

THEATRICAL-HISTORICAL TOUR OF 'OLD STRATHALBYN' A 'SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HISTORY FESTIVAL MAY 2016' EVENT

Note: A number of sources are used in the initial architectural and early historical descriptions of the early homes in this area, in particular the *Strathalbyn Township Heritage Survey* (2003). What follows for each residence, prefaced by "Mid 1900's", are recollections of locals who lived in this area, and especially those of Gwenda and Ken Knights.

Note: Edward Stirling subdivided this area in 1856. The area bounded by Manse Road, Taylors Lane, Melville Street and North Parade became the old 'North Strathalbyn Estate'.

Strathalbyn is Peramangk and Ngarrindgeri country. We acknowledge their earlier settlement in this land, that their lives and culture were interrupted and dislocated and many lives were lost. We are deeply sorry for this and thank them for their courtesy and friendship towards us in spite of this past. We pledge ourselves to work with you for a better future for this country.

EARLY IDENTITIES IN OLD STRATHALBYN

First settled in 1839 by the Rankine and other families from Scotland, the name could be derived from 'Strath' a small Scottish river valley, and 'Albyn', from the 'Albion Steel Works' in Glasgow. Dr John Rankine was the major shareholder in the Works and became a landowner and politician in South Australia. A brother, William Rankine from Ayrshire, had been a sheep farmer in Scotland. He named his property near Strathalbyn 'Glenbarr' and built a fine two-storied homestead on the land where he bred sheep.

Edward Stirling, a businessman from Glasgow, arrived in Adelaide in 1839 and took up a special survey of 800 acres at Strathalbyn. He settled on his property 'Hampden' and later at 'The Lodge' near Strathalbyn. His pastoral interests included 'Nalpa' station near Lake Alexandrina, and an estate at Highland Valley near Strathalbyn. He was a partner in Elder, Stirling & Co., a director of the South Australian Banking Co. and the Wallaroo and Moonta Mining, Member of the Legislative Council, and active in the affairs of the local St. Andrew's Church. His sons were Sir J Lancelot Stirling, MP, MLC and President of the Legislative Council for 31 years, and Sir Edward Stirling, a Professor at the University of Adelaide and a scientist. After making additions to 'The Lodge' Lancelot Stirling made his home there and continued with his father's pastoral interests and contributions to the town.

Can you imagine the Scottish settlers arriving here by bullock dray through the hills in 1839 - the men first and the women a few months later. Read on.



STRATHALBYN GROWS

By 1866 Strathalbyn was ready to grow. Most surrounding land had been purchased, and the Post Office, Telegraph Station, local court, and public pound established. Commercial enterprises included the National Bank, insurance companies, four hotels including the Strathalbyn Hotel (Gosling's) and Commercial (Linn's). Carpenters and boot makers offered their services, drapers and grocers sold a variety of merchandise, and a daily mail-coach connected the residents with Adelaide (8 hours from Adelaide to Victor Harbor). Agriculture was the mainstay of this area. With little fencing, livestock roamed the streets of Strathalbyn.

Investment in substantial shops and commercial buildings increased. The town became a Corporation in 1868, separating from the District Council formed in 1854. The capacity of the town to sustain the publication of a newspaper from 1868 was another indication of its success. Strathalbyn's scenic location and substantial buildings also made it attractive to tourists. Population figures were: 1866: local 200, district 1572, then 1876: local 886, adult males 153, houses 193, then 1909: local 1000, district 1950, houses 250. Strathalbyn is an excellent example of an early rural town that developed steadily to become a service and transport centre for the surrounding district.

E D U C A T I O N :

After erection in 1844, St. Andrews Church was used as a day school, though from 1851 there was no state aid to religious "churches, schools or anything else". Corporation or District "vested" schools received Government grants and financial or material support from the Council. Private schools outnumbered licensed schools at least two to one, in Strathalbyn and across the state. William Noye conducted a school on the corner of North Parade and Manse Road at about this time (see house 45-47 North Parade). Licensed teachers were paid a limited stipend. In these early times such communities "were in the minority. In many localities nobody provided a school at all, and the children simply went uneducated". "Large numbers of untaught children roaming the streets scandalized respectable citizens who saw the whole sorry scene as a breeding ground for larrikins and criminals".

In 1862 the Central Board of Education provided funds to be supplemented locally for the erection of a school building in Strathalbyn. With several schools the Board found it could not support them all so decided to support only one district school in Colman Terrace. Private schools, with government funding, continued until the passing of the Education Act in 1875, which "made it compulsory for a child to attend school 35 days a quarter until he passed a fourth class examination when, no matter how young, he was at liberty to leave, sometimes at the early age of nine." Then funding went to selected schools so many small private schools disappeared.

