



Preserving Memories

A joint project of the
City of West Torrens and the
West Torrens Historical Society

KENT BEARD, Lockleys

'I REMEMBER WITNESSING TWO OF THE HOUSEWIVES IN THE STREET COMING TO BLOWS OVER WHO WAS GOING TO PICK UP THE DEPOSIT OF HORSE MANURE WHICH THE BAKER'S HORSE HAD JUST DROPPED ON THE ROAD. I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY THEY WERE HAVING A FIGHT OVER A PILE OF HORSE POO.'



Kent Beard has lived in the West Torrens area all his life.

Growing up in Underdale and Lockleys, he remembers the market gardens, and many changes to the area.

He reminisces on Radio, Television and music technology and other entertainment of the 1960's and 1970s.

Working at E&WS (Engineering and Water Supply), he had given us a great insight into his areas of expertise in drafting and surveying

Kent's father George served in World War 2 and Kent has submitted biographical and service information to enhance the Virtual War Memorial database records.

He is a valuable member of the West Torrens Historical Society as Social Media manager.



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Family background

Kent's father **George Howard Beard** was born in Geelong, Victoria, 26th July 1919. The family moved to Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, and George was working as a fitter and turner in the Kalgoorlie Foundry.

George's parents
(Kent's paternal grandparents)

Roy Beard
(28 Apr 1891 - 10 Jun
1969)

Elizabeth Jane Trebilcock
(1890 - 12 Dec 1960)

Married 1911,
Geelong, Victoria.



Roy Beard and Elizabeth Jane Trebilcock 1911

Kent's mother **Audrey Selina Reid** was born in Torrensville, 8th September 1922 and throughout her childhood lived at 25 Shipster Street, Torrensville. Audrey went to Thebarton High School and then worked at Myers in Adelaide until Kent's birth in 1951. Kent recalls that throughout her life, she did needlework, clothing repairs and knitted jumpers or cardigans.



Andrew Reid and Alma Lindholm 1918

Audrey's parents
(Kent's maternal
grandparents)

Andrew Clifton Harcourt
Reid (known as Clifton)
(21 Jul 1898 - 21 Apr 1956)

Alma Josephine Selina Lindholm
(2 Jan 1897 - 11 Sep 1986)

Married 20 November 1918,
Christ Chapel, Grote St. Adelaide.

Clifton Reid was a train driver.





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Parent's Marriage

George met Audrey at the Adelaide Palais as they had a shared love of dancing.



North Terrace Palais 1929 [SLSA B-5229]

George was on war leave when they were married on 23rd July 1943 at Trinity Church, North Terrace, Adelaide.



George and Audrey Beard 1943



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World War 2

George served in World War 2 in the Royal Australian Navy, at first volunteering in RAN Reserve on 25 October 1941 for three years. He was mobilised for war service with the RAN for the duration of hostilities on 30 October 1941.



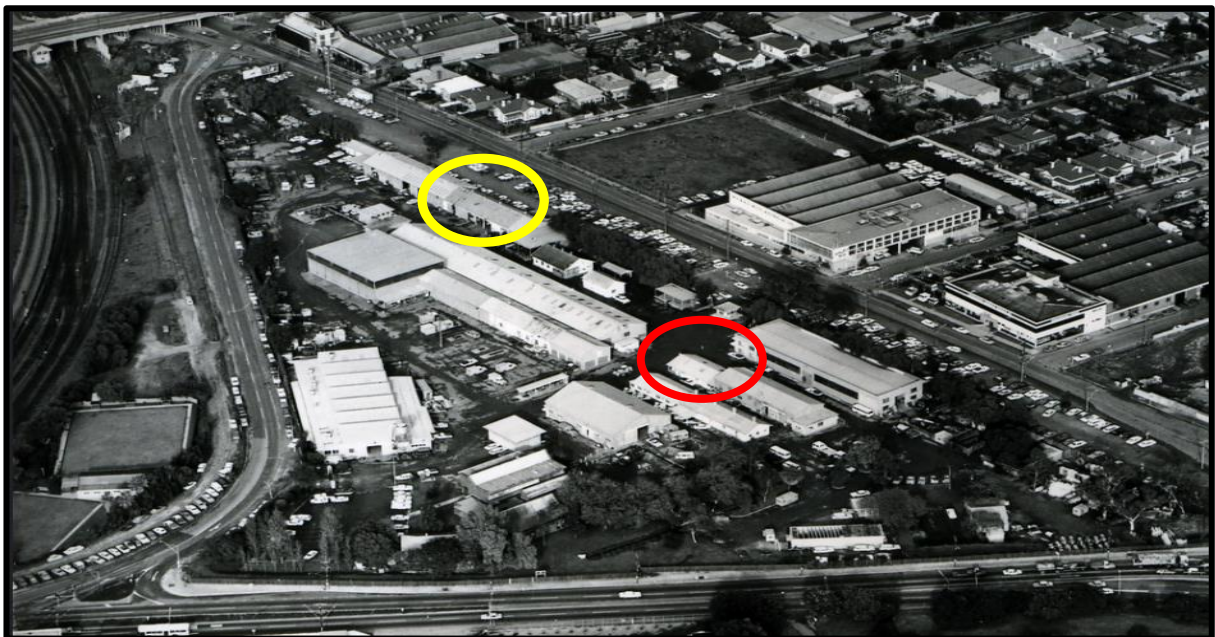
His initial rank was Engine Room Artificer 1V class. His initial pay was 11 pounds 3 shillings a fortnight. He had advanced to Engine Room Artificer 111 class (CPO) on 9 November 1944.

