

## Preserving Memories

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

### KATHRYN WHITTLESEA

**'THE BROTHER OF A GIRL I WAS WORKING WITH, TOOK THE DAY OFF SCHOOL TO QUEUE UP TO GET TICKETS FOR THE BEATLES. IT WAS AT CENTENNIAL HALL, AND YOU COULDN'T HEAR A THING BECAUSE ALL THE KIDS WERE SCREAMING'.**

Kathryn has lived all her life in the West Torrens area.

She remembers the shops and theatres and recalls many of the events affecting the world in the 1950s and 1960s including the local 1954 earthquake, the 1969 moon landing and the Vietnam War. She even managed to see the Beatles at Centennial Hall, when they came to Adelaide.

Her husband Merv, had a business in Netley called Standard Elements, manufacturing hot water service and other electrical elements.

At the age of 67, Kathryn travelled overseas to Hawaii and bitten by the travel bug, went on to explore Alaska, Canada, Europe and the U.K. including Scotland and Ireland.



She is now involved with the Airport Probus Club and is in her 20<sup>th</sup> year of tours with Endeavour Tours.

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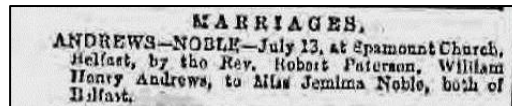
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## Family background

### Paternal Great Grandparents - William Andrews and Jemima Noble

**William Henry Andrews (26 April 1858, Belfast, Ireland - 19 March 1937, Thornbury, Victoria)**

(Parents - David Andrews, c1829 - 1880 and Jane Nicholson, c1824 - 1906)



William Andrews [ancestry.com]

(1) married 13 July 1879, Belfast, Ireland

#### Jemima Noble

**(24 Jan 1862, Belfast, Ireland – 13 Jun 1910, 23 Mills Street)**

(Parents - James Noble, 1810-1884 and Sarah Woods, 1814 -1884)

1. James, 1881 - 1881
2. **David, 6 August 1882, Belfast, Ireland - 7 August 1928, Adel**
3. William Henry Paterson, 1884 - 4 June 1959, Largs Bay

*Migrated to Australia on board Hampshire arriving 20 January 1887*

4. Joe Eyre Walter, 1887- 1888
5. James Victor Noble, 1889 - 1964
6. Frederick Joseph, 1890 - 1961
7. Oscar Allen, 1892 - 1967
8. Priscilla Ethel, 1893 - 1964
9. Vera Jennetta, 1896 - 1896
10. John Calvin Shaw, 1897 - 1975
11. Alexander Nicholson, 1899 - 1899

(2) married 21 June 1911, Methodist Parsonage, Parkside

Sarah Caroline (Sadie) Hosking

(18 May 1877, Sandhurst, Vic - 3 April 1926, Yorketown, SA)

*(on 14 February 1900 Sarah had married Herbert Rose, 1865-1927,*

*with three children from the marriage)*

*Mona, 1900-1990*

*Elsie Valetta, 1904-1955*

*Herbert Richard (Andy), 1907-1977*

*Ruby May, 1908-1994*

12. Sylvia Mavis, 4 Nov 1912, Quorn - 10 Aug 1982, Dunolly, VIC



Sarah Hosking  
[ancestry.com]

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## Paternal Great Grandparents - Francis Kitchen (Kitchin) and Elizabeth Walker

Francis Patrick Kitchen (25 June 1852, Birr, Ireland - 5 September 1921, Marrabel SA)

(Parents - John Kitchen, - 1856 and Mary Kelly, - 1876)

(subsequent family members used the spelling Kitchin)



[myheritage.com]

married 2 December 1879, St Laurence Church, North Adelaide,

Elizabeth Christina (Bessie) Walker (30 Nov 1852, Edinburgh, Scotland - 8 Apr 1939, Henley Beach)

(Parents - William Walker, 15 Jan 1804 - 13 Apr 1873 and Anne Ireland 1807-1863)



In late 1879, Francis and Elizabeth moved to the Northern Territory, for him to take up a teaching position at Palmerston.

'The only other Government places in the town are the State school (a neat and commodious structure, in which Mr. Kitchin for a petty salary daily instructs a score of children).' (*South Australian Register*, 11 May 1882, p5, *The Parliamentary Trip to the Northern Territory*).

**THE VISIT OF THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION TO THE NORTHERN TERRITORY.**  
[From our own Correspondent.]  
Port Darwin, April 7.  
On Monday the Minister, accompanied by the Government Resident and the Private Secretary, visited the Palmerston State School, which is under the management of Mr. F. P. Kitchin. The Minister was disappointed at the smallness of the attendance, only about fifteen children being present. Mr. Kitchin said that was about the average attendance, and that he felt very discouraged at the small attendances while there were so many children of a school-going age within easy distance. On enquiry the Minister elicited the fact that the compulsory clauses of the Act had never been put into operation here. An alteration will be made in this respect. The children present were put through a short examination and addressed by the Minister, who also expressed himself pleased with the order and cleanliness of the school. The rest of the day was devoted to details in connection with the Government departments.

*Adelaide Observer*, 5 May 1888, p34

### Public School, Palmerston.

**T**HE Palmerston School will open under the new teacher, Mr Kitchin, on Monday, 5th January, at 9 o'clock in the forenoon, at Barclay's Room. Parents are requested to send their children on Friday, 2nd January, to the schoolroom, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, to have their names enrolled. Parents are reminded of the necessity of sending their children to school, otherwise the compulsory clauses of the Act will be put in force.

**EDWARD W. PRICE,**  
Government Resident.

*Northern Territory Times and Gazette*, 27 Dec 1879, p1

In 1888, it was reported that the average attendance at the school was 15 children.

### PALMERSTON RIFLE CLUB.

**T**HE twelfth competition for the Bushman's Prize took place last Saturday, and resulted in Mr. Whitelaw winning it for the third time. At next competition he will be handicapped back 9 points, and will then shoot level with Mr. Stretton, who also has won the Prize three times. Scores are as below:

	AGGREGATE	BACK HANDICAP	NET TOTAL
E. H. Whitelaw	51	5	46
N. F. Christoe	43	0	43
W. G. Stretton	51	9	42
F. C. Ward	43	9	34
J. A. G. Little	33	0	33
F. P. Kitchin	26	0	26
J. L. Parsons	23	0	23
Rev. T. Ward	18	0	18
H. Denny	10	0	10

*North Australian*, 24 Sep 1886, p3

Francis was also an active member of the Palmerston Rifle Club.

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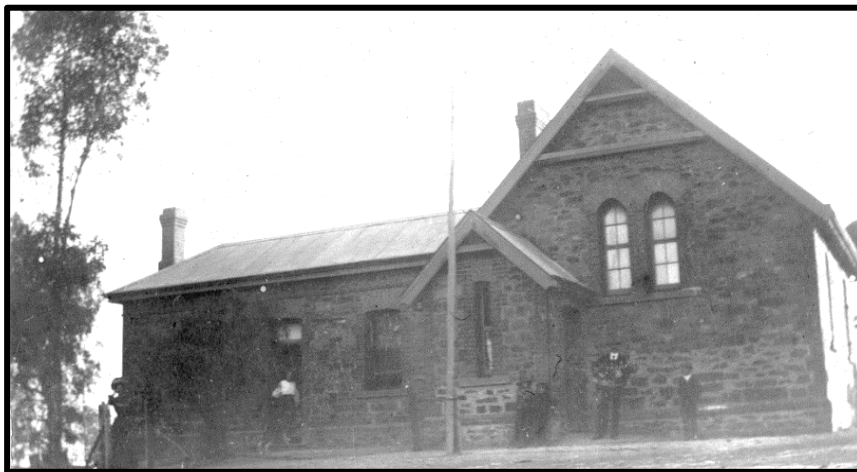
In September 1889, Francis gained a teaching appointment at Appila North School back in South Australia. In 1896 he was a Head Teacher at Brinkworth.

**STATE SCHOOL APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS.**  
The *Education Gazette* notifies the following appointments and resignations:—  
Provisional teachers on probation under regulation 231A—Alice Maud Anderson, Pooginagoric; James Kenneth Buchanan, Pamatta; Francis Patrick **Kitchin**, Appila North; Richard

*South Australian Chronicle, 14 Sep 1889, p12*

**THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.**  
The *Education Gazette* for April contains the following announcements:—  
**APPOINTMENTS.**  
Head Teachers.—Annie Beatrice Chesterman, Currency Creek; Thomas Cowling, Warooka; Alfred Thomas George, Belalie North; William Arthur Jones, Bute; Francis Patrick **Kitchin**, Brinkworth;

*Chronicle, 25 Apr 1896, p16*



*Appila Yarrowie School, 1907 [SLSA PRG 483/1/49]*

Three children were born in the Northern Territory, including Mary, (Kathryn's Grandmother), and three further children born when they returned to South Australia.

1. Mary Elizabeth Brendine, 30 November 1880, Palmerston NT – 29 April 1956

**Birth.**  
**KITCHIN.**—On Tuesday, the 30th November, 1880, the wife of F. P. Kitchin of a daughter.

*Northern Territory Times and Gazette, 27 Dec 1879, p1*

2. James Edward, 23 March 1885, Palmerston NT - 22 Jul 1995, Parkville, VIC
3. Francis Patrick Joseph, 3 July 1887, Palmerston NT - 23 Jun 1967, Port Albert, VIC
4. Walter John, 22 March 1889, Norwood, SA - 10 June 1960
5. William Henry, 9 December 1890, Appila North SA - 29 April 1957, St Peters
6. Stella Maud(e) Veronica, 4 June 1894, Appila North SA - 16 August 1983

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## Paternal Grandparents - David Andrews and Mary Kitchin

**David Andrews (1882-1928) married Mary Elizabeth Brendine Kitchin (1880-1956)**  
on 5 December 1907 at St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne, Victoria.

