,000 head of livestock) wasn't enough to justify a twice weekly service. Road transport had taken over. An order was made to close the line.

The South Australian Railways Historical Society ran two farewell trains on February 2nd, 1963 and one train on Sunday March 3rd. That was the end of the trains.

### Currently

The rail corridor commenced redevelopment in 2010 as the 'Amy Gillet Bikeway', a multi-use recreational trail. This currently stops between Mount Torrens and Birdwood, but there is a group of people encouraging the extension of the bikeway to Mount Pleasant, in order to link with bikeways in the Barossa region.

**Paula Bartsch - Historian**

## FootGolfSA@mt.pleasantgolfclub

The new and exciting sport of FootGolf comes to South Australia at the soon to be opened course at Mount Pleasant. Affiliated with FootGolf Australia it provides an opportunity for families, seniors and expert footballers to test their skills in a quick and simple game. Already recognized internationally with the World Challenge in Argentina in January of 2016 (won by the hosts), FootGolf is one of the fastest growing sports in the USA and the UK.

There was a demonstration day on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> of February and the official opening will be in March.



*For old and young, male and female.*



*Australian football icon Tim Cahill leads his teammates off of the green after a birdie.*

Not familiar with the sport? Check it out on youtube under 'Foot Golf Promotional Film'.

Stay tuned for further information contact  
Dave <[daswann@hotmail.com](mailto:daswann@hotmail.com)>  
[www.footgolfsa.net.au](http://www.footgolfsa.net.au)

\*our own website coming soon



## Gallery 102

(Opposite the Mt Pleasant Hotel/Motel)  
Art, giftware, coffee. Open Thursday to Monday. Drop in & check it out!

From Terese Stephens -  
Assistant Manager

## Mount Pleasant FARMERS MARKET

The Mount Pleasant Show will be held on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March, the market will be closed but some of our market stallholders will have a presence in the Fine Food Tent on site at the show.

## TASTING AUSTRALIA

ADELAIDE / 1-8 MAY 2016



On the 7th of May the Market will be holding an associated event for Tasting Australia.

The Farmers Market will feature a guided five course tasting experience, highlighting our 'paddock to plate' philosophy during a typical Market day. Our visitors will enjoy the Market's fun atmosphere as well as the freshest seasonal tastes. The event includes hors d'oeuvres, entrée, main, and dessert, finishing with artisan cheeses and greens. For tickets:

<http://www.tastingaustralia.com.au/en/whats-on/event-calendar/2016/may/07/tasting-the-mt-pleasant-farmers-market>



# Mount Pleasant Gem:

## David Kroehn

David Kroehn isn't a person who seeks recognition, but he is often behind the scenes, assisting the community in a quiet and dedicated way. This assistance to the community spans over 48 years, with his service includes the Country Fire Service (CFS); 22 years with the Springton brigade and then moving to Mount Pleasant Brigade where he is still involved, some 25 years later. His knowledge of the district, thanks to his work with the Councils (over the years), is of great assistance in cases of emergency in his CFS capacity.

While with the CFS David has been Captain for 4 years and Lieutenant for 8 years. He has received a life membership, CFS Medal and National Medal, and was recently nominated for the 3<sup>rd</sup> clasp of the National Medal, for 45 years of dedicated service.

David has also been an active member of the Mount Pleasant Show Committee for over 25 years.

As well as maintaining the grounds of the Mount Pleasant Bowling Club, he assists with the road closures and pack up of the Mount Pleasant Street Party.

The Australia Day Breakfast would not be the same without David behind one of the barbeques, helping to feed the community who enjoy this event, helping to make this an enjoyable and successful start to each year.

Quiet, and in the background, but always there to lend a hand. A man of no fuss, yet dedicated and very proud to be a community member of Mount Pleasant. He well deserved the 'Quiet Achiever' Award presented at the recent Citizen of the Year 2015 Awards, at the Australia Day Breakfast. Well done, David.

**Paula Bartsch**

(right) Some pictures from the annual Mount Pleasant Red Cross Garden Party, which was held at Glen Devon on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> February.

**Sophie Thomson** was the guest speaker.



### Glen Devon's 26th Garden Party



# Cheer-Up Huts revisited

A Cheer-Up Hut – first erected in 1915 as a rest and recreation venue for soldiers – will reappear in South Australia's regional cities and towns this year to provide a place for community storytelling as part of the Anzac Centenary.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs the Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith said the re-creations are central to the State Government's Anzac Centenary Regional Engagement Strategy.

"South Australian regional centres will host the roving Cheer-Up Hut, using it as a focal point for communities to directly engage with the Anzac Centenary," Mr Hamilton-Smith said.

"This is an opportunity for families and the broader community to

research and record their Anzac stories and for these to be captured in one central repository for future generations."

The Cheer-Up Hut will make its first appearance in March, as part the Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience at the

Adelaide Showgrounds.

It will also travel to Mount Pleasant in May, Mount Gambier in September and Port Augusta in November. Veterans SA will partner with Local Government, RSL-

SA, Legacy Adelaide and other key stakeholders on the state-wide regional engagement project.

"We want to ensure there are many opportunities for South Australians to engage deeply with the Anzac Centenary over the next three years," Mr Hamilton-Smith said.

"The Cheer-Up Huts provide a gateway to the past, placing people in an atmosphere that encourages reminiscence and reflection. Each will bring a community together visit memory and to encourage conversations around the impact of war that can be recorded for future generations."