On 14 September 1944 George was "issued four chevrons". At the conclusion of the war George was demobilised on 20 February 1946.

A detailed biography and service history has been submitted by Kent to the Virtual War Memorial Australia database. (<https://vwma.org.au/> Search by name or Service number (F4036))

George's occupation

After the war, George returned to Adelaide and began his occupation 11th February 1946 as a Fitter and Turner with E&WS (Engineering and Water Supply) Department. He stayed the remainder of his working life with E&WS and retired in 1979 as a workshop superintendent at the Thebarton Depot. Kent also went on to work in the same depot.



Thebarton Depot Aerial View June 1980 (Port Road at bottom of image/City to West of depot) [SA Water Flickr] Red Circle - George's office Workshop Superintendent/ Yellow circle The Survey sheds where Kent first started work as a chainman



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Family home in White Avenue, Lockleys

George and Audrey first lived with Audrey's parents at the family home in Torrensville.

They then had a home built at 23 White Avenue, Lockleys. As materials were in short supply after the cessation of World War 2, the home took 2-3 years to build. Reminiscent of the era it was double-bricked with a feature 'freestone' frontage and with 3 bedrooms. The laundry and kitchen had a linoleum floor covering, with the rest of the house having Axminster carpet.

The house had no gas supply but appliances like a bar radiator and the Adelect stove were electric. There was a fluorescent light in the kitchen and incandescent lighting in the other rooms. The hot water supply was via a gravity fed system with a tank in the roof.



Audrey and Kent, White Avenue, Lockleys Sept 1951

Utilising the corner allotment meant the *BesserBlock* shed faced Hawthorne Street. The backyard had a small lawn area with a *Hills Hoist* clothesline.

Six almond trees in the yard provided a small extra income as the nuts were sold to a place at East Terrace, Beverley. George had planted the lemon tree and the plum tree at the same time as the six almond trees. As the almond trees eventually died he replaced them with grapefruit and orange trees. Kent would eat these fruits from the garden. Vegetables were not grown on a regular basis.

Kent recalls that White Avenue had a bitumen road but no gutters for many years. Hawthorne Street was a dirt road until the early 1960s.



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Kent Alton Beard

Kent was born 25th June, 1951 at the Lurline Street Maternity Hospital, Mile End. He is the only child of George and Audrey Beard.

As a way of saying 'Thank you' to Audrey's parents, Alma and Clifton, for allowing them to live in their home while the White Avenue house was being built, Kent's middle name of "Alton" is a combination of their names, ('Al' from Alma and 'ton from Clifton).

Food and shopping

As was the convention of the time, after marriage Audrey ceased working and managed the home. Kent recalls that she was a good cook and loved her Pasty slice, which he would often help her make.

Mr Bishop, the butcher, lived opposite and would bring home meat in the back of his Volkswagen on a Friday night. This included lamb, beef, mincemeat and sausages. Tripe and similar cuts were one thing Kent didn't like. Chicken was expensive and only eaten on special occasions like birthdays and Christmas. Turkey was also expensive and Kent was a teenager before trying this. The meat was often cooked in a pressure cooker.

A rabbit supplier would drive along the streets calling 'rabbitoh' (the professions nickname), and the ladies would rush out to buy a rabbit from the truck. Kent liked eating rabbit and it was a regular meal during the week

Desserts were often milk based custards or bread and butter pudding. Audrey had a *Fowlers Vacola* preserving kit and used this when given a supply of apricots or peaches.



Some foods were delivered. A metal billycan was left at the front gate at night with money, for the 'milky' to pour the days milk into, for the family to collect the next day. In the early days the "milky" delivered the milk using a horse drawn cart but around about the early sixties a motor van was used.

The baker also delivered from a horse drawn cart. As the horse gently walked down the middle of White Avenue the baker got on and off the cart delivering to each house in the street. The money for the bread was left in a bread tin that Mum left at the front door.



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The funniest thing I remember was witnessing two of the housewives in the street coming to blows over who was going to pick up the deposit of horse manure which the baker's horse had just dropped on the road. I couldn't understand why they were having a fight over a pile of horse poo. [This was used for fertilizing home gardens].

Before big supermarkets were built shopping would be at the small groups of shops along Henley Beach Road. Kooyong Shopping Centre on the corner of Rowells and Henley Beach Road were the closest shops. This centre was the first drive-in type of shops in the area.



Kooyong Shopping Centre, circa 2001

Another group of shops was on the corner of Airport Road. This was the first supermarket he can remember. There was also a plant nursery opposite Airport Road owned by Lasscocks.