Their marriage certificate shows David as a chauffeur and Mary as a housemaid. David's father William is noted as a compositor and Mary's father Francis as a school teacher.

FOURTH SCHEDULE.—Acts Nos. 1166 and 1593.				FOURTH SCHEDULE.—Acts Nos. 1166 and 1593.			
MARRIAGES solemnized in the District of <i>Bourke</i>				in the State of Victoria			
1892	<i>St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne</i>	<i>David Andrews</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Chauffeur</i>	<i>25 Years</i>	<i>Bundoora</i>	<i>Bundoora</i>
	<i>St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne</i>	<i>Mary Elizabeth Kitchin</i>	<i>Spinster</i>	<i>Housemaid</i>	<i>27 Years</i>	<i>74 Dudley St Melbourne</i>	<i>Housemaid</i>
			<i>Respectfully</i>			<i>Witnessed</i>	<i>Witnessed</i>
			<i>Witnessed</i>			<i>Witnessed</i>	<i>Witnessed</i>
<p>I, <i>Joseph Edward King</i>, being a Catholic Priest do hereby certify that I have, this day, at <i>St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne</i>, duly solemnized Marriage between <i>David Andrews Bundoora</i> <i>Chauffeur</i> and <i>Mary Elizabeth Kitchin, 74 Dudley St West Melbourne</i> after Notice and Declaration duly made and published, as by law required (and with the written consent of</p> <p>Dated this <i>fifth</i> day of <i>December</i> 1907 <i>J. E. King</i></p> <p>Signature of Minister, Government Statist, or other Officer</p>				<p>Mary, by license, was solemnized between as <i>David Andrews</i> according to the rule of the Catholic Church <i>Mary Elizabeth Kitchin</i></p> <p>Witness <i>Joseph Edward King</i> <i>Brendine Kitchin</i></p>			

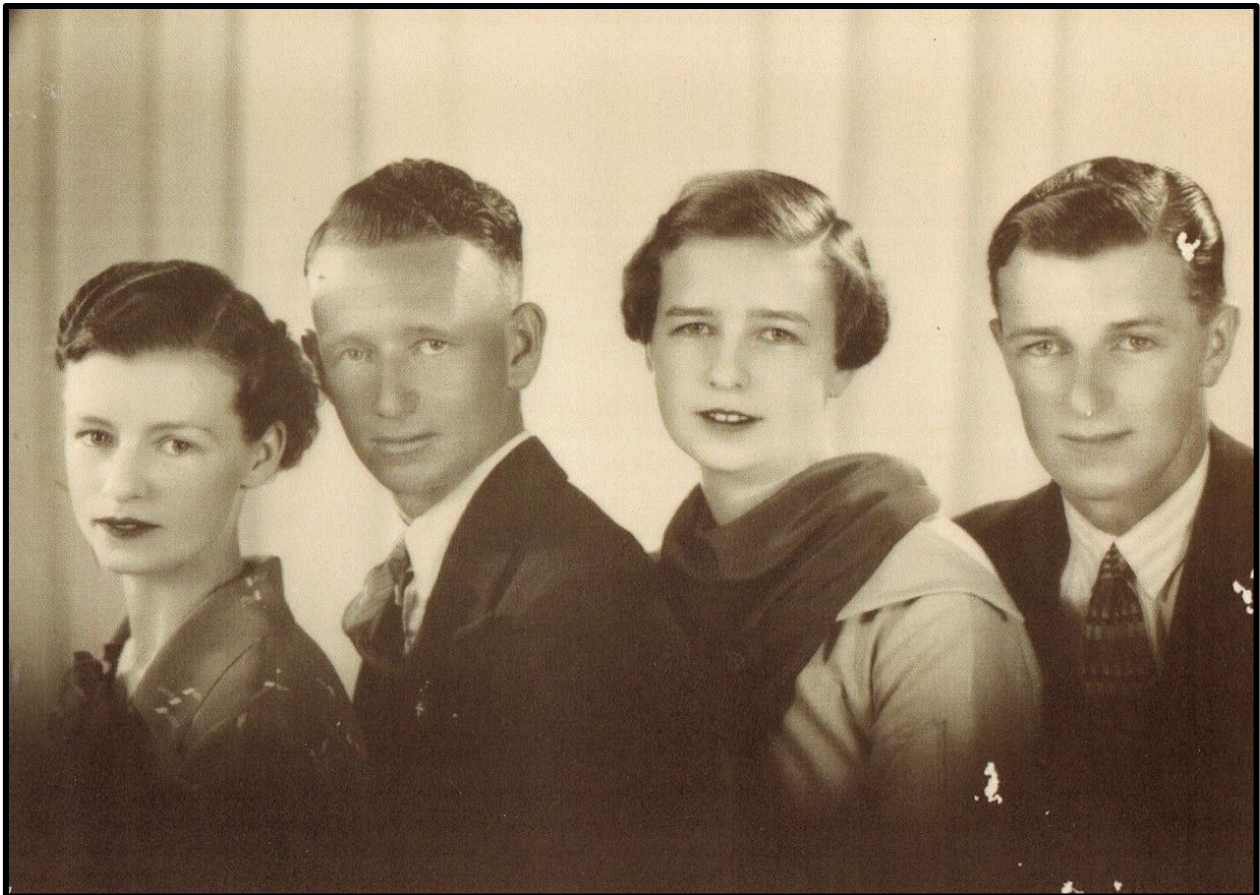


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## Children:

1. David Francis (Frank) William, 3 October 1909, Melbourne - 24 June 1994, Adelaide  
married 18 Dec 1937, Port Pirie,  
Dorothy Marion Gertrude Wilton, 25 May 1915 - 5 January 1977
2. Mary Elizabeth Josephine (Bess), 30 June 1911, Thebarton - 7 January 2003  
married 27 March 1942,  
Donald Thomas Robertson (14 January 1913 - 10 Feb 1998, Glenelg)
- 3. James Vincent Aloysius, 31 October 1913 - 19 September 2002**
4. Eileen Patricia Joan (Pat), 28 October 1918, Exeter - 14 April 2013, Plympton



*Bess, Frank, Pat and Jim, circa 1931*

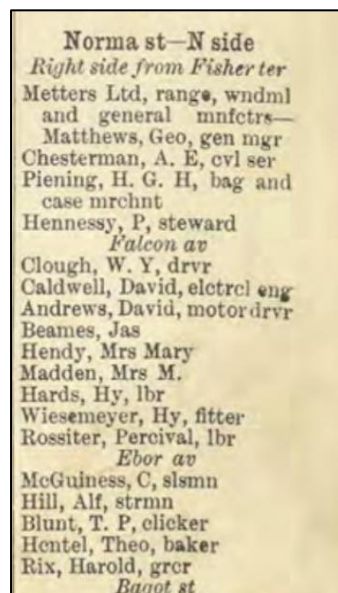
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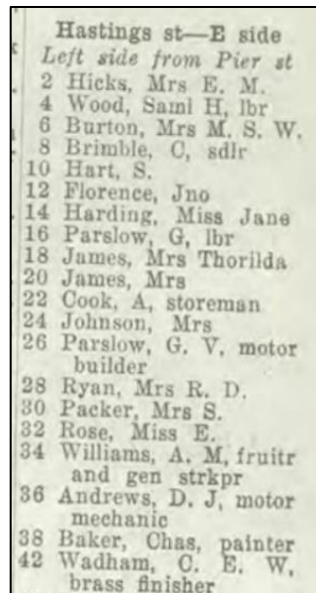
The Sands and McDougall directories have David listed at a number of jobs and homes over the years:

- 1912-1913 Motor driver, Norma Street, West Adelaide
- 1914-1916 22 Compton St, off Gouger Street, Adelaide
- 1920 Motor Mechanic, Exmouth Road, Port Adelaide
- 1923-1925 Motor Mechanic, 36 Hastings Street New Glenelg
- 1926-1928 25 Bath Street, New Glenelg

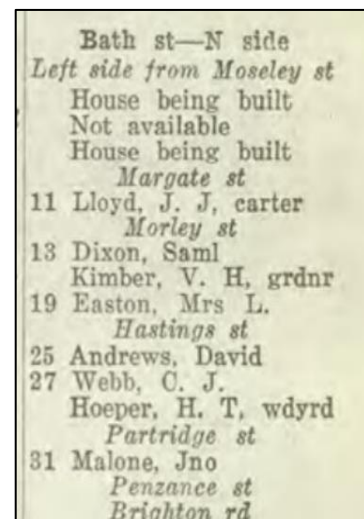
At birth and baptism his name is listed as David Andrews, family indicated that he added Joseph to his name in admiration of his wife's brother, Francis Patrick Joseph Kitchin.



