

THE ANGASTONIAN

Discover the stories of our district



ANGAS RECREATION PARK UPGRADE

Earthworks at the Oval, 1930. Mr Patching with hands on hips, Mr Chinner leaning on shovel.

Image: APHS Collection.

Plenty of dirt has been shifted recently at the Angas Recreation Park to create the new junior oval. Over the years the park has undergone many changes, however it's interesting to compare this major upgrade to the 1930 grading of the main oval in terms of cost, manpower and community involvement.

The park, consisting of 21 acres of land donated to the people of Angaston by George Fife Angas, was formally opened on 28 December 1877 with a central oval made specifically for cricket, croquet and other lawn activities. A cycle track around the boundary was added. With the advent of Australian Rules Football in South Australia shortly after, the condition of the oval would have varied greatly in the ensuing years.

Angas Recreation Park was managed by a committee that was funded by community membership subscriptions. While the subject of grading the oval had been discussed at meetings for about twenty years prior, in September 1930 the committee finally agreed on a plan for the project to commence.

Mr G.W. Chinner explained that there were two rises running on the east and west sides of the oval that met on the south end. The fall from goalpost to goalpost was approximately 12ft (3.65m). To ensure the grade would be

satisfactory, 3 ft of material needed moving from the top to the lower end by which he estimated around 2,000 yards of material required shifting. With some lengthening of the playing field, the cycle track also needed pulling up and replacing.

Being the early years of the Depression, a commercial estimate of £200 meant using voluntary labour was the only viable option to accomplish the task. A recommendation was made that a 'monster working bee' be arranged for the Eight Hours' Holiday in October.

"Chug of tractor, rattle of drays, and ring of shovels made Angaston an altered spot on Saturday, when much preliminary ploughing was done, many tons of soil removed and dumped in its new position, part of fencing alterations accomplished, cycle track torn up, and overhanging trees attended to," wrote The Leader following the groundwork activity in the lead up to the big event. Messrs. G.W. Chinner and W. Patching who were in charge of the work had plotted the levels and pegged the areas to be filled or reduced. Community stalwart, Mrs P.S. Smith, reported that 'the ladies' had enthusiastically taken up the catering aspect of the scheme.

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Blacksmith Leo Leggett presenting Keith Conlon with a fire poker.

Image: R Bolton.

FROM THE FORGE

Over the two days of the Barossa History Fair in May, our blacksmiths and guides were run off their feet! It was wonderful to have Keith Conlon, Chair of the SA Heritage Council, stop by on the Saturday. Leo proudly presented him with a fire poker made at the forge. Our Treasurer and resident vintage car aficionado, Ian Williamson, then delighted Keith with a spin down the main street in the Turner's Butchers Van. On the Sunday, it was particularly gratifying to see so many local families visit, with the children's passport activity being very popular.

No rest for the wicked – we were flat out again in June with a tour group visit every day. While we are certainly grateful for the interest in our site, it is a lot of work for our small team of volunteers.

In just the last month, the Angaston Blacksmith Shop and Museum has welcomed 203 visitors – the visitation demographic being 45% metropolitan, 26% country, 14% local and 14% interstate. Over the last four months, our 23 volunteer blacksmiths and

guides have worked a combined 292 hours.

We are proud of the hard work and dedication of our volunteers. Without their commitment, the Angaston & Penrice Historical Society would be unable to preserve or share this significant location with the public.

With this in mind, we are putting the call out for new volunteers to join us. The site is open Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays from 1-4pm. Volunteers elect the frequency of their shifts and both blacksmiths and guides will receive training. We have some very talented artist blacksmiths who are wonderful to work alongside and learn from. This is an opportunity to learn more about Angaston's history and to interact with people of all ages, from all walks of life (and from all over the world – COVID permitting)! APHS is a friendly and welcoming group and we would particularly love to have some young people join our team.

Please get in touch for further details - contact Leo on 0400 260 970.



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to our third newsletter.