Mrs Lan Le is Patron of the Cheer-Up Hut Club, following in the footsteps of the Cheer-Up Society's original patron, Lady Marie Carole Galway – wife of Sir Henry Galway, a former Governor of South Australia.



*World War II Cheer-Up Hut Club volunteer Pat Huwise with Cheer-Up Hut Patron, Mrs Lan Le at Government House.*

"I'm delighted to be the Patron of this initiative, which takes steps to remember the tremendous efforts made by so many South Australians on the homefront."

92-year-old Pat Huwise, a member of the Cheer-Up Society during World War II, said she will be visiting the revived Cheer-Up Hut.

"I worked with a terrific group of women. When I heard the Cheer-Up Hut was being recreated I wanted to know what happened to all those wonderful women," Ms Huwise said.

Ms Huwise was a volunteer during WWII at the Cheer-Up Hut that operated alongside the Torrens River, where the Festival Centre now stands. She also worked at the adjacent hostel for returned servicemen. Her husband served in the

RAAF.

Prior to attending a Cheer-Up Hut re-creation, South Australians are invited to join the *Cheer-Up Hut Club* – a digital storytelling program that

provides members with practical assistance to research, write and enhance their Anzac stories during this period of national

## Paula Bartsch - Historian



**Many Thanks to Torrens Valley FC who hosted the Community Dinner on 28<sup>th</sup> February! Great work!**

# Community notices

## Golf news

There will be an Ambrose Tournament at the Mt Pleasant Golf Club on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March. Play starts at 9am. Leave a message at the Golf Club, or call Lisa on Friday on 85682652.



## + Night Owls Bowls



At the Mount Pleasant Bowling Club on Thursday nights. Come and join in – all ages welcome. No special equipment needed, except flat soled shoes. The nights start around 6.30pm with a sausage sizzle, and bowling begins at 7pm. Prizes for the winning team. It's a great night out.

## CWA, Mount Pleasant



As our membership has increased with the newly formed night group, it guarantees that the Mt Pleasant CWA Branch will be actively contributing to the community for many years to come. Should you wish to join one or the other of our groups (day or night), please contact Mrs Diane Anderson via the Landmark office, as new members are always welcome.

## + Kitchenalia

During May a recreation of a Cheer-Up Hut will be located in the SM Hall. In order to recreate the era, we would like to borrow some kitchen items from that time – like beaters, bowls, brooms and boards. Anything you can think of. Please see Paula at the History Room.

## Wedding dresses



Plans are underway for a Fashion Parade of Wedding Dresses as part of our Violet Day High Tea in August 2016.

Do you have a wedding dress, bridesmaids dress or going away outfit we may borrow for this event, and will you allow our models to parade them?

Please contact Paula on 0885682126, or come to the History Room any Thursday afternoon between 1pm and 4pm.

## + Grow your brain

There are many courses to choose from - Computing, Business, Photography, Design, Music & Audio, Education and eLearning.

Online, at home, 24/7 – and all FREE!

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[www.barossa.sa.gov.au](http://www.barossa.sa.gov.au) - select

"I would like to ... visit the Library"

## March events and meetings

**Mt Pleasant Show 19<sup>th</sup> March**

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1 CWA meetings	2	3 1-4 Mt Pleasant History Room 6.30 Night Owls Bowls	4 9.30-11.30 Playgroup @ Mt Pleasant kindy	5 8-12: MP Farm Mkt 9 MP Golf: Ambrose Tournament	6
7	8 7.00: <b>CFS Training</b>	9 9.30: Men's Shed - Natural Resource Centre	10 1-4 Mt Pleasant History Room 6.30 Night Owls Bowls	11 9.30-11.30 Playgroup @ Mt Pleasant kindy 10-2 MP Art	12 8-12: MP Farmers Market	13
14	15 7.00: <b>CFS Training</b>	16	17 1-4 Mt Pleasant History Room 6.30 Night Owls Bowls	18 9.30-11.30 Playgroup @ Mt Pleasant kindy	19 <b>Mount Pleasant Show</b>	20
21	22 7.00: <b>CFS Training</b>	23 9.30: Men's Shed - Natural Resource Centre	24 1-4 Mt Pleasant History Room 5-9 <b>Twilight Market</b> 7pm Choir SM Hall	25 <b>Good Friday</b>	26	27 (RSL meeting changed to 6 <sup>th</sup> April)
28 <b>Easter Monday</b>	29 7.00: <b>CFS Training</b> <b>Newsletter deadline</b>	30	31 <b>Newsletter</b> 6.30 Night Owls Bowls 7pm Choir SM Hall			<b>No Community Dinner this month</b>

**+ Contributions:**

If you would like your community event or meeting added to the calendar (to be published at the end of the month for the next month), or you would like to make a contribution in any way (writing, compiling, photographing, distributing), please contact us. Details below.

**+ Find us on the web:**

<http://mountpleasant.sa.au>  
Fan of Facebook or Instagram? See:  
Mount Pleasant Shines  
#mountpleasantshines  
#mountpleasantmarket  
#mountpleasantshines3daysinapril

**+ Thank You**

Proudly sponsored by Landmark Real Estate, Mount Pleasant.

And thank you also to those businesses that have agreed to distribute the newsletters.



If you wish to receive this newsletter, and / or notifications of other special community events, please contact us via: t: 0403012339 or e: [mountpleasantshines@gmail.com](mailto:mountpleasantshines@gmail.com)