H E A L T H :

Some doctors served the district for many years. Dr. Formby maintained his practice from 1904 until 1948. He also initiated a cottage hospital at 41 North Parade, owned the Strathalbyn Hospital before selling it, and served as Mayor. As an example the house on the

corner of Commercial Road and North Parade was constructed about 1859, and lived in by doctors Dr Lloyd Herbert, Dr Hugh Ferguson in 1869, Dr Albert Walls in 1875-1877, Dr William Vernon Shone in 1897, Dr H H Formby in about 1904, and Dr James Fairley from 1956 for many years.

THE EARLY HOUSES

Many of these houses located on the Strathalbyn North Subdivision are over 150 years old and are associated with the notable local original resident Edward Stirling and his 1856 subdivision, which over time has been subdivided many times. They are listed following the planned sequence of the History Tour: North Parade, Manse Road, Melville Lane, Manse Road, Taylors Lane, Harriet Street, Melville Street. A glossary of some terms is at the end.

13 North Parade (near the bridge over the Angas River). A pair of attached cottages now converted to one residence which was further altered in 2003. The building is constructed of random bluestone which has been painted. The windows and door surrounds were of red brick originally, and sections of this have now been rendered. Alterations have been made to the elevation itself, but the easternmost cottage in this row retains its original multi-paned sash windows and early door joinery. The roof has been reclad and a bull-nose verandah constructed along the front elevation. Later extensions to the rear have extended the skillion roof and added another gable. Thomas Mitton, labourer, bought all of Lot 29 in 1860 and it was then further subdivided.

Mid 1900's: Lived in by the Jarvis families, Jack and two sisters in one, and Reg and family on the corner. One of the sisters worked at Bell's store while Jack was a painter who travelled around to jobs in a horse and cart. The wooden ladder was secured to the side of the cart while paint tins were placed under the seat. This vehicle was also the family's means of transport.

21 North Parade Mid 1900's: Lived in by Dr Fairley and family, Ann, Sue, Trish, and Jocelyn. The big house had a large garden and other land both at the back and side. The girls had ponies that they kept on the block. One used to bite, and the only way to get on him was to use the stile that was built into the fence. The Fairley family later bought the residence of the late Dr Formby.

25 North Parade Mid 1900's: Mr & Mrs Rupert Verner, Doris and Lindsay. This family had a fuel depot, where farmers would come and purchase fuel in 44 gallon drums or half size. Kerosene for lamps and engines came in square tins. There was an entrance from North Parade.

26 North Parade Google Maps 2015, or **1 Commercial Road**, *Strathalbyn Township Heritage Survey* (2003) This significant residence was constructed about 1859, enlarged in about 1858 for Dr Lloyd Herbert, and added to by later owners. An errand boy for Dr Herbert, John F. Joyce, concocted his "Joyce's Salve" which he sold as "an indispensable remedy for rheumatism, gout, cutaneous eruptions, scrufulous affection of the membranes, and all impurities of the blood, particularly adapted to the Australian climate". He later built and practised at the Eye, Throat and Ear Hospital at Wayville, which later became the Methodist Ladies College.

The property was then sold to Dr Hugh Ferguson in 1869, and then to Dr Albert Walls in 1875. William Stephenson, a storekeeper from Langhorne's Creek, bought the house in 1877, and then in 1897 Dr William Vernon Shone was the purchaser. The Strathalbyn Croquet Club played on the lawns of the house from 1901 to 1904. In 1903 Doctor Shone was reputedly the first country person to own a motor car.

It was then owned in 1904 by another prominent Strathalbyn doctor, Dr H H Formby. Formby's successor was Dr James Fairley and he purchased the house in 1956.

The house itself retains a large amount of Victorian detailing from the early stages of building, including paired linked chimneys, bay windows beneath the return verandah with cast iron bracketing detail, and other elements. The rear of the house is unpainted stone and there is a stone outbuilding along the alignment of North Parade which was originally stables. A section of the house served as the doctor's surgery.

The house sits on a large corner allotment concealed behind a high Carob hedge, a distinctive masonry pillar and iron palisade fence, and a mature garden. The fence is a significant streetscape element in Commercial Road. The iron palisade railings to the fence would appear to be an early product of the local foundry. The solid masonry wall to North Parade is also a notable streetscape element.

This is a significant residence in Strathalbyn which has expanded over time and has been used by a succession of medical practitioners in Strathalbyn. The size of the house is an indicator of the standing in which this profession was held within the township. The present owner also owns the property diagonally opposite.

27 and 29 North Parade A large block of land was divided and two families built homes at about the same time in the early 1950's: Max & Betty Semple and Tony & Vonnie Ashberger. The two families were cousins, Vonnie being a Semple. Tony Ashberger worked at the Laucke Flour Mill.



Max Semple the golfer: Max (1917-1970) was a Champion golfer on the Fleurieu Peninsula, winning just about every amateur country championship, and the S.A. Country Championship, multiple times.