There were a couple of local delicatessens to buy sweets, ice cream, pies and pasties.

One was opposite Lockleys North Primary School on the corner of Malurus and Grallina Streets (now converted into a residence) and the other was on Henley Beach Road between the Lockleys Picture Theatre and the Police Station on Henley Beach Road.



[WTHS LH0460-22]

There was a fish and chip shop located on Henley Beach Road at the Airport Road corner. As a teen this was a favourite place as he loved fish and chips and they had a juke box. He remembers that it had his favourite 45's [vinyl records] in the machine that would play by inserting a five or ten cent coin.

I would be down at the fish and chippery fairly regularly.



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Pets and animals

The family had two dogs whilst Kent was at home, both Blue Roan Cocker Spaniels, Bruce and Roger. Kent recalls that *Dad generally looked after Roger as he really loved the dog* and that he would joke that Roger was actually “the number one son” and he was a poor second.



Kent with Bruce the dog 1953



Kent with Roger the dog, 1968

'Joey' the budgie lived in a small cage and during the day Joey's cage was taken outside and placed up high on the wall. Joey was Audrey's company during the day and when Joey died at a very old age, Kent remembers that it was the first time that he had ever seen his mother cry.



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Church and Sunday School

The nearest church was St Richards of Chichester (corner of May Terrace and Henley Beach Road) at Brooklyn Park. Kent attended the Sunday School and he recalls the annual Sunday School picnic was held at Belair National Park.

Once, I can remember going to Belair in a bus hired by the church but mostly we went in our FJ Holden to Belair. Three legged races, egg and spoon races and some ordinary running races were part of the day. "Tug of war" was also a feature.

He later went to the Church of Christ, Brooklyn Park until about 12 years of age. He remembers his teacher, Miss Farrell, who was also a dental assistant at the family clinic of Dr King in Torrensville.

Schooling, games, sport and chores



Kent Beard Grade 1 1957

Kent started school in July at Lockleys Primary School, walking the 3-4 kilometres with his mother, as they had to cross the busy Henley Beach Road. He remembers the 'pre-fab' school buildings, the outside urinals (for the boys) and the playground.

In 1960 Kent was amongst the students living on the north side of Henley Beach Road who moved to the newly opened Lockleys North Primary School. Whilst it was under construction, Kent and his friend Neil Johnson would ride their tricycles around the grounds.

Milk was delivered to the school for the students and as it was often left in the sun, it curdled. Kent recalls that it was awful and has never drunk milk since.

Before the oval was created the school ground was covered in 'South African Daisy' and weeds, the children would play games like 'All over Red Rover', 'Pigeon Toe', 'Brandy', 'Cowboys and Indian', 'war games' and marbles. Sports like football, cricket and soccer were played amongst the children, and along with tennis, in school sports teams. The children would ride pushbikes everywhere and be out all day, getting home by dark. They would play together in the street or on the front lawns of the houses. Kent recalls that they called Mellor Park 'The Rec' as this was their playground.

Kent remembers 'Dinky' toys and a wind-up train set and without siblings he invented games he could play by himself. Kent also helped around the house washing and drying dishes, making his bed and keeping his bed room tidy.



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Mellor Park

Nearby Mellor Park was originally like a bush wilderness for the children, before the area became a formal park.

Mellor Park was my playground. When I could ride my bike we (i.e. all the children in the street) would go down to “the rec” and play football and cricket on the grassed area and later we played tennis on the courts located there also.

The Christmas tree lights and carols were a major part of Christmas and we would go down to Mellor Park and join in singing the carols. Mr. Eddie Smith and Mr. Ron McCubbin used to fix the lights every year until they became too old to do the job. This used to happen early in December and I can remember seeing them half way up, and there were other men also adding the lights to the tree.

I was a regular visitor to the Mothers and Babies Centre at Mellor Park as a baby.



[WTHS LH0501-02]

West Torrens Football Club

The family followed the West Torrens Football Club and Kent recalls the team’s prominent players, Bob Hank and Lindsay Head, as heroes.



From Best of Both Worlds p235, ISBN 9780646531311

We were very keen West Torrens Football Club followers (I am still a passionate West Torrens “tragic”. I don’t follow the merged Woodville – West Torrens team as I was violently opposed to the merger.)

I would have been at the 1953 Grand Final that West Torrens won if it wasn’t for a case of tonsillitis. Dad went but Mum and I missed the match. At two years of age I don’t think that I would have remembered anything about it. Grandma lived in Shipster Street, near to

Thebarton Oval so we drove to her place and left the car there and walked the kilometre or so to Thebarton Oval.

We went to every ground in the competition following the Eagles and the “water bag” trip to Elizabeth Oval was always a bit of an ordeal, only compensated by a victory and a happy trip home. We had lots of favourite West Torrens players but Bob Hank and Lindsay Head would have been the two stand-outs.