1912



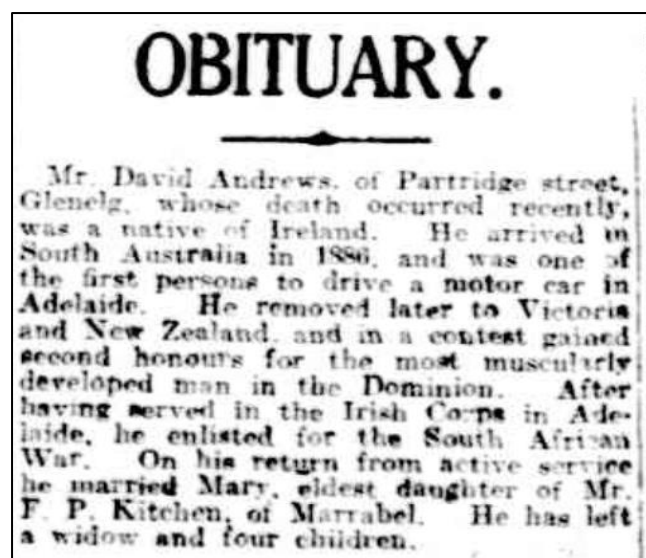
1925



1927

David died in Glenelg on 7 August 1928  
Adelaide, aged 46.

Mary died 29 April 1956, aged 75.



Register, 23 Aug 1928, p15

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## FATHER – James (Jim) Andrews (1913 - 2002)

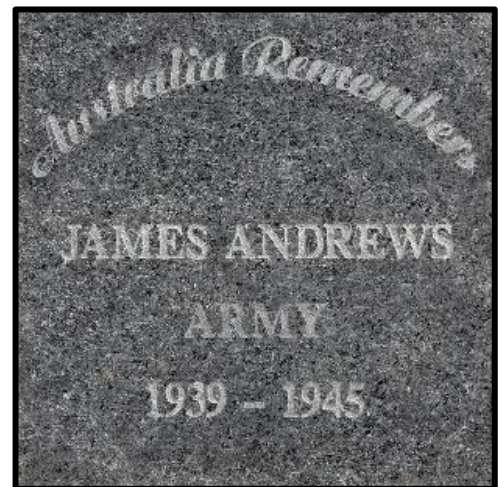
James Vincent Aloysius Andrews was born on 31 October 1913 in Adelaide to David Andrews and Mary Elizabeth Brendine, née Kitchin.

Jim served in the Second World War, enlisting at Keswick, on 20 Oct 1939, (SX130). He was a Private when discharged on 11 January 1946, from the 2/33rd Australian Infantry Battalion.

*He was the only one in the family to go to war. He missed out on being a Rat of Tobruk. They split the groups and he went on to Syria instead.*



*Dad joined the Hilton RSL when he returned home. He remained a member all his life.*



*His service plaque on the Sir Donald Bradman Drive, Boulevard of Honour is on the south side between Spencer and Turner Streets.*

*Dad worked at Serv-Wel on the corner of Milner Road his whole life.*

**THOMAS' SERV-WEL STORES**

46 ROWLAND ROAD, HILTON  
FOR GROCERY, HARDWARE, &c.  
ORDERS COLLECTED AND DELIVERED  
SERV-WEL SERVES BEST FOR LESS

*The Ratepayer, vol. 1 no.1, 1939 [WTHS LH0308-09]*

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## Maternal Great Grandparents - Francesco Gargaro and Maria Teresa Messina

### Francesco (Frank) Gargaro (2 October 1850, Atina Italy – 10 November 1916, SA)

Youngest child of Marco Gargaro (1805-) and Lucia Coppola (1806-)

(1) married 30 July 1876, to Carolina Silvano (1853- ), then

(2) **married 9 August 1877, to Maria Teresa Messina (10 Nov 1857, Italy - 8 Nov 1935)**

Parents - Michele Angelo Messina (1815-1870) and Mariangiola Ottajano (1823-1832)

Children:

1. Mary Angelina Mariangiola (1882 - 1948)  
married 13 April 1903, Thomas Malcolm Scott (1881 - 1950)  
Pauline Elva, 28 May 1904 -  
Malcolm James, Sep 1922 - 1985  
Francis John, -1985

#### MIGRATED TO AUSTRALIA

2. Vincenzo (Vincent) (1885-21 May 1959)  
(1) married Gwendoline (1889- 20 Jan 1914), then  
(2) married Aug 1950 Ella Beatrice Merritt (18 Jan 1900- 18 June 1956)  
*previously married to Alfred James Hicks (1893-1943)*
3. Adelaide Teresa Roma, 8 May 1886, Adelaide - 22 July 1981,  
married 30 Jan 1922, Pantaleo Rana, 26 Aug 1886 - 28 July 1987  
Francesco (1926-1987)
4. Adelaine Lucrezia, 26 Nov 1887 Adelaide - 27 Jan 1974  
(1) married 23 June 1909, Hassell Wheeler, 20 Feb 1888 - 16 Aug 1974 (divorced 1918)  
Alice Hazel (1910-2009)  
(2) married 22 Nov 1919, Mile End, Charles Francis Oliver, 23 Aug 1884 - 19 Oct 1975
5. **Gennaro (George) Gargaro (23 March 1892 - 8 October 1967)**
6. Cecilia / Celia Katherine , 7 January 1890, Adelaide - 5 May 1959  
married 15 Aug 1914, Horace William Tomlinson, 7 Aug 1890 - 5 Oct 1969 (divorced 1943)
7. Paolina (Pauline), 28 June 1897 - 4 August 1986



Francesco, Maria Teresa and children [ancestry.com]



Mary Angelina, 1903

Teresa Adelaide

Adelaine. 1909  
[ancestry.com]

Celia

Paolina

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*Gargaro Family [ancestry.com]*

## *Business directory listings*

Boffa and Gargaro, music wrehse, 202 Rundle street

*Sands and McDougall directory, 1885*

Gargaro Francesco, music warehouse, 238 Rundle street

*Sands and McDougall directory, 1887*

Gargaro Francisco, pianotuner, Hutt st

*Sands and McDougall directory, 1900*

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## Maternal Great Grandparents - John Foglia and Angelina Tyrell

**Domenico Giovanni Antonio (John Anthony) Foglia**

**(11 April 1861, Switzerland - 27 July 1930, Hilton), Wireworker**

married October 1882, Holbron, London

**Angelina (Annie) Tyrell**

**(Jan 1861, Middlesex, England - 11 March 1939, Adelaide)**

(Parents: William Tyrell, 1817- c1904 and Sarah Matthews, 1820-1901)



Angelina Foglia (née Tyrell)  
[ancestry.com]

1883, Migrated on Astracan to Australia

Angelina was homed at the Destitute Asylum one day after arrival.

GRG 28/5 Destitute Asylum Admissions 1870 - 1873, 1881 - July 1906										
Entry Number	Surname	Given Names	Age	Residence	No. of Children	Time in Colony	Ship by which arrived	Trade/Occupation	Year of application	Nationality
355	Foglia	Angelina (Mrs)	21	London Noarlunga & Lately	e	1 d	Astracan	Domestic Duties	1883	E

1. John Antony Francis, 8 Dec 1883 - 31 Dec 1883 (Magill)
2. Lucy Caroline Mary, 8 Dec 1883 - 13 Jan 1884 (Magill)
3. William Henry, 17 Jan 1885 - 14 May 1943  
married Jeannie Denham, 24 Aug 1891 - 9 April 1944  
Lucia Maria (Lucy), 15 May 1910 (Omsby)  
June Elizabeth, 1 June 1923 (Janzo)  
Gloria Patrica Regina, 1 June 1923 (Summerfield)
4. Catherine (Kitty) Rodolphe, 21 June 1886 - 27 May 1963  
married Thomas (Harry) Hall, 1872 - 25 Oct 1939  
Ronald, 1910 - 1954
5. Ellen (Nellie) Madeline Eugenie, 29 June 1889 - 12 Oct 1976  
married Joseph Byron Mather, - 19 Nov 1958  
Veronica, 1916 - 2004 (Hawkes)  
Eugene (Jackson), 1921- 2006
6. **Mary Charlotte (Lottie), 17 Mar 1892 - 18 May 1981**
7. Caroline (Carrie) Joanna, 23 May 1893 - 21 Sep 1992  
married Nicholas Hope (Nick) Sowton, 1884 - 9 June 1944  
(lived 14 Bennett Street, Hilton, 1<sup>st</sup> AIF)  
Donald John, 15 June 1925 - 2009 (Army WW2)  
Dean,
8. Elizabeth (Lizzie/Lizzette) Sarah, 24 Jun 1897 -  
married 30 Sep 1928 William John Athol Lykke  
Athol William John, 1 April 1931 -
9. Joseph John (John) 9 Mar 1899 - Aug 1978
10. Regina Lucy (Lucy) 9 Mar 1899 - 2 May 1989  
married 30 March 1929, St Francis Xavier Cathedral  
John Aloysius Millane, 16 Jun 1895 - 8 Oct 1977  
Regina Marjorie, 8 Jan 1930 - (Mahon)  
John William, 14 Feb 1933 - 14 Oct 2009

### NOTED BIRD FANCIER

#### Mr. J. A. Foglia Dead

Well known in Adelaide, particularly the east end of the city, where he had conducted a bird shop for the past 40 years, was Mr. John Anthony Foglia, who died yesterday at the residence of his son-in-law, Mr. N. Sowton, of Hilton.

Mr. Foglia was born in Capolago, Switzerland, 60 years ago, and came from an old silkmaking family. His father was mayor of the town. Young Foglia left for London when still in his early teens and there met his wife, an Englishwoman.