31 North Parade Once the place of Mr Close the Butchers, a rector and doctor residence, and home of Betty Westwood the "Tree Lady".

This house and associated shop were constructed by James Close in the 1860s and have a most interesting history. Both buildings were constructed of stone rubble walling with brick quoining and originally had slate roofs, some sections of which have been replaced. This shop retains a distinctive curved parapet roof with curved brick coping and a sign panel. The shop and associated residence are an outstanding representative of early commercial premises within South Australia's rural settlements of the 1860s. The complex of shop, residence and associated walled yard reflect the conditions of work and life in small early

settlements. The kitchen is a separate but linked room on the western side. This was a custom to avoid the whole house burning down.

The house has had the names 'Boundary Place', since North Parade was initially Boundary Road, and 'Dollar Cottage'. The butcher's shop on the corner was kept by William Close, who was mayor for a term. Mr Close was also an auctioneer and a local preacher. It is related that on one occasion the discourse was on the 'Prodigal Son' and when he came to the 'fatted calf' he said 'Now, Ladies and Gentlemen, how much for this fatted calf?'. He later moved his business to High Street.

Slaney Poole, whose reminiscences provided so much material for Nan Gemmill and her histories of Strathalbyn, lived here. The house was occupied during the 1870s by the Rector of the Church of England, and was also used as a doctor's residence. Dr Wall had a practice there and after him Dr Sangster. A Dr Drummond had only a short stay.

Mid 1900's: Mr and Mrs David and Sadie Westwood and daughter Betty Rutherford Westwood OAM 1917-2004 lived in the house. "Betty Westwood was a warrior for the preservation of nature and a pioneer in advocating tree preservation, replanting and habitat replenishment in South Australia. Betty grew up in the Strathalbyn district and was a nurse by profession, serving in World War 2. She then had a long career as Matron of Geelong Grammar and St Peter's College before returning to Strathalbyn and becoming a legend as the "Tree Lady" in the district and beyond."

33 North Parade Representative of simple but substantial residential design utilising local stone and other materials in its construction. A symmetrically fronted bluestone house with painted brick quoin and window and door dressings, which would appear to date from about 1875. The house retains multi-paned sash windows and simple detailing to the return verandah, although capital moulds are no longer visible. The gutters have been replaced with 'D' gutters over time. The face bluestone walls have been 'brought to course' through lining and there is a projecting gable wing extension to the rear of the house. Skillion additions to the rear are constructed in corrugated iron.

This house was constructed on Lot 23 of the Strathalbyn North 1856 Subdivision 2619. Edward Stirling sold Lot 23 to Richard Tregilgas in 1856. William Harvey, a yeoman, and his wife Catherine purchased this property in 1889. Catherine survived her husband but died in 1906, when the property passed to Mary Kate Harvey who retained it until 1939. The property was described as a substantial house in the 1910 Strathalbyn Rate Assessments.

Mid 1900's: Mr and Mrs Keith and Betty Edwards moved here from the Callington region. They had a bakery in High Street, and Keith also served as Mayor.

35 North Parade An early cottage upgraded in the 1890's with additions of Arts & Crafts trim including bold verandah bracketing and projecting gable with 'fish tail' metal panels above an oriel style multi-paned window. The original cottage that was constructed in coursed bluestone was later rendered. Recent removal of the later render showed damage to the stone door and window quoins, and surrounds. The cottage retains multi-paned sash windows and the addition retains multi-paned casement windows. It is an interesting combination of two distinct styles of house architecture.

One of several lots purchased by James Crombie, a farmer, in 1858, and in 1864 was transferred to John Pennyquick. In 1908 the house was owned by L A Garwood and tenanted by James Barham. Mid 1900's: Two cottages. Mr and Mrs Bert Westley in one and Mrs Hartman in the other.

39 North Parade A small symmetrically fronted early stone cottage originally gable ended. The roof has been extended out to form a verandah under the same pitch. The cottage retains multi-paned sash windows and its brick and random stone materials of construction have been painted.

It was purchased in 1858 by farmer James Crombie, who purchased several lots at that time. In 1908 the property was owned by Miss M Graham and the tenants were nurses Misses Lord and Bidmead. In the Strathalbyn Rate Assessments the property was described as a private hospital. However in 1910, the hospital is recorded as being on the next Lot, part 20. Mid 1900's: Lived in by Mrs Diener from Meadows. This block was quite large and there were fruit trees and an extensive garden.

41 North Parade This simple house is an important example of the modest residential development in Strathalbyn North in the early years of the twentieth century. It is a double fronted circa 1890's symmetrical cottage which retains a large amount of original detail including a bull-nose verandah with cast iron trim, and timber mouldings to verandah posts, hipped roof, face limestone, red brick quoining and door and window dressings.