As we near our AGM and I reflect back on the year, it has been a period of consolidation for our group. Following the success of the Barossa History Fair, APHS has remained busy and seen some long-term projects come to fruition. We now have our revised Angaston Heritage Trail brochure printed and available to pick up from tourism and business locations around the district. To complement the printed version, our trail will soon be released via the My Tours app under the banner of Barossa Heritage Trails.

Our Museums and Collections grant funding from the History Trust of SA was finally acquitted, the last expenditure being for picture railings in our History Centre. Framing and hanging the information sheets for our recent exhibition has resulted in a more professional looking display.

On a personal note, I was invited to speak at the recent Luhr's Cottage AGM. I feel it's important to share stories and learn what makes other towns and villages of the Barossa so captivating. This is why I remain involved with the Barossa Regional Heritage Network and why the group organises events such as the History Fair, where this knowledge sharing can take place.

I hope to see you at the AGM.

Bill

ANGAS RECREATION PARK UPGRADE – CONT.



Earthworks for the new junior oval, 2021.

Image: R Bolton.

Enthusiasm for the ‘Big Day’ was reported in *The Leader* the week prior, “even Jupiter Pluvius will have to pour down in sheets to deter many of the workers.” A local named Harry Tonkin, whose injured arm precluded him from much of the work said, “I can’t do much, but I’ll give you 18 gallons of beer, and I’ll come along and hand it out.”

On Wednesday 8 October, more than 230 men, with 32 drays and horses moved over 2,000 tons of material. Work started at 7.30am with stops only for refreshments generously provided by ‘the ladies.’ “The Minister worked alongside the banker, sixty years was as quick with the shovel as seventeen; and the general atmosphere was typical of real Australians,” *The Leader* noted with pride.

It was a show of “enthusiastic and indefatigable manpower shifting about 150 tons an hour.” Messrs. W. Patching and K. Robinson, in expressing the gratitude of the park committee, said they “could not find words bold enough to express their feelings at so magnificent a response.”

Several smaller working bees continued throughout October to finish the project. At the end of the month, the Angaston Institute agreed to hold a complimentary picture show for workers in the grading scheme. Mrs P.S. Smith was singled out with praise for her outstanding contribution to the town and the park. In appreciation of her service she was presented with an inscribed jardiniere. Cheers were also given for various workers, particularly the foremen Messrs. Chinner and Patching, whose efforts were said to be beyond monetary worth.

“Never has the history of Angaston produced such an achievement as the grading of our oval,” said Mr W. Sibley at the April 1931 annual meeting of Angas Recreation Park subscribers. “To the magnificent workers an unstinted tribute must be paid...To Mrs P.S. Smith, however, we owe a big debt. Her achievement and that of the ladies who so often provided refreshment will ever be remembered. I have been secretary for thirty years today, and the effort will always be a monument to those responsible and the co-operative spirit of Angaston residents.”

To have some appreciation of the commercial value placed on the grading works, £200 in 1930 is worth approximately \$17,000 today. Can you imagine more than 200 people volunteering their time on a public holiday to achieve such a goal, and how much is being paid for the junior oval in 2021?!

Various articles from The Leader 1930/1931, accessed via Trove.

HISTORY CENTRE

New Exhibition - Angaston Show

Did you know that the Angaston Agricultural and Horticultural Society held their first ‘show’ in March 1854? A pavilion was erected on ‘The Green’ (where the Town Hall now stands), the newspaper report stating that the whole population of Angaston was in attendance. The grapes were a feature of the display and other prize categories included wheat, oats, butter, cheese, apples, dried fruits and hay. Familiar early settler surnames such as Holmes, Foott, Evans, Rodda and Smith won ribbons. Our exhibition team will be putting together a new display on this topic, to open early in the new year and coincide with the Show in February. Do you, a family member or ancestor have a significant connection to the Angaston Show? Please get in touch if you are able to help in sharing memories, objects or images.



Angaston Agricultural, Horticultural and Floricultural Society, 1914 (cropped).

Image: SLISA, PRG 280/1/3/291

APHS MEMBERSHIP

Discover the stories of our district



The Angaston & Penrice Historical Society (APHS) was established in 1997 with the vision to preserve, share and pass on knowledge of the captivating local history of Angaston & Penrice.