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Communications

Mail was delivered by a postman who rode a pushbike. He would blow a whistle to indicate that he had made a delivery to a house. The nearest post office was at Brooklyn Park, on the corner of Gertrude and Henley Beach Road,

The newspaper was also delivered to the home, rolled up and secured with a glued strip of paper. Payment for this was made direct to the 'paperman' who would come on Saturday morning to collect the money for past deliveries. There was also a local newspaper called *The Messenger - Westside*.



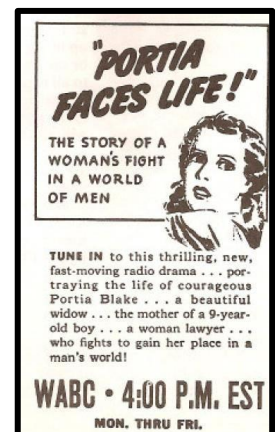
The family home had a black *Bakelite* telephone. Kent still recalls the phone number - LU6718!

In the fifties most homes had a phone. I used it only occasionally to contact friends. However when I started courting my future wife, Sue in the early seventies, I used to "be on the phone" a hell of a lot of time (according to my mother).

Radio shows (The Wireless)

Radio was the earliest form of entertainment. Kent recalls his mum listening to an American soap opera 'Portia faces life' in the mornings.

As a child we listened to the serials on the wireless that were on at about 5.00pm through until about 7.00pm. There was also the "TAA Junior Flyer's Club" of which I was a member and I had a silver (aluminum) badge. We once went to the airport and had a look through a DC3 as I recall. There was also a radio show for children. I can remember my name being mentioned on the programme when my birthday occurred.



[Started in the 1930s, Adelaide radio station 5AD's Kangaroo Club had 65,000 young Kangas from all over Australia enrolled at its peak in the 1950s. It raised tens of thousands of pounds for charity. One of the novel rituals of the Kangaroo Club was for members to have their names called out on the wireless on their birthday and receive a MacRobertson Freddo Frog, left for them in the letterbox or under the pillow by a horse called Gandy, who would gallop to a sound effect all over South Australia with his special deliveries.] From <https://adelaideaz.com/>





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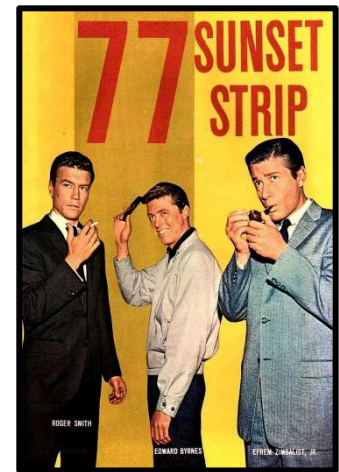
Television

Kent remembers television in the late 1950s.

Our neighbour on the other corner of Hawthorne Street, Mr. Hayward was the first person in our street to have a television. I was good friends with Bryan and Daryl, their two sons. A lot of the children nearby would go to the Haywards after school to watch the television until we were all called to go home for the evening meal. The shows we watched were Superman, The Three Stooges, The Cisco Kid, Robin Hood, William Tell and of course The Mickey Mouse Club and The Bugs Bunny Show.

It wasn't too long afterwards that we bought a television. That was a major change in our social life as I recall. Everyone tended to stay at home to watch TV from then on.

As I grew older the family watched shows such as 77 Sunset Strip, Cheyenne, Bronco Lane, Maverick, Bat Masterson, Have gun will travel, The Untouchables, Rawhide, Adventures in Paradise, Hawaiian eye, Peter Gunn, as well as variety shows such as Adelaide Tonight and game shows such as BP Pick a box, Concentration and so on. You can see that we really got into the television world.



<https://imdb.com>

Movies

Movies were played at the nearby Lockleys Picture Theatre. Kent remembers in the 1950s the projectionist was their next door neighbour, Jack Warner. Jack would tell them what movies were going to be shown.



[WTHS LH0460-03c]

On Friday and or Saturday nights the three of us would go to the Lockleys picture theatre to watch the films. My earliest memory was when I was in a pusher going through the dark in Mellor Park. Of course I loved the cartoons and would "hang on" until I saw them before eventually dropping off to sleep.

I loved the Lockleys picture theatre and always managed to buy an ice-cream and some Jaffas whenever we went there. I loved adventure films such as Robin Hood, Treasure Island and any western or war film.



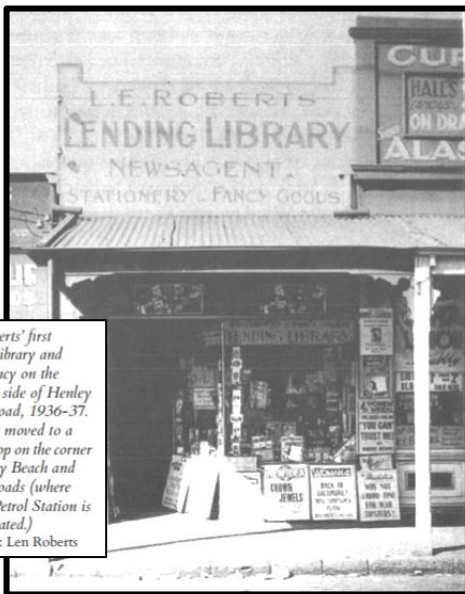
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Music

Kent's dad purchased a stereo system and then later Kent bought his own record player for vinyl records.