The residence was initially bought by Joseph Wallbank in 1866. In 1908 the Strathalbyn Rate Assessments list W Burkett as the owner and the occupier as Mrs Burkett. However in 1910 this property is described as a private hospital owned by M Graham and tenanted by Dr Henry Formby (1904-1948 as doctor in Strathalbyn) and Nurse Lord. Then inhabited by Misses Edith and Emily Thring. These ladies had moved in from Blackwood Park (on the way to Macclesfield) and continued to live a rather quiet lifestyle. There was a bricked dome over an underground tank in an area that was once used as a sunroom.

This house has played an important part in the lives of local residents as an early hospital within Strathalbyn prior to the establishment of the community hospital.

Southern Argus, 2/3/1905: "Nurses Bidmead and Lord have taken temporary rooms at Miss Blue's cottage, Strathalbyn, for the establishment of their private hospital, but are making arrangements to secure larger and more suitable premises at once, so that they may be able to receive convalescents from the city as well as medical and surgical cases. The establishment of such an institution, and the residence here of modern and thoroughly-trained nurses will be found to be a decided boon to the district."

Southern Argus, 19/10/1905: "...taken to Nurses Bidmead and Lord's Private Hospital here; where he lies in some-what precarious condition, passing a very bad night on Tuesday. Late last night we ascertained that his condition was about the same but that his medical attendant (Dr. Formby) regards his case as a fairly hopeful one."

Southern Argus, 16/1/1908: "We sincerely THANK kind friends for letters of sympathy and floral tributes in their sad bereavement, also Drs. Formby and Curtis, and Nurses Bidmead and Lord for loving attention to our late little son."

The Register, Adelaide, Tuesday Sep 22, 1908: "...a round of golf on the Lodge links was responsible for a couple of hours enjoyment, after which His Excellency, accompanied by Lady Stirling, visited the town and the Nurses Bidmead and Lord's private hospital."

Southern Argus 16/1/1908 etc Advertisements: "PRIVATE HOSPITAL, NORTH PARADE WEST, STRATHALBYN Principals— MISSES BIDMEAD & LORD. For Medical, Surgical, and Midwifery Cases. Special Terms for Midwifery Patients. Trained Nurse Sent Out on Application."

Mt Barker Courier, 7/5/1909: "Nurses Bidmead and Lord, of the Strathalbyn Private Hospital, are leaving the district and will be succeeded by Nurse Siekman."

The Register, SA, 7/5/1909: "Expressions of regret are uttered on all sides at the retirement from professional duties of Nurses Lord and Bidmead. These two ladies five years ago started a private hospital in the town, and have made themselves beloved throughout the district."

43 North Parade A simple stone cottage circa 1920s, possibly an upgrade of an earlier building, but currently displaying 1920s detailing including verandah under roof pitch, gable end strapping and heavy lining to brick quoining and window dressing.

Purchased by Benjamin Wylie in 1860. After subdivision purchased by Thomas Slaughter in 1868. It changed hands several times after that until William Burkett, a farmer, purchased the property in 1891 and held it until 1930 when Mary Elizabeth Allan became the owner until 1953. The house was possibly upgraded by William Burkett or Mary Allan in the 1920s or 1930s. Later home to Mr and Mrs Don and Mavis Hassam with their 4 children.

45-47 North Parade This house and later addition represent the importance of private schooling in the mid to late nineteenth century, prior to the passing of the Education Act in 1875, as the building was used as a school for some time after 1860. It was one of the many private schools in Strathalbyn at the time, and by the late 1860's was called the Strathalbyn North Commercial and Mathematical Academy.

This property was constructed in two stages. An early stage about 1860 and a later addition about 1880. This is one of the early residences within this subdivision and retains its low scale, although the window and door joinery have been altered over time. This building is located on a corner allotment and there is a front entrance facing Manse Road. The addition at No 45 is a simple early cottage with large multi-paned windows and a basic bull-nose verandah. It was constructed of random stone with brick quoining, all now painted.

In 1860 this part Lot 19 was bought by William Noye, an auctioneer who conducted a school in this property for some time. In 1882 it was transferred to Andrew Wylie, a blacksmith. In 1906, the property was bought by Colin Thomas, a grocer, and the house, garden and allotment adjacent were valued at £20.

Mid 1900's: Lived in by Mr and Mrs Pearson and daughter Margaret. Mr Pearson had several adjoining blocks on which he ran a herd of milking goats, selling milk around the town. When his herd became too large for the land some 'nannys' were sold to Gwenda Manisty who had a herd of 20 or so females.