We have an active membership group that meets monthly. Our activities include staging exhibitions and events, maintaining our archives and collections, conducting Angaston heritage walks and answering family and local history queries.

Our organisation oversees the operation of the heritage listed Angaston Blacksmith Shop & Museum located at 19 Murray Street. Built in 1876, Hardy and his brother Bert were third generation Doddridges working this blacksmith shop. In 1965, when in his eighties, Hardy shod his last horse. Doddridges Blacksmith Shop shod cart and riding horses, and made wrought iron for carts, buggies, ploughs and tools. Blacksmith shops were an essential part of rural life and this is one of the very few remaining main street 'smithies' in South Australia.



The A&H Doddridge forge is now a working museum, thanks to our dedicated & passionate volunteers. Their skills are on display every Saturday, Sunday & some public holidays from 1-4pm.

The charming 1880s cottage next door at 21 Murray Street was once the Doddridge residence. It is now the Angaston History Centre where we have a research/meeting room and exhibition space.

We welcome new members and encourage participation in our activities such as:

- volunteering as blacksmith/guide
- recording archival material
- arranging exhibitions
- researching local history
- writing articles
- attending workshops
- social functions
- participating on the committee.

Please contact our President, Bill Gransbury, for further information on 0438 083 559 or email angastonheritage@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name:

Postal Address:

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Phone:

Mobile:

Email:

Annual Subscriptions:

- General \$15.00
- Concession \$10.00
- Corporate \$40.00
- Life Member \$100.00 (once only)

Remittance:

Cash or via direct debit to:
 Angaston & Penrice Historical Society
 BSB 105-021 Acc 038247840

Payment Received:



Angaston & Penrice Historical Society Inc.
 ABN 75 126 367 743
 PO Box 337 Angaston SA 5353
angastonheritage@gmail.com