Dad fell in love with his stereo system and proceeded to buy heaps of records. Starting off with record sets from Reader's Digest he went on to be a great fan of James Last. Mum loved Glenn Miller particularly and all those wartime music groups. Dad liked these big bands too as it was music that they had danced to in their courting years.



Len Roberts' first lending library and newsagency on the southern side of Henley Beach Road, 1936-37. Later, he moved to a larger shop on the corner of Henley Beach and South Roads (where the BP Petrol Station is now situated.)
Courtesy: Len Roberts

From *Thebarton Old and New* 1996p 195 ISBN
0 646 30157 8

As I became interested in music with The Beatles appearing on the scene, I used to save my pennies to buy the small 45 rpm vinyls initially and then I purchased every Beatles LP record. I still have all of the records I purchased as I became interested in the whole world of pop music. A 33 and a third LP vinyl record cost two pounds twelve and sixpence. A single cost ten shillings.

I always purchased my records from Len Roberts Newsagency at Thebarton. (I did get a small amount of pocket money along the way.)

(Kent recalls this building at 95 Henley Beach Road but at the time Len Roberts shop was at 116 Henley Beach Road)

My love affair with music continues today but my tastes are much broader, enjoying a lot of Classical and Jazz music as well.

Pop and rock concerts were held at the nearby Thebarton Town Hall, Memorial Drive and the Apollo Stadium at Kingston Avenue, Richmond.

I really enjoyed going to Rock concerts and also dances in my teenage years. As I mentioned The Beatles were at the very start of my pop music journey but I never saw them perform. After they finished my favourite group became Jethro Tull (and I am still a fan as this group is still going in 2021.) But I also loved the heavy rock music of Led Zeppelin, Black Sabbath and Deep Purple.



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Apollo Stadium 2002 [WTHS LH0420z-08]

The best rock concert I ever attended was a Jethro Tull concert at Apollo Stadium in the mid-seventies. At Memorial Drive I saw Elton John (when he had just the trio) which was fantastic, the Rolling Stones and Devo were others that I saw. The Thebarton Theatre was a venue as well although the acoustics were awful.

Western Youth Centre and dancing

As a teenager, Kent attended the 'Cooinda Club' at the Western Youth Centre on Marion Road. Launched in 1968, this was described as a young peoples' club with dances and performers like Johnny Farnham.



Kent would go dancing at the St. Clair Recreation Centre at Woodville. This was South Australia's first major youth centre and indoor sports stadium with youth sports and activities such as basketball, squash, roller skating, judo and dancing. During the 1960s the Centre hosted a Saturday Night Dance. It was the largest dance in Adelaide and regularly drew crowds of more than 1000 people.

When over the age of eighteen he would go to the Findon Hotel *Fiesta Villa*, The *Princeton Club* at Burnside Town Hall, *The Redlegs Club* at Norwood, *The Arkaba* at Glenside and *The Hotel Australia*.



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Transport in West Torrens

Kent has always lived close to Port Road, a major road from the City to the western suburbs.

He recalls public transport as the trolley bus which was an electrified vehicle not on rails like them tram. It would occasionally detach from the electric connection and the conductor would use a long wooden pole to reattach the pole on the bus to the wire. It was often crowded and it was later replaced by a bus service.



Trolley Bus 1953 [SLSA B-26176]

One of Kent's earliest memories was as a child in a pram watching from the Bakewell Bridge as his grandfather (Clif) was driving the train underneath. He still recalls his excitement watching the black smoke disappear as it went under the bridge and then reappear on the other side.



Bakewell Bridge in background 1952 [SLSA B58892/310]

Flights from the Adelaide Airport at West Beach began in 1954. As they lived so close, Kent recalls hearing the plane engines being 'warmed up' in the very early hours of the morning.

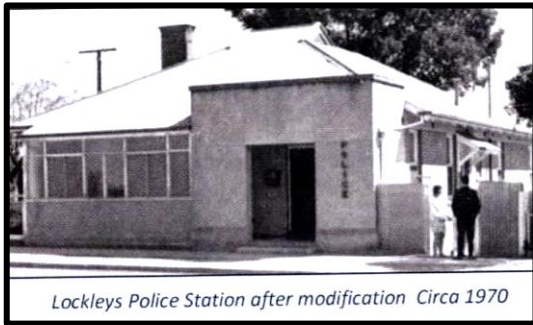


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Lockleys Police Station

The local police station was at 366 Henley Beach Road, next to the deli and near Mellor Park. Kent recalls there was a 'lock up' at the back.



The portable galvanized iron police cell... was relocated to the rear of the new police station. Constable Dick remained at Lockleys until September 1939... [about 1947] the station was issued with a motorcycle...

In March 1956, Henley Beach Road was widened and as a result the front yard of the Police Station was lost with the front of the police office and residence abutting the footpath.

Extract from *More than just bricks and mortar* 2018 ISBN
9780646982359

Around 1964 Kent went to Henley High School. He and his friends would ride their bikes to the Police Station, leave the bikes behind the fence and then ride the bus to Henley Beach.