1 Manse Road, then **Number 5** further along which is similar. This house is one of a row of four early cottages constructed on Edward Stirling's 1856 subdivision of North Strathalbyn (1, 3, 5 and 7). They retain early low scale pitched roofs, gable ends, early joinery and evidence of original building materials where these can still be seen under later render or paint surfaces. Only 1 and 5 retain original detailing, 3 and 7 have been altered considerably and re-built in sections.

No. 1: Originally purchased in 1860 by Benjamin Wylie, a farmer, who bought many lots in the Strathalbyn North subdivision. He quickly sold it to Richard Livett Lander and Richard Stephens, who sold it to a labourer James Walsh in 1863. Thomas Enright, a farmer, bought it in 1878 and occupied it till 1910.

No. 5: A cottage purchased in 1859 by Benjamin Wylie. Hannah Close, "wife of James, a gentleman", acquired the property in 1875 and immediately sold it on to Catherine Martin, wife of Henry Martin, a labourer. Catherine Martin is shown as the owner of the house in the 1910 Strathalbyn Rate Assessments, but the occupier is Reilly.

7 Manse Road Margaret (nee Mariner) and David Clark lived here 1940-46, married 1880 in Blanchetown. He was a stockman on Sandergrove Station. They lived at Wattle Flat, Woodchester and Bletchley, then Manse Road after their 60th wedding anniversary. He planted lucerne at the back of the cottage along Melville Lane and kept ten prize Southdown sheep. He died at 87 in 1945, falling off his bike riding home from the saleyards. Their youngest daughter, Jessie, married Tom Stacey in 1934, and was mother of Margaret (Colby) and David Stacey.

“Hartwig Gold Nugget”- A Stacey link: In 1962 18 year old Rodney Hartwig found a gold nugget the size of a golf ball, the biggest in 40 years, on his family's property, 3 km east of Strathalbyn, that they sharefarmed from Messrs C.M. & G.A. Stacey. Initial opinions thought it was fool's gold or brass, but Colin Stacey (father of our convenor Helen) chipped off a small piece that a dentist thought was gold. The large piece was then sold for £350.

Early 2000's: The site of 'Baylies of Strathalbyn' gourmet products - biscuits, cakes, puddings, etc. Delicious smells pervaded the local streets.

7 Melville Lane (rear to 9-11 Manse Rd) This pair of cottages displays historical, economic and social themes of importance to Strathalbyn in the late 1850s and 1860s. An early pair of worker's cottages comprising of a pair of attached residences now in a deteriorated state, which retain original elements including early joinery. The houses are constructed of random limestone with brick quoining. The four openings to the front all may have been doors originally, but the central two now are casement windows. The building retains a low roof profile with remnant chimneys and gable ends. The cottages were probably constructed in the early 1860s.

First purchased by John Bills, wheelwright and later builder, in 1861. Farmer George Dunn's title to the property in 1869 referred to 'houses, outbuildings and other buildings'. Mary Jane Martin owned a large amount of property in this area between 1882 and 1899. It is considered that this building was sold on a separate title around 1910, but at that time

the building on the site was described as a ruin in the Strathalbyn Rate Assessments. There were various owners after, usually workers or women.

Mid 1900's: Lived in by Hurtle Langford, a friendly man of rather short stature. "He seemed to walk daily into town, always carrying a sugarbag over his shoulder, swagman style. Shirley had been told by Gran to show respect and always call him Mr Langford, not Hurtle as she did, or he may put her into his bag. Deciding one day to put Gran's suggestion to the test, Shirley saw the bag was very quickly removed as he came toward the gate."

5 Melville Lane A significant example after the subdivision of 1856. A simple symmetrically fronted cottage with a hipped roof constructed in face stone with painted brick quoining, window and door surrounds. A later simple verandah has been added to the front. The cottage elevation retains some evidence of tuck-pointing between the quoining projections and is similar in detail to 3 Melville Lane. The building has been rendered up to window sill level and there is evidence of cracking through the structure. The current windows are casement windows.

First purchased by John Bills, wheelwright and later builder, in 1861. Mary Jane Martin owned this property from 1882 to her death in 1899. In 1900 it was purchased by Rosa Louisa Rankine, wife of William Melville Rankine, farmer. It is assumed that this is the source of the name of the street. In 1924, the title to Nos 3 and 5 was divided and property split into separate lots. Enid Kathleen Rankine then became owner of this cottage.

3 Melville Lane, associated with Edward Stirling and his 1856 subdivision. This house displays design characteristics and construction techniques of significance to the local area as it is indicative of the scale, materials and detailing of early small cottages constructed of local materials including stone, brick and timber elements.

Mid 1900's: Gwenda Knights remarked "Lived in by Mrs Logan, her daughter and husband, Effie and Leo Prosser. 'This family had one of the prettiest gardens I remember as a child'."

2 Melville Lane Mid 1900's: Miss Sutherland, a fine upstanding Scottish lady who was Mrs Roper's neighbour at the back. Next owners were Mr and Mrs Elliott and their son Herb. The parents were quite elderly when they came there to live.