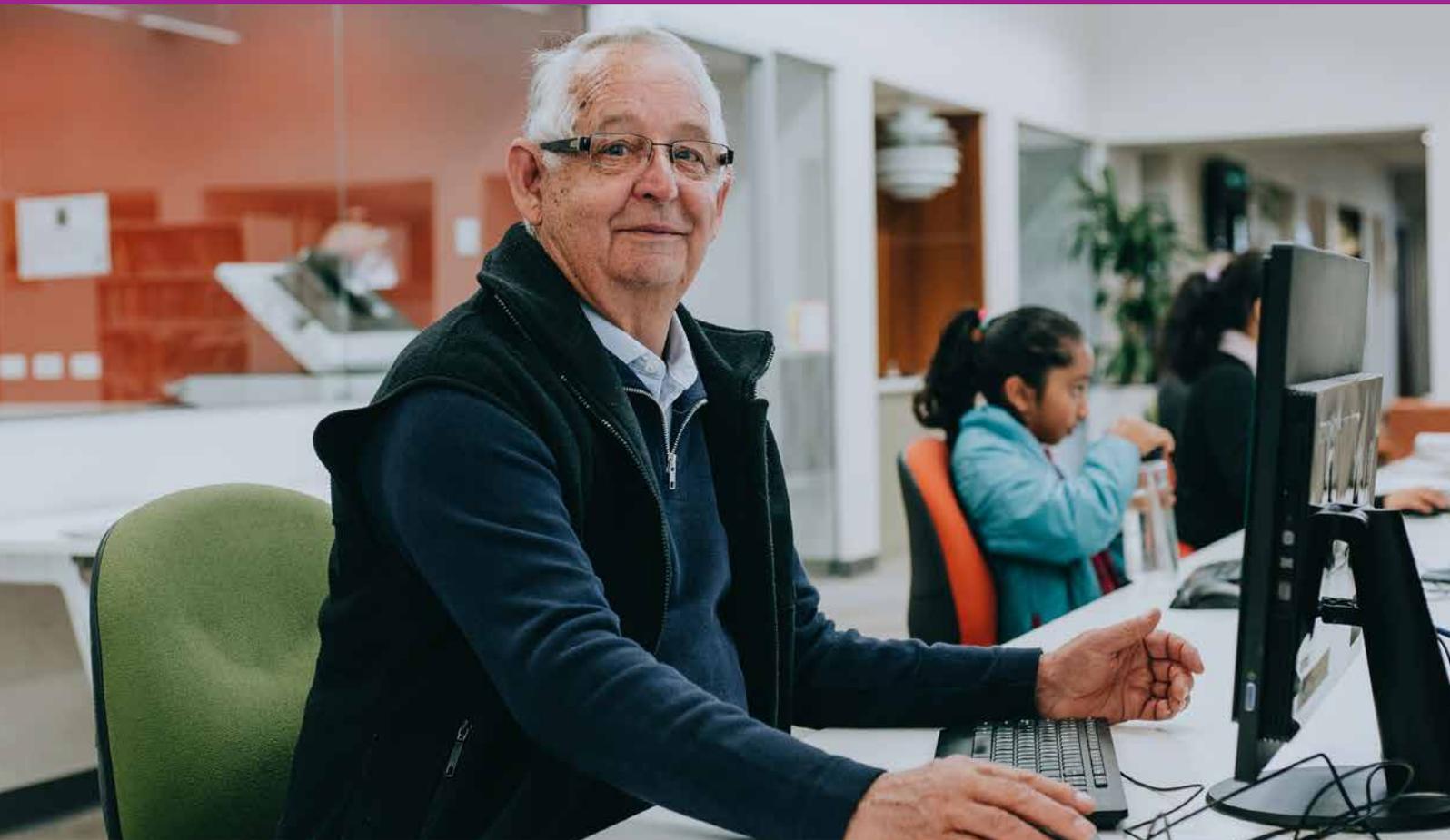


Australian Government

Be Connected

Every Australian online.

There's never been a better time to get online.



As a Be Connected Network Partner, we can help you discover how being online can add new skills and experiences to your life - for free.

Introduction to online family history research
Presented by Angaston & Penrice Historical Society
Friday 22 October, 10-12, Angaston Town Hall
Bookings: Bill Gransbury 0438 083 559



www.beconnected.esafety.gov.au

BAROSSA HISTORY FAIR – MAY 2021

Our weekend commenced with brunch at the Wanera Wine Bar & Restaurant, with three dynamic guest speakers reflecting on this year's History Fair theme of 'change'. Jon Durdin, Chair of Tourism Barossa, reminded us that the early settlers made grand investments in the community with a vision for the future, and to honour this legacy we need to give a current value to our heritage assets if we are to conserve and protect them. To do this, we need to provide distinctive, high-quality and engaging experiences that are authentic and honest. He emphasized the importance of rich story-telling to give a place relevance - meaning stories become layered over time and are not just of one era. Business operators and volunteer organisations would benefit from up-skilling in this area. By creating evocative heritage tourism encounters we can transform visitors into advocates and thereby grow networks that willingly support our objectives over the long term.

Greg Mackie OAM, Chief Executive of the History Trust of SA, reiterated the need to communicate stories simply and in ways that are accessible to multiple demographics. Keith Conlon, Chair of the SA Heritage Council,

referenced the State Government's new 10 year Heritage Tourism Strategy 'Growing Our Heritage Future'. The strategy echoes many of the key points discussed at this event; 'When we highlight our heritage within the visitor experience – showcasing the range and depth of possibilities on offer – we give visitors every reason to travel further, stay longer, spend more, and share their tales of South Australia with national and global communities... Growing heritage tourism will support diverse and economically sustainable destinations. It will foster value and appreciation for our fascinating past and the future's unwritten possibilities.' These ideas provide direction for APHS as we look at ways to improve the experiences offered at the Angaston Blacksmith Shop & Museum and the History Centre.

The second day of the fair was an expo, including local displays and a series of talks at the Angaston Town Hall, plus family activities around the Barossa Adventure Station. Thankfully the sun was out, and we had plenty in attendance. Overall the event was a great success thanks to the hard work of our co-convenors Bill Gransbury and Chris Murphy, the committee members and many volunteers.