At the age of 22 he married and left for Australia.

Mr. Foglia's first business venture was the purchase of a pair of pigeons, which he sold. He bought more and continued in the business until his death.

In his later years Mr. Foglia made many trips to Europe with birds and animals for zoos.

He has left a widow, two sons—Messrs. John and William Foglia, of Adelaide—and six daughters—Mesdames K. Hall, N. Mather, N. Sowton, L. Gargarow, L. Milane, and L. Lykke, all of Adelaide.

The remains of Mr. Foglia will be interred at West Terrace Catholic Cemetery at 11 o'clock tomorrow morning. Father Smyth will officiate at the graveside.



Mr. J. A. Foglia

News, 28 Jul 1930

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*There were ten children all up, but some didn't live very long.*

*Great-Auntie Kitty and Aunty Marjorie lived out at Prospect. Ellen and Madeleine lived at Norwood. Auntie Carrie (Carolina) lived at Hilton. Auntie Lizzie lived out at a flash part of town, around Burnside way.*



*Lizzette marries Athol Lykke, Observer, 6 October 1928, p 36*



*Foglia family portrait  
[ancestry.com]*

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## Parrot Fashion article

*My Great Grandfather, John Foglia had a bird shop in Rundle Street and was South Australia's biggest bird trader.*

'The son of an old Swiss silk-making family who migrated to Australia in his early 20s, Foglia had started out in the wildlife trade buying and selling imported common pigeons (rock doves) for local racing, homing and gun enthusiasts. His export of native Australian fauna, principally budgies, soon became the backbone of this thriving colonial business.'

**T**oday the only bird you'll likely find at 217 Rundle Street East is the chicken on the San Giorgio Italian Restaurant menu, but at the end of the 19th century this was the site of Adelaide's most astonishing aviary. It was here that John Foglia established himself as South Australia's biggest bird trader and leading broker of wild-caught budgerigars.

Strolling into the shop in the late 1890s, visitors struggled to make themselves heard above the squawking, warbling and whistling of birds of many different feathers. Fledgling cockatoos and galahs, mouths agape for food, waddled and pooped around the shop floor as the proprietor bent and snipped wire for ever more cages in which to house them.

The son of an old Swiss silk-making family who migrated to Australia in his early 20s, Foglia had started out in the wildlife trade buying and selling imported common pigeons (rock doves) for local racing, homing and gun club enthusiasts. But it was the export of native Australian fauna, principally birds and more particularly budgies, which soon became the backbone of this thriving colonial business.

Ever since the first pair of budgerigars were delivered to England aboard the barque *Kinneer* in 1840, European markets simply could not get enough of them.

John Gould, who gave the birds their full binomial name *Melopsittacus undulatus* and took the first live specimens offshore, wrote glowingly of them in his opus *Birds of Australia*. 'This lovely little bird is pre-eminent for both beauty of plumage and elegance of form, which, together with its extreme cheerfulness of disposition and sprightliness of manner, render it an especial favourite.'

But even Gould was unprepared for how swiftly the cult of the budgerigar (or gidgee as the bird was known by the Gamilaraay people of the NSW Liverpool Plains where the very first exported birds were caught) would take hold.

By the 1860s, when Foglia was born in the Swiss village of Capolago on the shores of Lake Lugano, Britain was in the grip of budgie mania, which Gould observed saw 'every ship coming direct from the southern part of Australia' add to their numbers.

There was money to be made across the supply chain by anyone who could contrive or carry a cage: bird catcher, wildlife dealer, farmer, innkeeper, sailor and even the lowliest steerage passenger. Adelaide, being so close to both the arid interior and Murray River breeding grounds favoured by the wee green and gold parrot, became the gateway for much of the world's breeding stock.

The trade escalated with the advent of the faster steamers. The *Souchays*, for example, returned to England in 1867 laden with copper, wool, flour and 15,000 pairs of budgies or, as they were then commonly known, shell parrots.

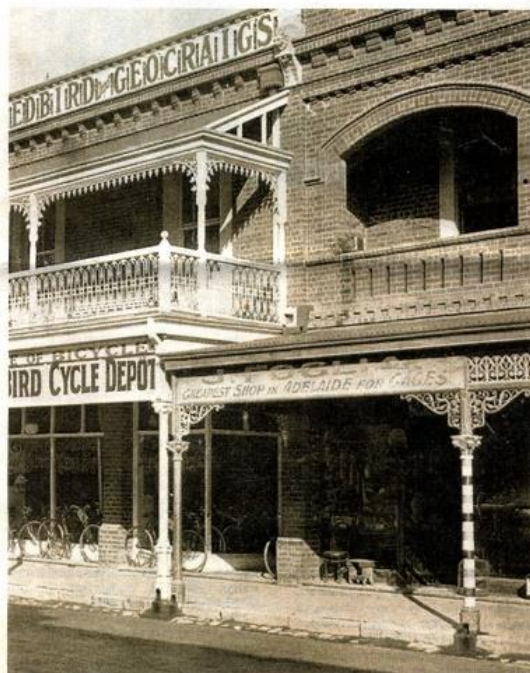
The same year Lycurgus Underdown, publican of the Hindmarsh Hotel in Adelaide, amassed a huge stock of birds including more than 35,000 budgies, which he kept in cages behind the pub and advertised to ships' captains.

Australia still imported canary seed in 200 gallon (755 litres) or 400 gallon (1500 litres) iron tanks to feed all these captured creatures, which naturally gave rise to a

# PARROT FASHION

As a little indigenous bird with a very big backstory, the budgerigar owes much to South Australia – its main gateway to an infatuated world in the late 1800s

WORDS SARAH HARRIS AND DON BAKER



Anne Francis, left, in 1956 film *Forbidden Planet*, looks out of this world with a budgie on her earring, and, above, John Foglia's Rundle St store Photographs: Pictorial Press Ltd/Alamy Stock Photo; State Library of SA

second industry. So it was, in 1880, a Mr Deslaunde became the first farmer to sow a test acre of choice canary grass on the Lefevre Peninsula for the little emigrants.

The retail price for landed birds dropped from £5 a pair (equivalent today to \$780) in 1855 to 8 shillings (\$62 today) by 1881 but the demand remained incredibly high as our friend Foglia found. On one occasion he sold 16,000 budgerigars to a single dealer, observing 'it took three of us three days from 7 o'clock in the morning to 7 o'clock at night to count them'.

Between 1885 and 1909 Foglia shipped, by his own estimate, an average of 40,000 birds a year – the majority of these were budgies and he was by no means the only bird trader. Small wonder then that good trappers could make as much as £250 (\$36,000 today) a year with their nets and snares.

Records show Foglia paid £65 (\$9915 today) in 1905 to secure the 11 tons of room on the top deck of the German boat *G.M.S. Rhein* for 14,000 birds, most of which were budgies and zebra finches, but also included diamond firetails, Major Mitchell cockatoos, corellas and native pigeon species. The wild-caught budgies were then still fetching two shillings and sixpence a pair (\$19 today) on the European market even though breeding farms were by now established on the Continent.

The birds that survived the sea voyage packed tight in tiered, wire-fronted cages to be cooed at in cooler climes were, in some respect, the lucky ones. Parrot pie was still very much on the colonial menu and as late as 1882 the South Australian Gun Club was recorded as substituting budgies for pigeons when they were 'not up to mark' on its shooting ground at the Morphettville Racecourse.

But South Australia's open season on budgies was about to be brought to an end by one of the world's fledgling conservation movements.

**“Foglia shipped, by his estimate, an average of 40,000 birds a year**

In many ways demand for budgies was a by-product of a general Victorian-era frenzy for feathers, which saw birds simultaneously admired, hunted, plucked and taxidermied en masse in the name of fashion. One of the more modest examples of the 'murderous millinery' period is an 1890 silk, lace and velvet bonnet topped with three dead budgies and held in New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art collection.

Growing outrage over the feather trade, which saw more than 1.5 million pounds (680 tonnes) of plumage go through London's Mincing Lane auction houses a year alone, crystallised as people saw more and more bird species pushed to the brink. In 1894 the first Australian branch of the Society for the Protection of Birds was formed in Adelaide and included a good number of influential local matrons, who>

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W. H. Foglia, who took over his father's Adelaide interests in 1926, was reported as taking a pair of rare Princess Alexandra parakeets to England. They were eventually bought by Baron Rotshchild, among the prestigious clients gained by his father. The Foglia business ended when W. H. Foglia died in 1943. [adelaideaz.com.]

A pair of wild budgies at a nesting hole; Jackie Kennedy and the children with budgies at the White House. A record from the world's most famous talking parrot Sparkie Williams and his owner Mattie. Photographs: Courtesy of Barney Enders; Cecil Stoughton, John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum

in accordance with the rules of the organisation, eschewed the wearing of feathers.

In 1897 the group made an impassioned plea for bird welfare in a deputation to the State Government which included in its case "budgerigars taken to England by the masters of ships... the birds were often crushed in a small space, where large numbers of them died on the voyage".

These early animal rights campaigners' efforts were rewarded with the introduction of the Birds Protection Act 1900 (SA) which, for the first time, at least offered the budgie some safety for part of the year. The introduction of a closed season in South Australia, which prohibited the trapping and exporting of budgies between July 1 and January 12, had a significant impact on the trade.