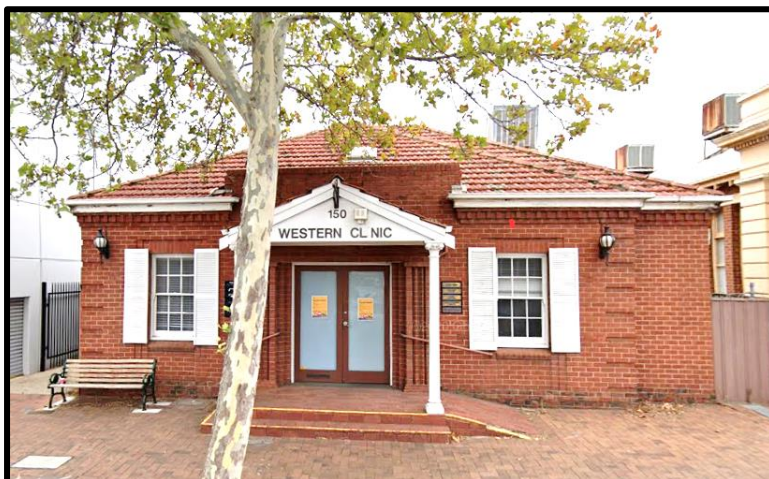
Home remedies and Health Services in West Torrens

Home remedies were popular and often used prior to eventually having to visit the doctor.

Kent's mum's way to keep a cold at bay, was to place a piece of camphor in a small cloth bag and attach it to his singlet with a safety pin. Kent recalls that it smelt awful and that he hated wearing it. Cod liver Oil tablets were taken through winter. She also would put *Vicks VapoRub* in a basin of hot water, which you would lean over with a towel over your head to clear blocked nasal passages.



<https://lunchwithdionysus.files.wordpress.com/>



The family doctor was John Nicholls who practiced originally at the Western Clinic, 150 Henley Beach Road, Torrensville. He later started his own surgery in Torrensville. His daughter Juliana Nicholls joined the practice and became Kent's doctor when John retired. Dr John White also shared the premises.



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Kent recalls Dr Fotheringham (who was his mother's doctor on birthing), and Dr Pavy who lived on Henley Beach Road.

The nearest hospital would have been the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Woodville.

Kent's dentist, Dr King, was in the same area, on the opposite side of the road, 189 Henley Beach Road.

Voluntary health insurance, which subsidised hospital care and medical services, was known as Health Benefits. The family paid their subscription monthly at the Rechabite Hall, next to the Western Clinic, at 148 Henley Beach Road. Kent recalls lining up to present themselves at a 'bridge table' set up in the middle of the hall in order to pay for this subscription.

Lockleys

John Martins Christmas Pageant floats

The John Martins bulk store was built at 25 Pierson Street, Lockleys, just north of their home. The pageant floats were housed there and on pageant day the children would stand out on White Avenue to watch them on the way to the city.

The White family

Living in White Avenue, Kent learnt about the White family as early settlers of the district. On the corner of White Avenue and Myzantha Street was the home of John Fox Mellor (he married Eliza, a daughter of John White), the home became Serene Residential Care Services.



1 Myzantha Street, Lockleys, Mellor home, circa 1940 WTHS LH0580-01a]

Market Gardens

Along the River Torrens were many market gardens of vegetable crops, including the Hanks, Lewis and Huelin families. These have all since been converted to residential building allotments. Kent remembers that the last areas to be developed were the Underdale High School and Teachers College areas.



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Torrensville

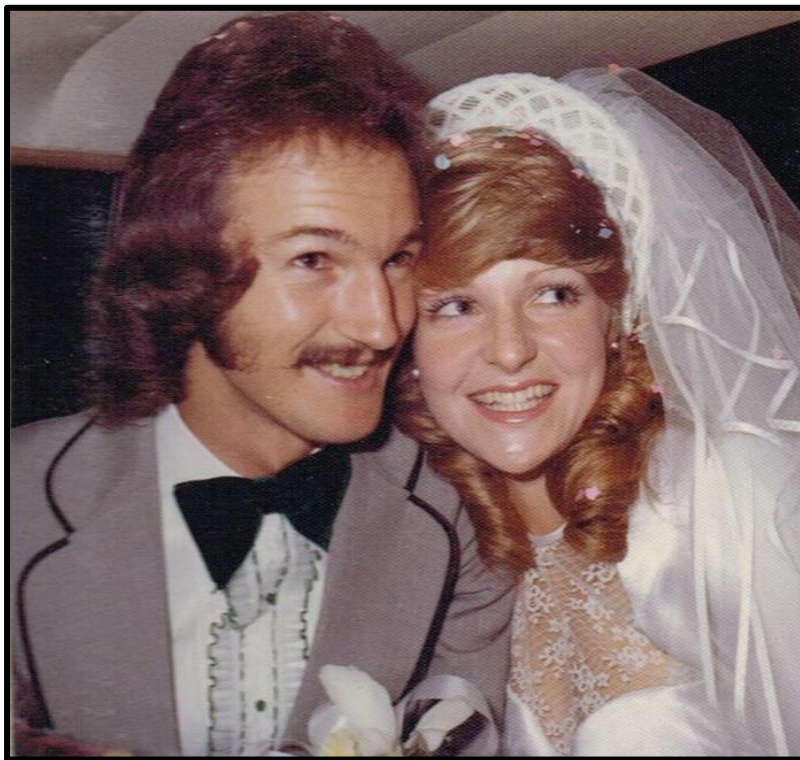
Torrensville was already mostly residential when Kent lived in the area.