Inside the Town Hall.



Paula Bartsch, Bill Gransbury, Greg Mackie, Jon Durdin, Keith Conlon.

BE CONNECTED – FREE EVENT

Introduction to online family history research

As part of Get Online week, APHS is hosting a free event to help people over 50 learn online family history research skills. Funding has been received for this digital inclusion program from Good Things Foundation Australia. The workshop will be conducted by Diploma of Family History graduate, Rebecca Bolton. She will introduce participants to key websites including Ancestry and Find My Past as well as free resources such as Trove, State Records, the State Library and Land Titles. Handouts will also be provided. The event will be held on Friday 22 October from 10am to 12 noon at the Angaston Town Hall. To end the session on a social note, a light lunch will be served. Attendees are required to have a basic understanding of internet searches. BYO device, though not essential. This is an in-person event however Zoom will be used should COVID restrictions be in place. To book contact Bill Gransbury on 0438 083 559 or angastonheritage@gmail.com



Rebecca Bolton.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM will be held on Tuesday 26 October at 7.30pm. We have moved from our traditional location of the Old Union Chapel to the Annexe at the Town Hall. The larger space allows us to spread out and also to enjoy a supper after the meeting – please bring a small plate to share with the tea and coffee provided. Noted historian Don Ross will provide a talk on the formation and early years of the Barossa Archives and Historical Trust. The Trust was established in 1963 and operates the Barossa Museum located in Tanunda. Don joined the Trust in 1967 and has held the position of secretary for the past 22 years.

DIARY DATES

OCTOBER 22

Be Connected – Free Workshop
Introduction to online family history research

OCTOBER 26

7.30pm – Annual General Meeting
Angaston Town Hall – Annexe

NOVEMBER 23

7.30pm – General Meeting

DECEMBER 14

6.00pm – Christmas BBQ

FEBRUARY 22

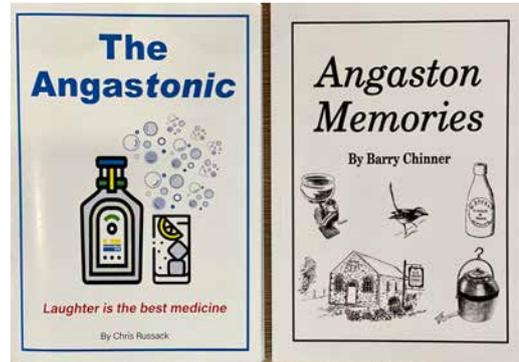
7.30pm – General Meeting

MARCH 22

7.30pm – General Meeting

APRIL 26

7.30pm – General Meeting



NEW BOOKS AVAILABLE

Congratulations to accomplished writers and APHS members Barry Chinner and Chris Russack who have recently published books of their work. Barry's entertaining stories and sketches have been a weekly feature in The Leader in recent times. He has collated these to produce 'Angaston Memories'. Chris is a talented poet whose work is also regularly published in The Leader. 'Angastonic' is a collection of his clever and amusing poetry. Both editions are available at Miles' Deli.

MEET OUR MEMBERS

Anthony Schubert – Secretary



I was born at Angaston Hospital in 1960 as a fourth generation Schubert, my great grandfather's family having moved to Angaston in 1922 from Sutherlands. As a boy I helped on the family farm. Picking grapes, apricots (and cutting), plums (and dipping), ploughing/discing with the tractor, dipping sheep, shearing and hay baling were all part of early life.

I commenced working at The Leader in 1977 as an apprentice compositor (typesetter), finishing in 2018 after 41 years of service.

I am heavily involved with the Angaston Football Club and have written two books on its history. I became Secretary in November 1987 and still hold the position. I became Vice President of the Angaston & Penrice Historical Society in 1998 and later Secretary at the 2002 AGM and also still hold the position.

Now my time is spent 'working' for the football club and historical society helping find answers to many varied enquiries.

ANGASTON & PENRICE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

21 Murray Street, Angaston
Box 337 Angaston, SA 5353

angastonheritage@gmail.com |   @angastonheritage