By 1914 Foglia, who once used to make between £500 and £600 (\$6,000-\$72,000 today) out of a trip to Europe, had been forced to switch his attention to American markets. "The other states have no such stringent laws and, in consequence, they have all their birds, caught, boxed and shipped before we in South Australia have ours caught," the bird dealer lamented.

This had the inevitable flow-on effect to the professional catchers operating in South Australia who were now lucky to earn £70 (\$840 today) a season. Accordingly, the number of catchers operating in SA dropped from 10 to just two.

The wholesale capture of these hardy little birds over decades hardly seemed to have made a dent on their wild population in SA. One of the great strengths of the species is its ability to breed up very quickly with populations exploding into millions in good times and plummeting in the bad.

So it was, in January 1952, when a heat-wave gripped Central Australia with temperatures averaging from 46.7C to 52C for 16 successive days. At Paratoo, about two-and-a-half hours northeast of Adelaide, witnesses reported how budgies escaping the ferocious heat darkened the sky from 5am to 8am as they passed overhead at an estimated rate of 1-10 million every 10 minutes.

Millions more didn't make it. At Kokatha Station, one of the westernmost homesteads in South Australia, it was a scene of devastation, with five tonnes of parrots - drowned by the weight of waves of desperate new arrivals - removed from a single dam.

**T**oday the budgie remains the quintessential Australian bird in the wild while at the same time retaining its perch as the world's number one pet bird and most competitively exhibited species. Adaptable, intelligent and hardy, it had obvious appeal as a pet even before the first colour mutations appeared in European aviaries in the late 19th century.

Budgie fanciers have included some of the world's most prominent figures. Toby the budgie used to perch on the pen of British Prime Minister Winston Churchill while the Queen still maintains a flight of royal homing budgies complete with their special designated keeper.



## WHO'S A CLEVER BIRD, THEN?

Budgies are excellent mimics and can not only be taught to speak but also recite their own address should they become lost.

The world's best-known budgie, Sparkie Williams, had a vocabulary of 583 words, including eight complete nursery rhymes. He came to attention after beating out 2768 other entrants in a competition for talking birds organised by the BBC in 1958.

The original wild birds exported were green and yellow, but when a yellow and then blue mutations began appearing in European breeding farms in 1880 breeders began genetically selecting to create birds of different colours. Coloured budgies were then imported back into Australia.

The modern exhibition budgie strutting its stuff on the show bench represents more than 150 years of selective breeding, including inbreeding or line breeding, to conform to avian supermodel standards.

The exhibition or show-bred bird is more than twice the size of the original wild type and also larger than the pet-shop-variety. Wild budgies average about 18-20cm in length and weigh about 25-30g, pet shop birds tip the scales around 40g, and exhibition birds weigh 60-70g and have an ideal length of 24cm. The competition birds also have a dazzling array of colours and varieties, with more than 30 primary mutations.



## Toby the budgie used to perch on the pen of Winston Churchill

By the 1960s budgies could be found perched in every fifth household in Australia, the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States where John F. Kennedy's children played with Bluebell and Maybelle in the White House. A young Richard Branson recorded his first entrepreneurial success breeding budgies as a teenager.

The birds winged their way into popular culture with talking budgies recording their own best-selling albums, appearing in television sitcoms and inspiring advertising campaigns for everything from detergent to cigarettes. They became entrenched in the vernacular with terms like budgie-smuggler landing in Oxford dictionary.

More than 150 years of selective breeding has created a budgiezilla almost double the size of the wild bird, which struts the show bench in a dazzling array of colour and feather features.

One of Australia's best-known breeders of exhibition birds is Adelaide's Kelwyn Kakoschke who was inducted into the Australian National Budgerigar Council (ANBC) Hall of Fame in 1994.

Like many in the fancy, Kakoschke became interested in the birds as a kid when he was given a little aviary containing six birds of different colours. By age 11 he had his first big win at the Royal Adelaide Show, and a childish hobby became a serious pursuit. Now in his 70s he is still producing national champions, taking out the

opaline class in partnership with John Rice at the 45th Australian National Budgerigar Council show.

At the auction at the end of that 2019 show, another Adelaide breeder, Troy Holmes, received a real shock when a pair of his normal grey green class birds sold for a record \$8800. One of the pair was the offspring of the 2018 national champion, which his nine-year-old son Tom had hand-reared and named Christian after his best mate at school. As a pet, Christian had a most unusual life for such a valuable exhibition bird. He could not only talk but was often to be seen cruising the hallways of the family home in Tom's Ghostbusters car.

Sadly, there's no telling how South Australia might have performed at the 46th national show in Victoria in May as the event - like so many - was cancelled due to the coronavirus.

But, just as they have so many times, the ever-resilient budgie will bounce back, with the 2021 ANBC show scheduled to be held on home turf at the Grand Chancellor Hotel.

Edited extract from *Budgerigar* by Sarah Harris and Don Baker (Allen and Unwin, \$29.99), with additional material by Sarah Harris



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## Maternal Grandparents – Gennaro (George) Gargaro and Mary (Lottie) Foglia

Gennaro (George) Gargaro (23 March 1892 - 8 October 1967)

He arrived in Sydney 3 June 1905 on the *Oroya* from London.

Gennaro Gaaaro [ancestrv.com]



New South Wales, Australia, Unassisted Immigrant Passenger List  
1905 > June > Oroya

ORIENT-PACIFIC LINE OF STEAMERS.

No. 16. INWARD.

A LIST of the Crew and Passengers arrived in the Ship *Oroya* of *London* Master, *John Jones*

Burthen, *3358* Tons, from the Port of *London* to Sydney, New South Wales, *3 June 1905*

SEAMEN'S NAMES	STATION	AGE	WHERE BORN	NAMES OF PASSENGERS	DESCRIPTION
<i>A. Hattrick</i>	<i>Carpenter</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>Birkenhead</i>	<i>Gennaro Gargaro</i>	

Gennaro married 5 October 1914, in Adelaide,

Mary Charlotte (Lottie) Foglia (17 Mar 1892 - 18 May 1981)

1. Mary Kathleen, 31 August 1915 - 4 August 2012
2. Francis John Earl /Frank (known to Kathryn as Uncle Bill), 19 Dec 1920 - 22 July 2007  
*Bill lived with Nana all his life and never married. He worked at United Motors. I think he did bookkeeping. Something to do with the money side.*
3. Dorothy Angela, 9 Dec 1926 - 17 October 2012  
married William Norman Martin (15 Dec 1923 - 4 Feb 2015),  
Dorothy worked for William Adams (corner Waymouth and Morphett Streets, Adelaide)  
William was a customs worker and served WW2 RAAF.  
*She and her husband lived up at Blackwood. It was a brute of a place to get to because it was in the hills on Red Road. You went down the hill and then you had to turn into the drive. I hated going there because of the slope, I'd sort of roar up the slope! Then if you wanted to go back up the hill, you'd have to make sure it was clear and then back out and roar up the hill. It was a shocking place.*

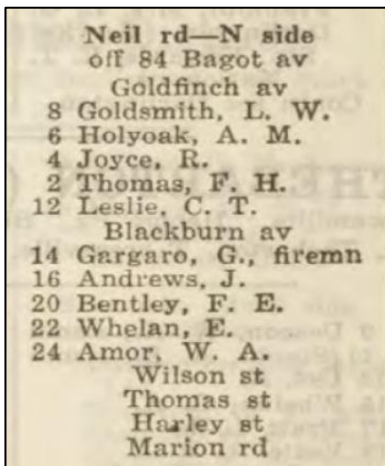
*Pop, George Gargaro, he was known as George Bunney. I think the name Bunney came from when he worked on the railways. He was a steam train driver. When they retired the steam trains, they wanted him to drive the diesel trains. He didn't want a bar of that.*

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16 and 14 Neill Road, Cowandilla, 2007 [Streetview]

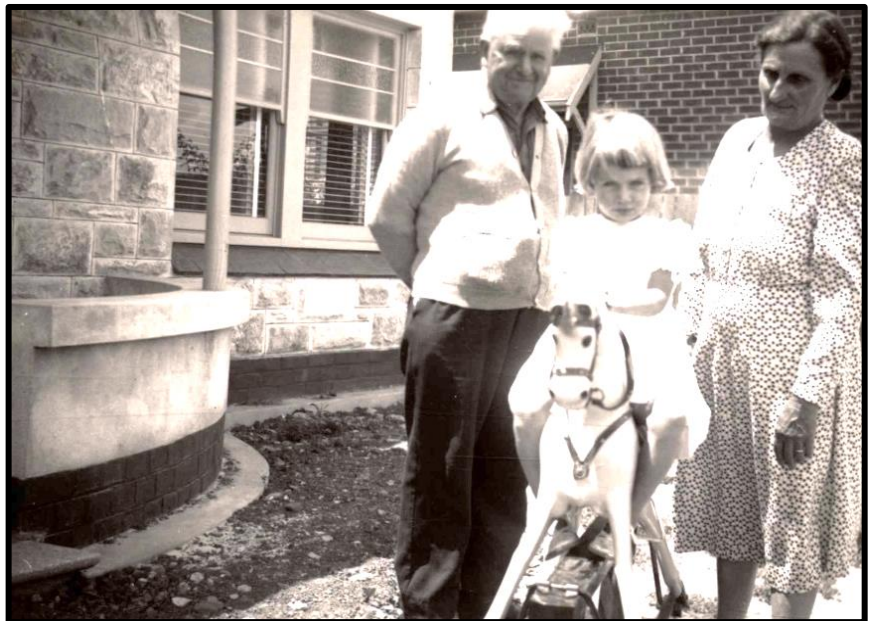


Sands and McDougall directory, 1952

*My grandparents lived in the same area as us, in fact, next door to us on Neill Road at Cowandilla. They lived at number 14, and we lived in number 16. This was a war home, a returned serviceman's home.*

*This is a photo of Nana, Pop and me on my rocking horse at Neill Road.*

*You can't see there, but the porch was deadly. It was terrazzo and if you step on that when it's wet... zzzzp. The bathroom floor was terrazzo as well.*



George, Kathryn and Lottie, 1947

George died 8 October 1967, aged 75 and Lottie died 18 May 1981, aged 89.