His grandmother, Alma McNamara, lived at 25 Shipster Street, and Kent and his wife also lived there for a short time after they married in 1975.



Alma McNamara, 25 Shipster Street, Torrensville, 1982

Marriage



Kent met Sue Anderson who was born 19th February 1955. They met at the Brooklyn Park Methodist Church in May Terrace.

Sue joined the youth group that I was part of, and the romance began.

Sue lived in Mellor Avenue, not far from Kent's home on White Avenue. He recalls that this was 'really convenient' as they could walk to each other's homes.

Kent and Sue courted for nearly 5 years before getting engaged and the married on the 14th May 1975 at Brooklyn Park Methodist Church.

Despite living near the Adelaide Airport since its opening in 1954 and watching the progress of air travel, their honeymoon to Perth in 1975 was their first time experiencing plane travel.

Kent and Sue were active members of the Brooklyn Park Methodist Church, volunteering as Sunday School teachers for ten years.



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Lockleys homes

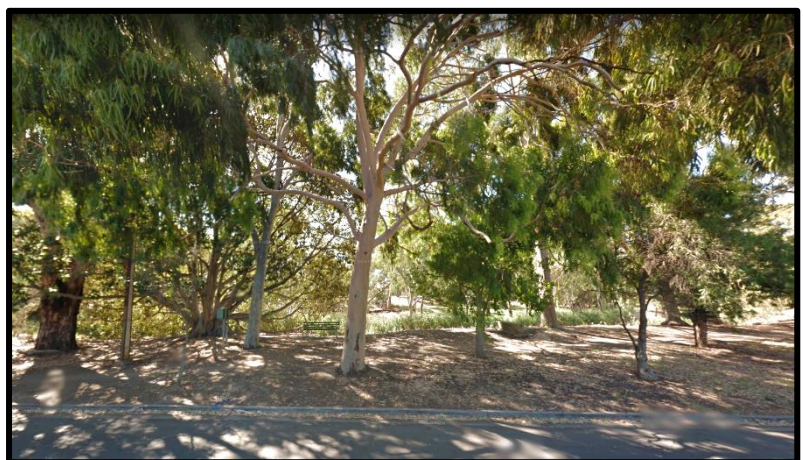
In 1977, Kent and Sue bought a home at 66 Clyde Avenue Lockleys. (Despite the Auction sign showing December 1976, they purchased after, in January 1977).



We lived happily at 66 Clyde Avenue adding on a music room for Sue and undergoing numerous improvements to the property.

To assist Sue's father, in 2005, Kent and Sue moved to his home, just down the road, on Frontage Road.

Frontage Road has uninterrupted views of the Torrens River and access to the Linear Track.





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Tennis

Kent and Sue coached and coordinated junior tennis teams that competed in the junior competition of the United Church Tennis Association from 1975 to 1994.

Over that period we had sixty seven girls and seventy one boys represent the club in competition and the club won four premierships in the Girls and eight premierships in the Boys competitions.

We had coaching and practice on Monday nights and competed on Saturday mornings. Our courts were located at Mellor Park immediately adjacent to Henley Beach Road. This area has been changed by the redevelopment of Mellor Park in 2021.



Mellor Park Tennis Courts circa 1994

Kent's interest in tennis started at Peake Gardens Reserve as a learner with W.U.L.T.A. Juniors.

He earned a Tennis Honour pocket (along with his Prefect's pocket gained at Henley High).

He played tennis for a large percentage of his life but mostly outside of the West Torrens District.

He recalls playing several seasons on hardcourt at the Lancaster Tennis Club and then from 1973 until 2009 played for the Woodville Lawn Tennis Club.

I represented the club on five hundred and fifty occasions playing in both the Saturday Morning and the Metropolitan Lawn Tennis Competitions. I was a committee member for thirty odd years and President for four years.



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Working life

Kent began working with the Engineering and Water Supply (E&WS) Department at the Thebarton Depot as a chainman in 1969.

I moved to the State Administration Centre and began employment as a Junior Draftsman in the Survey Branch of the EWS Department. I had to study part time whilst working and I finally completed my studies towards an Associate Diploma in Surveying.

There were difficult and trying days working and studying like this. After spending a big day at work I then had to drive my car out to the South Australian Institute of Technology (now UniSA) located at the Levels (now Mawson Lakes) and sit through an hour lecture, an hour tutorial and then two and sometimes three hour practicals on two nights a week.