9-11 Manse Road, associated with Edward Stirling and his 1856 subdivision. An early cottage which retains original walls, but the roof has been re-clad. Uncertain whether this is the original roof pitch. A later verandah has been extended around it and a concrete block section attached to the rear. The residence retains multi-paned early sash windows and some door joinery. It sits in a large open block.



Originally purchased by John Bills, a builder and wheelwright, in 1862. In 1869 Edmund Nicholls, a farmer, bought the property and within a year sold it on to George Dunn, another farmer. In 1882 Mary Jane Martin, who ran a boarding house in Melville Lane and acquired several properties in this area, purchased Lots 15 and 16. After Mary Jane Martin's death in 1899 her lots were subdivided and this was sold to John James Raggatt, an agent, in 1907. The 1908 Strathalbyn Rate Assessments show a house, shed and garden were in place on parts of Lots 15 and 16 and there was an unfinished house on Lot 16 facing Melville Lane. Mid 1900's: Mr and Mrs Dan Case and their daughter Elsie lived there.

13 Manse Road A circa 1890s - 1900 symmetrically fronted residence with encircling bull-nose verandah which retains cast iron detailing and some verandah trim. The house also retains a post and rail fence with wire.

This house is located on Lot 14 of the 1856 subdivision, originally purchased by Richard Tregilgas in 1856 and was owned by the Kennedy sisters in 1902. The 1910 Strathalbyn Rate Assessments show that part Lots 11 and 14 contained three houses, one occupied by Ann Kennedy (probably No.13) and Lempriere, and Mrs Monk occupying the other two.

Mid 1900's: Lived in by Miss Bennett, a quiet, well respected lady who provided a place of residence for many of the single female school teachers.

15 Manse Road A small gable ended low scale cottage which retains multi-paned casement windows, simple timber detailing to the verandah, face brick window and door dressings and other early detail.

Originally purchased by Matilda Wills, a widow, in 1857. The 1908 Strathalbyn Rate Assessments show the Misses Kennedy as the owners and Mrs Monk as the occupier. In 1914 a widow, Agnes Steer, bought the property. Higher death rates for men with hard working conditions and war service meant many houses were bought by wives.

23 Manse Road Victor and Marge Bisset built their house in the 1960's. Victor was the town milkman for many years, then moved to Darwin in 1970. They had 6 children here, Dianne, Jenny, Stephen, Catherine, Vicky, Darrel, with Andrew and Susie being born in Darwin. Both were active members of the community, especially kindergarten and school.

2 - 4 Taylors lane A very simple gable-ended random stone cottage which would appear to date from about 1860. The cottage has face stone and brick walls, a corrugated iron roof and a simple concave verandah with basic bracketing.

John Knight held the title of this allotment in 1857. It was transferred to Charles K. Knight in 1879, and then in 1884 to James Taylor, a farmer from Red Creek. It passed to Benjamin Taylor, of Red Creek near Woodchester, after James's death in 1902. It is presumed that the name of the street dates from this time. The Kennedy sisters, Anne, Agnes, Jane and Elizabeth purchased the lot in 1902. In 1918 they sold it to Ellen Schammell, a married woman, who died in 1931.

3 Taylors Lane An early random limestone cottage which retains tuck-pointing and a verandah which faces towards the eastern side garden rather than Taylors Lane. The house

retains early joinery including multi-paned sash windows and early door joinery, and would appear to date from the early 1870s with possibly a later bull nosed verandah.

Purchased by George Gee, a carter, in 1868, the property was then acquired by Hannah Close, as mortgagee, in 1876 and she owned it until her death in 1896, although it was leased to others for some years. Her executors sold it to James Clatworthy in October 1896 and he sold it April 1897 to John Taylor, a farmer. The lots were then sold off over time.

Mid 1900's: Part of the original Eckert property that comprised all land on the north from Manse Rd to the milk stand area. Purchased by Doug Manisty in the 1950's and rented out. Mr George Bone lived there for some time. He had lived at Willyaroo and walked with his feet quite splayed, and because of this was known as 'Ten to Two'. His black boots were always so shiny. Now the owners of the Antique Bazaar in High Street live there.

5 Taylors Lane

Mid 1900's: Miss Eckert lived with and cared for her elderly mother for many years. Brother Bert lived at Bletchley. She milked a cow, was a great cook and an energetic worker for the Catholic Church. She came to the aid of the Commercial Bank manager's daughter who almost died after crashing her bicycle into a barbed wire fence near her home. Now Andy & Libby Doube, long time veterinarians of Strathalbyn, live there.