**GARGARO.** — On October 8, at hospital, George (Bunney), late S.A.R., beloved husband of Mary Charlotte, of 14 Neill road, Cowandilla, loved father of Mary (Mrs. Andrews), Francis, and Dorothy (Mrs. Martin), father-in-law of Jim and Bill, and grandfather of Kathryn, Aged 75 years. Requiescat in pace.

**GARGARO, Mary Charlotte (Lottie).** — On May 18, at a private hospital, beloved wife of the late George, loving mother of Mary (Mrs. Andrews), Frank and Dorothy (Mrs. Martin), mother-in-law of Jim and Bill. Loving nan of Kathryn and Mervyn and great-nanna of David and Robert. R.I.P.

# Preserving Memories

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## MOTHER - Mary Kathleen Gargaro (1915-2012)

Mary was born 31 August 1915.

In her teens she wrote letters to The Mail newspaper Clubmates, looking for pen pals.

MARY GARGARO (Cowandilla).—It is pleasing to hear you were so successful in the recent Q.C. test. Pollyanna is well. If you do not receive a letter from a Mate by the time you write your next letter I will publish your request for a correspondent again.

*Clubmates looking for correspondents' The Mail, 6 Aug 1927, p22*

Results Of 1929 Intermediate Public Examinations		
Na, Methodist Ladies' College; Gargaro, Kathleen		
Mary. Eg. Fo. H. Gg. Bk. S. Tp. Adelaide High		

She received her Intermediate certificate in 1929, and the following year passed Shorthand and Typing.

FINAL PASSLIST FOR YEAR ISSUED	
Students Reap Reward for Diligent Work	
In the final list of examination results issued by the School of Mines and Industries credits are given in order of merit and passes alphabetically.	
SHORTHAND—SPEED	
150 Words per Minute—Bennett, Margaret	140 Words Per Minute—
Eleanor Florence.	Leane, Alfreda Mary Alice; Leane, Dorothy
120 Words Per Minute—Daniels, Joan	110 Words per
Minute—Butler, Ronald Francis.	100 Words
Per Minute—Walker, Mary.	90 Words Per
Minute—Castle, Madge Elizabeth; England,	
Nellie Florence; Gargaro, Kathleen Mary;	

*News 11 Dec 1930, p2*



*Mary with Kathryn, 1947*

Mum worked at Craven's, the one in the city. She was the chief dressmaker and she had seamstresses working under her. Mum supervised them to make sure they were doing it right. She worked there every day.

Because Mum was a dressmaker, I can't sew or knit. She was too impatient, because to knit, I'd put the needle through, and then I'd pick up the wool and loop it around and she'd say, "Give me that!" She'd get frustrated with me being a bit slow.

She made all my clothes and my wedding dress.

# Preserving Memories

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## PARENTS – James (Jim) Andrews and Mary Gargaro

James (Jim) Andrews married Mary Gargaro, 23 February 1946 at St. Francis Xavier's Cathedral, North Adelaide.

**GARGARO-ANDREWS.** — The marriage of Mary, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs. G. Gargaro, of Cowandilla, to James Vincent (A.I.F., discharged), younger son of Mrs. M. E. Andrews, of Glenelg, and the late Mr. D. J. Andrews, will be solemnised at St. Francis Xavier's, Wakefield street, on February 23, at 6.30 p.m.

*Advertiser, 16 Feb 1946, p16*

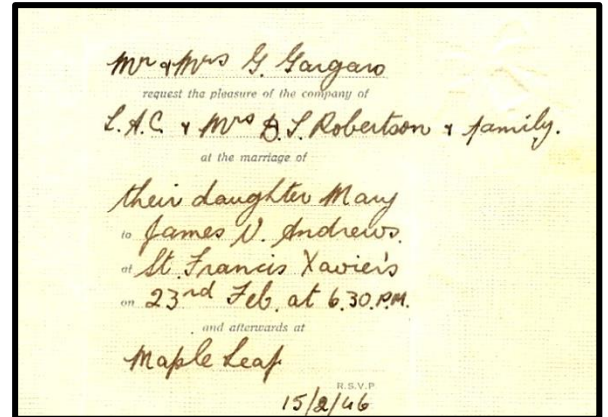
**PRAYER BOOK**  
CARRYING a white prayer book, Miss Mary Kathleen Gargaro, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. Gargaro, Cowandilla, will marry Mr. James V. Andrews, younger son of Mrs. M. E. Andrews, Glenelg, on Saturday night in St. Francis Xavier's Cathedral. She will wear a white satin gown and a Chantilly lace veil held with frangipanni. Her bridesmaid will be Miss Dorothy Gargaro, and she will wear a white crepe frock and carry red flowers. Mr. Frank Andrews will be best man.

*News, 21 Feb 1946, p7*



Jim died 19 September 2002, aged 88.

Mary died 4 August 2012, aged 96.



*Maple Leaf Café, circa 1950 [SLSA B 60652]*

*I think either Auntie Carrie or Auntie Kitty made her wedding dress.*

Their wedding reception was held at the Maple Leaf Café, 12 Rundle Street (now the Mall). [This was originally opened in 1917 in the basement of the Grand Theatre. It was taken over in 1951 by Mr D. Toteff who ran Ellis Catering in Flinders Park].



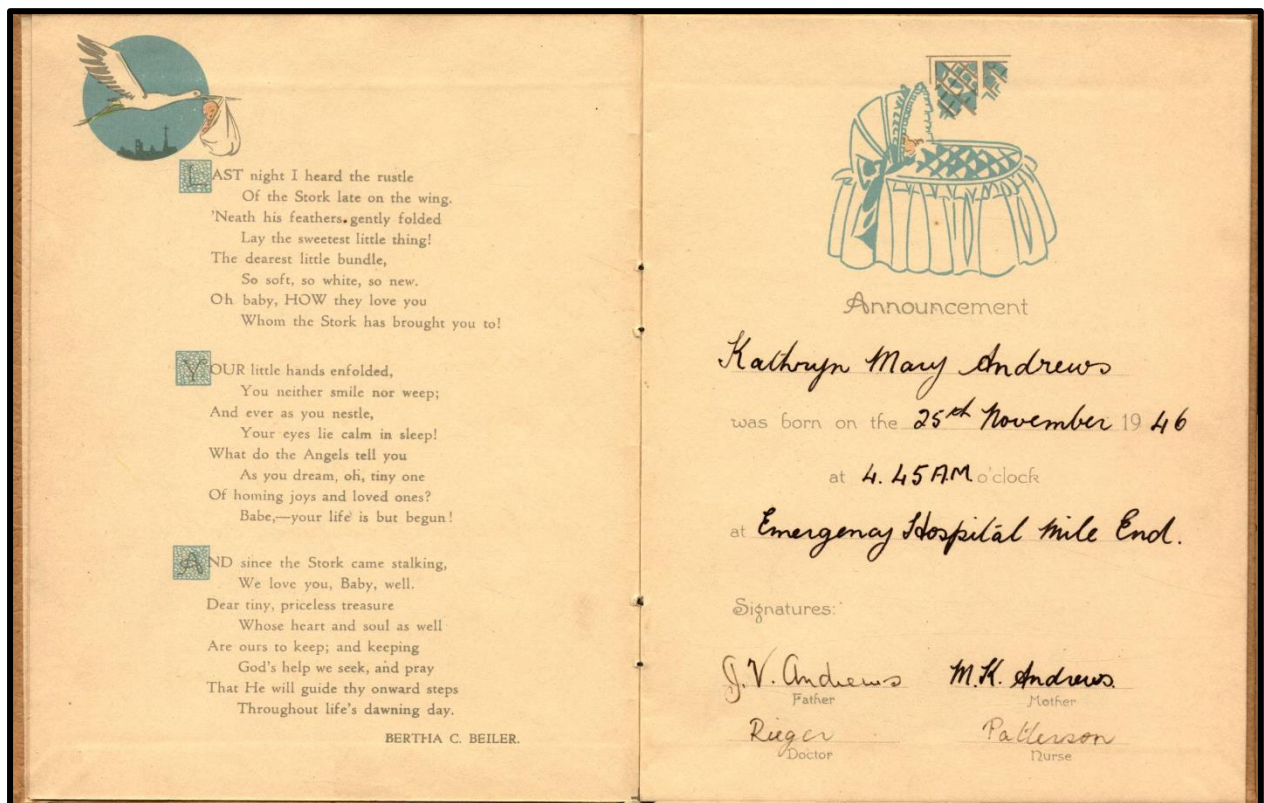
*Mary and James Andrews, 1989*

# Preserving Memories

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## KATHRYN MARY ANDREWS

*I was born at the Emergency Hospital at Mile End in Lurline Street on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November 1946 and am an only child.*