Sue was studying for her Bachelor of Music degree and then her Graduate Diploma in Teaching at the same time so we soldiered through some heavy studying together so it was great when we had both finished our study.

The seventies were busy years in the E&WS. The Survey Branch was a large unit of approximately 60 people with field staff of about 30 or so chainmen. This included 10 draftsmen and 7 or 8 licensed surveyors and other survey assistants.

The drafting section prepared plans for the metropolitan tank sites, and longitudinal section plans were prepared for the Darlington to Port Adelaide Trunk Main, the Hope Valley - Glynde Trunk Main, as well as sewer mains to and from Port Adelaide.



E&WS Tanks Darlington [History Trust GN14926]

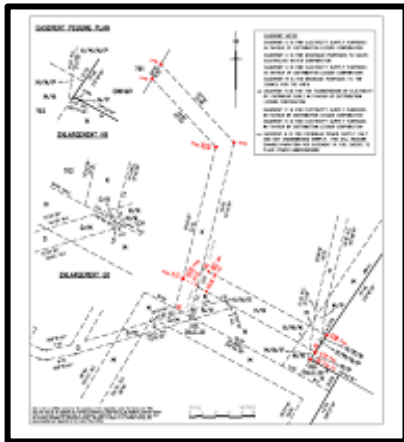
I remember working on the preliminary contour survey of the Stirling - Crafers sewer system as well as the scheme proposed for Monarto. There was plenty of variety in the plan drawing and we also did a lot of searching in the Lands Department and the Lands Titles Office.

With my strong interest in history, I enjoyed investigations to find every licensed survey conducted over an area to conduct a cadastral survey. In the 1980's I reached what was considered the pinnacle as far as "making it" as a survey draftsman when I was fortunate to be selected to work in the Land Acquisition section under the esteemed leadership of Geoff Watton.



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Easement plan

Here I was able to prepare the surveyor's plans for lodgement in the Lands Department and Lands Titles Office. There were countless easement plans to do as the E&WS expanded its water and sewer networks as Adelaide and the state grew. The plans had to be drawn accurately. If they didn't reach the standard they risked rejection by these bodies, necessitating corrections and resubmission. This was something the EWS couldn't afford to happen as this would delay completion of the job and a delay in income.

A personal highlight in this era was my preparation of some complex cadastral plans concerning land acquisition and salt interception scheme easements at Lake Victoria which had to be drawn to NSW regulations. I had great satisfaction in achieving the expectations of the required accuracy of this work and it shaped my continuing satisfaction in striving to do my utmost to obtain the best result.

After a period in the Gazettal Section, I worked in the Department of Lands in 1986 for twelve months. This was to gain computing experience in the new era of capturing digital data with the Digital Cadastral Data Base (DCDB) project team. This was an enjoyable experience working with a completely different group of people.



Returning to the E&WS I was promoted to the position of Senior Technical Officer in 1988. I had been associated with the Digital Facilities Information Services (DFIS) project since conception and once again this was an extremely busy time for us as we digitised every hard copy plan that was in the Drawing Office for the state of South Australia where water and sewer was supplied by SAWater.



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Using firstly Data General and later ESRI software we created the various digital databases that were viewed in Aquamap. Supervising of a small group of dedicated workers was also an enjoyable experience for me.

As a member of the Infrastructure Information Services section of Asset Management my role since 1995 was described as a Senior GIS Specialist-Data Integrity. I was very content to be able to continue working in that role as Job satisfaction was very important to me. I had previously passed up several promotional opportunities as I wanted to continue doing the “hands-on” work that I loved and so the last years of my career were great.

Those that knew me knew that I liked to “get it right”. My job entailed receiving requests to investigate and correct items within the Geographical Information System (GIS) that had been captured incorrectly either spatially or attribute-wise or were missing completely from the database. I liked to be thorough and this work enabled me to contribute to the enhancement of the GIS.

It had also given me the opportunity to have interaction with a large cross section of people within SAWater. I worked with people in Asset Management, Systems Planning, Customer Connections, Water Quality and Environment, Property and all the regional offices.

I retired on 28th February 2014 completing forty-four years in my career.



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Retirement

Kent and Sue cared for her elderly parents moving to their home on Frontage Road, Lockleys. Kent enjoys tending to the garden and they have been integral in the establishment of a native garden at the Adelaide West Uniting Church.

I also volunteer for work at the Adelaide West Uniting Church. We are both active members of AWUC where we are Carers. We are also part of a group who fundraise in order to finance Indigenous Literacy with children. We are keen to assist in the restoration and use of the Kurna language.

Kent keeps fit by regular walking and enjoys nature and bird watching. He enjoys sport, particularly tennis and football, and is a Foundation member of the Adelaide Football Club.

Despite Sue and I not being able to have a family of our own we have nine godchildren whom we love dearly and have enjoyed many happy family experiences with them.



Kent's 66th birthday with Sue and their godchildren 2017

My keen interest in reading and history prompted me to join the West Torrens Historical Society and currently I'm Vice President and also the Facebook publisher of our social media page.

Date: 8th October 2021

Location: LOCKLEYS