15 Taylors Lane

Mid 1900's: The milk stand and milk cans here are from 'Willow Brook', a property over the small bridge at the end of Taylors Lane that occupied land all the way to present-day Pipers Crest and Hampden Estate. George Semple, his son Max and Betty and family lived at Willow Brook, formerly owned by a Mr Hill who grew apples that he exported to Hull in the UK. The Semples changed the fruit block and while a few rows of Cleopatra apple trees remained, they planted 900 prune trees and 500 apricots while retaining a considerable acreage of currants and sultanas. These were dried on a tiered drying frame while prunes and apricots were dried out in the sun on wooden slatted trays.

The original apple packing shed was on a lane between their house and Braemar that was later purchased by the Rankine family and added to the Braemar estate. The home at that time consisted of two separate buildings, the original, a small four roomed cottage of wattle and daub, and a later larger brick dwelling of four quite spacious rooms with a wide passage and a cellar. The walkway between the old and new houses was covered by the Manisty family when a flat was later built on the western side.

George Semple was a great sports man and during a cricket match in 1904 against Flaxley he took four wickets for five runs. He was a Sergeant in the Boer War and in 1913 was a committee member when the Bowling Club was formed and later the greens manager. He continued to live on the farm with the Manisty family for some years.

Manisty Family: Douglas, May and daughters Gwenda and Shirley. They purchased 'Willow Brook' and moved there from Bletchley in 1950, bringing with them their dairy herd. Milk originally went to the cheese factory at Macclesfield. The milk stand and cans remain today. In later years a modern dairy was built and a portion of the milk was used for supplying the

town. The Paris Creek, as it was known then (now Middle Creek), ran through part of the property closest to town, while the Angas formed the boundary to the north-east. Both had water holes that allowed for irrigation of pasture and other crops while the fruit was all 'dry grown'. These water holes also grew great yabbies but no family member could swim, so a yabby trip meant tying two girls on the ends of a hay rope attached to a strainer post, so everyone came home safely.

In 1956 after heavy rain a dam on the Paris Creek broke its bank, causing five others further down to do the same. This resulted in a huge flood of water coming down, flooding right across into the Angas, over the development now known as Hampden Estate. May Manisty, needing specialist attention after a heart attack, was expecting the doctors that day. With flood waters up to Harriet Street corner, Doug went and collected the doctors on the tractor. Quite an experience for a city specialist!

What is now the 'Hampden' housing estate was a very productive part of the farm that not only provided greenfeed for the milking cows but tons of fresh and dried fruit each year. The fruit harvest gave summer holiday pocket money to many students who picked fruit or cut apricots for drying in the large packing shed that was located on what is now 'Pipers Crest' Estate. On the present recreation area they grew amazing crops of potatoes.

12 Harriet Street Mid 1900's: Len Grubb and family Peter, Marie and David. Len opened a hardware shop in Rankine Street after Wylie's Bakery had closed.

8 Harriet Street Mid 1900's: Mr and Mrs Shaw. He was a railway worker, and Stationmaster. She re-married (Mrs Watson) and was a domestic arts teacher.

18 Melville Street Mid 1900's: Mrs Griffin, lived with son Charles and his wife Mary. "They lived in the 'Big House' as it was called. Mrs G was a very nice old lady and really enjoyed visits from we younger folk. Charles had farming property that took him away most days. They were very popular social members of the community and entertained a lot. Both played golf and Charlie also played polo. They had a tennis court that we had permission to use. Mary came to Shirley's rescue one day, when a cheeky jersey heifer refused to allow her to get home."

16 Melville St Significant to the local area as it is indicative of the method of enlarging modest houses to create substantial dwellings during the period of consolidation in Strathalbyn during the 1880s and 1890s.

An early cottage of four rooms, substantially extended, but retains its original gable-ended form under the later 1880-1890s extensions. It is an elegant house which retains much original detail including concave verandahs and projecting front gable, early window joinery and later door joinery. It has a pierced barge board to the projecting gable. The random limestone has been painted and the quoins and window dressings are rendered.

First bought by Benjamin Wylie, who purchased several lots in the subdivision. Frederick Horne, a storekeeper, became the owner in 1860 and the property was purchased by John Sanders, gentleman, in 1875. Samuel Stanton, a farmer, owned the property from 1891. Stanton was a notable resident in Strath and retired to this house, which he called 'Almond Glen', in the 1890s after farming at Wanstead Farm. He served on the council of

Strathalbyn from 1898 until he died in 1902. Until the mid-1900's it was a 4-room cottage with stables at the back that have recently been converted to living quarters. Nowadays it is believed to have a long-ago history as "the little house of ill-repute".

12 Melville Street Mid 1900's: Mrs Moore was a loving grandma to her quite large family that included married children who also lived in Strathalbyn. Later Marge and Bill Spurling and family lived there with her and cared for her in later life.