Mary and Kathryn, 1947



Jim and Kathryn, 1947

# Preserving Memories

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*Kathryn 1953*

*That's me on our front wall with Joan the doll! That was 1953. I was seven years old.*

## EARLY YEARS IN COWANDILLA

### 16 NEILL ROAD

*I remember there was this big water tank out the back. It was a rainwater tank on a cement stand. You could store wood underneath it. There was a fireplace in the lounge room where you put the logs and there were pokers and fire guards. We cooked with electricity though.*

*In the summer when it was hot - I couldn't imagine doing it now - you'd put a rug on the front lawn and sleep out. I've thought about all those creepy crawlies, I guess they didn't bother me so much back then. I would've been around 10 years old.*

*I didn't have many chores growing up. I just had to make the bed.*



*16 and 14 Neill Road, Cowandilla  
[West Maps public, 1959]*

# Preserving Memories

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## FOOD

*Nana was a good cook and did all the Italian cooking. She knew how to cook spaghetti, but Mum was hopeless cooking spaghetti, I could cook spaghetti better than Mum!*

*Mum did all the rest of the cooking, mostly meat and vegetables, casseroles and soups. I really didn't like tripe, though. Dad did. Liver and kidneys weren't so bad but I didn't like tripe, or brains.*

*I remember the 'rabbitoh' used to come to the house sometimes. Kevin, I think his name was. He used to come down the street and call out, "Rabbits!"*

*Nana used to make those Christmas puddings and tie them up and hang them on a broom handle in the laundry. Back then you were allowed to put threepences and sixpences in them. Mum also made lovely cakes.*

*We used to get milk by putting the billy can out on the wall at the front of the house. The milkman would come in his horse and cart and tip the milk into the can.*



[blogs.sydneylivingmuseums.com.au]

*Nana had chooks and apricot trees.*

*I remember once going over to my friend Lynette's Wilkins house when I was about 11 and either her mother or grandmother were making ginger beer. It exploded and there was ginger beer everywhere!*

## SHOPS

*We didn't eat out much, but we did have fish and chips on a Friday at the local takeaway on Rowland Road. Dad worked up on the corner of Milner Road at the Serv-Well store, he would have brought home groceries from there.*

*We did all our shopping at a little shopping centre just around from where I lived. The store sold newspapers and the TV book, and down the end there was a nut place. Later there was also Woolies, and Bi-Lo and Tom the Cheap. We went to Kevin on the corner to get our newspaper.*

*There was a newsagent on Cowandilla Road, Mrs. Wise. There was just this narrow little walkway because she had things stacked everywhere and you were scared that you might knock things over. But she knew where everything was. When she died, we saw the place was huge, it went right back and was full of magazines and cards.*

# Preserving Memories

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Mothers & Babies  
Memorial Gardens  
(then Tennis Courts)

## Cowandilla Road

- 13 Hardy Sisters
- 8c National Bank
- 8d Dentist, Gabell
- 7a Dr Barlow
- 6 Bookseller, Mrs Wise (later Mrs Saunders)
- 4 Chemist, Brokensha
- 3a Library, Mrs Saunders
- 1 Postal Office Sorting Centre

## Brooker Terrace

- 2 Dry Cleaner
- 8 Church of Christ

## Bagot Avenue

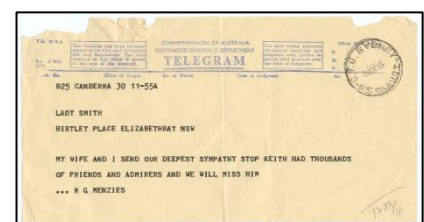
- 102 Hardware/ Fodder Store
- 104 Butcher (Ross Gue)

## Rowland Road

- 86 Municipal Officers / Tram terminus
- 83 Store (Toms/ Bilo)
- 83a Delicatessen (Sid Starkey)
- 82 Savings Bank of SA
- 81b Hilton Post Office
- 81a Grocers
- 81 Butcher
- 79 Arturo Tavera (hair stylist)

## THE POSTIE

*I remember the postie would come every day, and he always blew his whistle when he was coming down the street. Even if the letter had the wrong number, he knew where everyone lived. We also got telegrams delivered by him.*



Telegram [digital.collections.slsa.sa.gov.au]

# Preserving Memories

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## ENTERTAINMENT

*After school you were supposed to do your homework, but instead I did a lot of reading. I still read a lot and do crossword puzzles.*

*I used to play board games as a child, like Snakes and Ladders, Chinese checkers, Tiddlywinks, Knucklebones and Pick-Up-Sticks.*

*I had a few toys growing up. When I was about 10 years old, I got a wooden hula hoop for a Christmas present.*

*I also had yo-yos which might've been from the Adelaide show. You could go the Coke factory on Port Road at Thebarton. I think we went with the school and did a tour. You would get a little bottle of coke and a yo-yo.*



Theatre 62 [startheatres.com.au]

*I went to the pictures at Theatre 62 in Hilton.*

*I would get sweets with the licorice straw and the sherbet inside. You could get lollies, eight for a penny, in a bag.*



[doyouremember.co.uk]

*We usually went in the afternoon. We used to get a newsreel and a cartoon and a movie, a serial and then interval, and then another film afterwards.*

*I remember some of the old actors like Tony Curtis, Rock Hudson and William Holden.*



Doris Day and Rock Hudson in  
Pillow Talk (1959)  
[imdb.com]

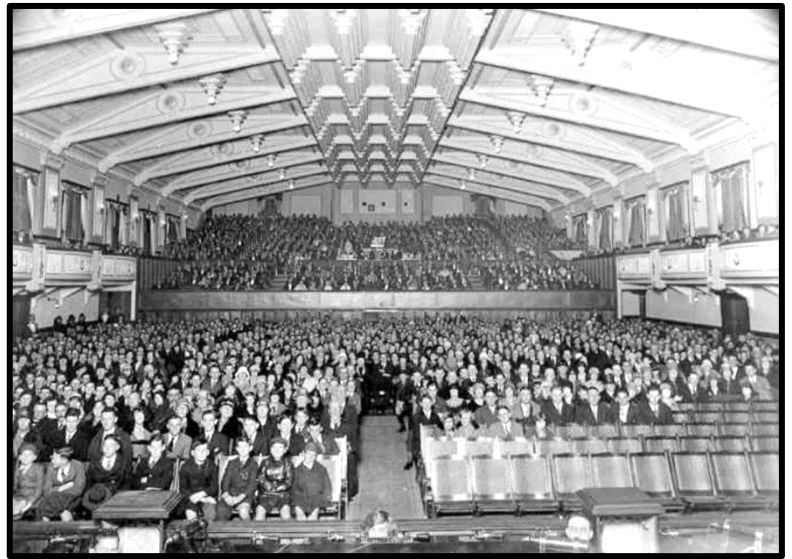
# Preserving Memories

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*Sometimes we'd go over to the Thebby Picture Theatre in the Town Hall.*

*I could get in for a child when I maybe should have been paying an adult price. I was sweet and innocent, and I'd say, "Just one please".*

*I was really young, around 9, 10, 11. You just trotted off to the pictures without your parents, you could do that back then, you could get out and about by yourself without any problems. You would usually know someone there, so it didn't really matter.*



*Thebarton Theatre, 1928 [thebartontheatre.com.au]*

*You could catch the bus into town and stand on the Beehive Corner and wait for your girlfriend, and you were quite safe. I don't know whether as a child you can do that now.*



*Wonderland Ballroom, 126 Belair Road, Hawthorn, 2021 [realcommercial.com.au]*

*When I was young, we went to the Wonderland Ballroom, usually for dances.*

Adelaide's magically named Wonderland Ballroom has swept locals up in the glamour and fun of dance for more than 50 years. It's been the site of an annual national ballroom competition, the go-to place for a night of rock'n'roll, debutante balls and weddings. [realcommercial.com.au, 2021]

## MUSIC

*I played the piano for a while. I had lessons at home because Uncle Bill could play the piano. I can still play the scales! We had a little record player and went to the stores and bought 78s.*

[Youtube.com]



# Preserving Memories

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## WORLD EVENTS

### *Earthquake, 1954*

*During the 1954 earthquake Mum and Dad and the neighbours were all out in the street wondering what's going on. We did get a crack in the wall. Over the years it kept opening up and we would have to patch it. I slept through it all though!*

### *Olympic Games in Melbourne, 1956*

*I still have a souvenir that my uncle gave me, from when the Olympic Games were held in Melbourne.*

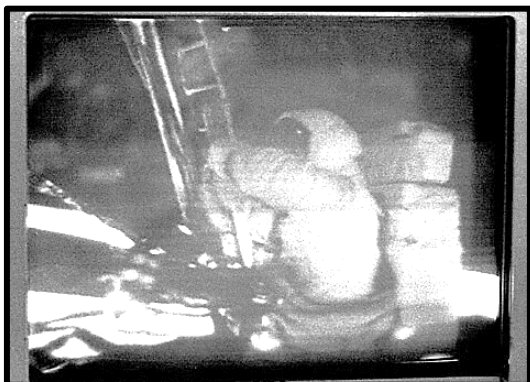


### *Disappearance of the Beaumont Children, 1966*

*I also remember the Beaumont children's disappearance. It didn't really stop us from going out. We still went down the beach usually riding our bikes to either West Beach or Glenelg. We'd played on the sand and in the sea and then ride home again. It was pretty safe growing up. Not much crime around. Later there were a cast of lawyers at the Castalloy foundry on Mooringe Avenue. They looked there and then a Dutchman came out and said they were somewhere else, and they dug there.*