10 Melville Street, associated with Edward Stirling and his 1856 subdivision. A simple gable ended cottage with skillion extension in random bluestone. It retains brick chimneys to either end and a simple verandah to the front. The cottage is set back on its allotment with a garden fronting Melville Street.

First purchased by John Bills. This portion was purchased by John Fuller Joyce, a storekeeper in 1865. The property was then owned by a series of storekeepers including Alfred Stephens of London House in High Street.

Mid 1900's: "Initially Mrs Morris (Auntie Maud) and her husband lived here. She was a good friend of Mrs Roper (see #8). Mr and Mrs Stan Humphries later purchased the house becoming family friends as Ada helped May Manisty in the orchard for many years. After her death Mr Humphries was a frequent visitor to Willow Brook and after purchasing a new Holden car allowed Gwenda to learn to drive it. Robert Rankine had previously taught her to drive his little grey Ferguson tractor".



8 Melville Street, associated with Edward Stirling and his 1856 subdivision. A limestone cottage, retaining multi-paned sashed windows and early door joinery. First purchased by farmer James Crombie in 1858. Owned by William Colman and James Close in 1865, and sold almost immediately to Jane Helyear Parsons, a widow. Unfortunately Mrs Parson's mortgage was foreclosed upon by the trustees of the Strathalbyn Permanent Building Society and the property passed to Frederick Horne, Hugh Ferguson and Alfred Catt in 1871. By 1878 Mary Jane Martin had purchased the cottage, and in 1900 Margaret Graham bought the property and held it for 20 years.

Mid 1900's: "Nanna Roper - William and Ada Roper moved to Melville Lane around 1942/3. William died in 1945. The little cottage had many fruit trees and there was always a vegetable garden. For a farm girl this was my introduction to the sound of town life. The clip clop of horse's hoofs as the Heading family, who lived on Langhorne Creek Road, (now the Garwood Estate) did their milk round from the cart. The mail was delivered by the postie on his bike. It was also the era of the night cart that removed the toilet waste during the midnight hours. Not something one was eager to get out of bed to take a look at. Why was it that the 'out house' as it was referred to often had ivy growing over it that grew in through every crack and hole making it a spooky place and a great home for spiders? Ada lived on here until moving to a Granny Flat with her family at Willow Brook".

3 Melville Street, associated with Edward Stirling and his 1856 subdivision.

A low scale small cottage which has recently been re-rendered. It retains some early joinery including casement windows. The cottage appears to have been extended over time and has been re-roofed. It retains little original form.

First purchased by farmer James Crombie in 1858 and transferred to John Stephens, butcher, in 1863. In 1876 it was transferred to Thomas Stephens, a storekeeper, and in 1877 to Nathaniel Oldham. Mary Toms owned the house in 1885 and it was sold by her executors in 1930.

Mid 1900's: Mrs Marr. "This rather short energetic woman was a very friendly soul. She seemed to love people coming to visit, made great jam and fig nougat that was cut into bars and wrapped in cellophane for sale...it was the best!!!!. She may have been the first poultry processor for her wood heap was often the receptacle for headless chooks that were brought to her for slaughter."

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Maitland Irvine - the illustrious Town Crier

Margaret Colby - storyteller

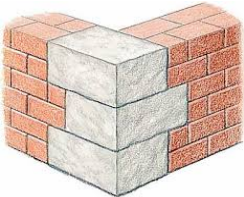
Mark Elliot and Freda Judawa Mills - Welcome to Country

Mary Sandercock - Miss Mary the Story Teller

The many residents of Old Strathalbyn for their participation, knowledge and forbearance

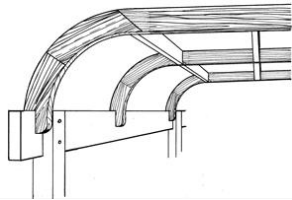
GLOSSARY

Quoin

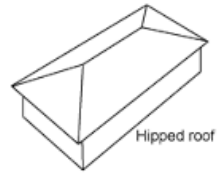


Alan Witschonke

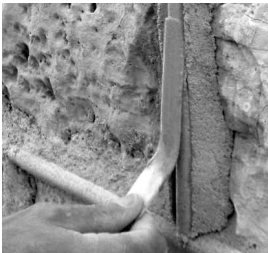
Bullnosed verandah



Hipped roof



Tuck pointing: "Tucking mortar" around a brick face



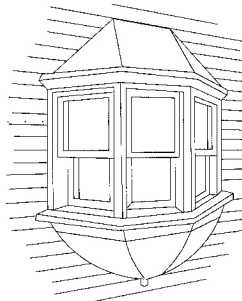
Bargeboard



Capital mould



Oriel window



THEATRICAL-HISTORICAL TOUR OF 'OLD STRATHALBYN' ROUTE: MAY 2016

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HISTORY FESTIVAL 2016' EVENT