### *Moon Landing, 1969*

*I remember some of the moon landing in 1969. I was at work and the boss brought in a telly so we could watch it.*



*Office staff AMP, watching moon landing [kidsnews.com.au]*

### *Vietnam War*

*I remember the Vietnam War well too. A brother of one of Merv's friends was called up for duty. He was 21 when he was killed on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1968, the day he was due to come home. His name was Anthony Vincent Quigley. The Quigley family were caterers at 211 West Beach Road.*

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## HOSPITAL

*The first doctor I had was Dr. Rieger over at the Western Clinic.*



*Western Clinic, 150 Henley Beach Road, Torrensville, 2020 [Streetview]*

*I was running between my place and into Nana's, and I tripped over an upside-down wheelbarrow, and my knee hit the wheel. I think I had a local anaesthetic and Dr Rieger stitched it up.*

*When I was 19, I was in a car accident.*

*There was a whole group of us in the car. They took me to the hospital at Mount Compass, the doctor had a look at my knee and he said, "Oh, it's just badly bruised," and he put an ice pack on it. Mum and Dad came and picked me up to take me home.*

*By the time I got home, my knee was so swollen up and the ice bag had melted. Mum rang Dr Barlow, because he used to come and visit, and he took one look and said, "That's broken".*

*He called an ambulance to take me over to get an X-ray at the Adelaide Hospital. Dad and a friend didn't lift me properly. They didn't lift my legs the same time and I passed out. The x-ray showed that my kneecap was shattered. I was in the hospital for a while because I was in plaster from ankle to thigh, and you weren't allowed out of hospital until you could lift your leg. You try lifting a lump of plaster! I got out of hospital once I was able to use the crutches.*

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## CHRISTMAS

*My cousins Brian, Tony and Susan, Uncle Frank's children, on my dad's side, lived down at Warradale. We saw them mainly birthdays and Christmases and other family gatherings.*

*Christmas was usually next door at Nana's place because they had a great big extension table, and she made all the Christmas puddings.*

*The Salesian sisters came out here and moved into the convent in Lipsett Terrace.*

*They'd just arrived in November 1954 so Nana being a good Catholic, decided she'd take them down things for Christmas.*

**A NEW congregation of Roman Catholic nuns, the Salesian Sisters, will be founded at Brooklyn Park next month. It will be the first foundation of the congregation in Australia. Four of the nuns, called Daughters of Mary, Help of Christians, will arrive in Sydney from the US on Wednesday.**

*The Mail, 13 Nov 1954, p68*



*Brooklyn Park Salesian Sisters arrive in 1954 after travelling from New York by ship to Brisbane from where they flew to Adelaide [WTHS]*

*By accident she took our Christmas pudding with the money in it to them! Nana told them how to cook it by boiling it in water and when they cut it open, they got a surprise when all these threepences and sixpences fell out.*

*They kept in touch with Nana because they were more or less the first person they had contact with.*

# Preserving Memories

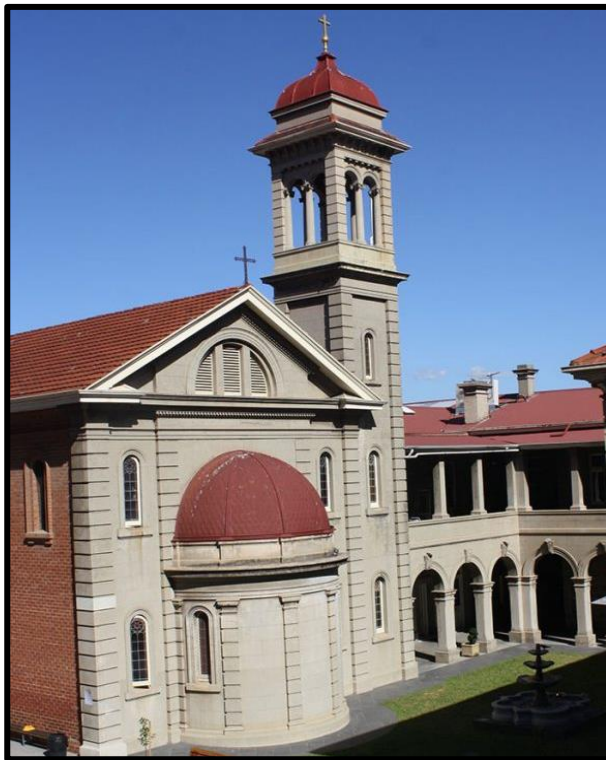
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## SCHOOL

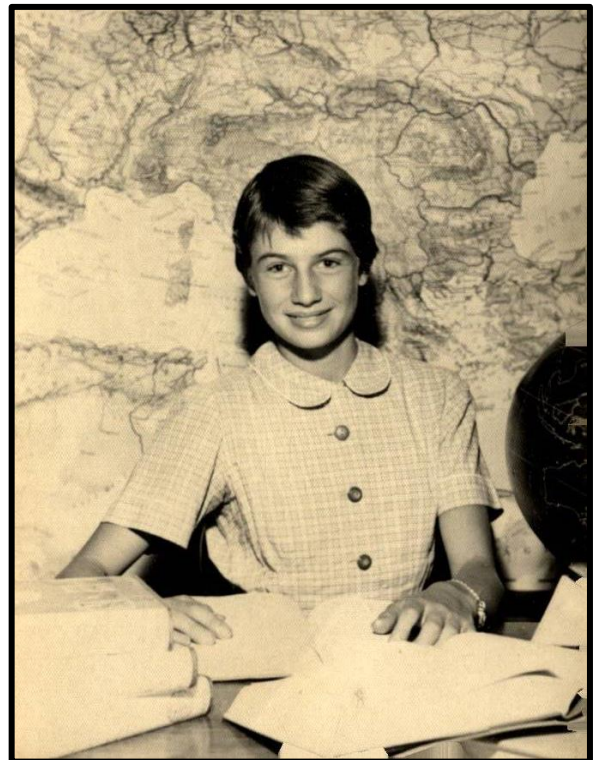
*I went to school at Saint Aloysius in the city. Uncle Bill would take me because he worked at United Motors which was just round the corner. I came home on the bus or tram by myself from a young age.*

*The school was run by nuns who lived on the school grounds. After grade seven you went to first year, what is called year eight now.*

*The school offered a general course of Science and French or a commercial business course of shorthand, typing and bookkeeping.*



*Cunningham Memorial Chapel [St Aloysius College Archives]*

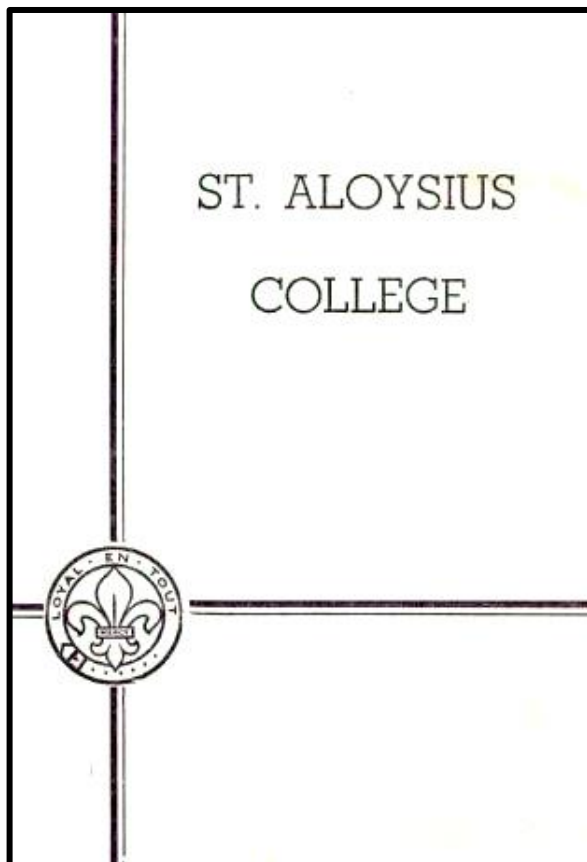


## SCHOOL FOOD

*We had milk in the little bottles at school. It was yuck when it was out in the sun! We had a tuckshop and I was allowed to buy my lunch on a Monday. Sometimes I would get a pie or pasty, or a finger bun. The rest of the time I would take lunch from home, usually a sandwich.*

# Preserving Memories

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Sports Uniforms are not to be worn in the streets (except to Sport on Saturdays). Cross-overs **must** be worn in School; they may not be worn in the Street, i.e. underneath raincoats.

No jewellery may be worn with uniform. Coloured jumpers and white or coloured sox may not be worn.

Hair styles may not be sophisticated. Children in Junior School may wear hair in plaits or curls, but if hair is short, it must be kept cut above the collar. Senior pupils must wear their hair short.

Bags and cases should be usual school pattern (brown). School bags with crest are available from Brady's Sports Store, Adelaide Arcade. Airways bags and baskets may not be used.

All clothes, racquets, sand shoes, and books must be marked clearly.

### 3. TRAVELLING

Girls may not travel in smoking compartments.

Girls are to give up their seats to people older than themselves.

Girls may not hold conversations with boys while in school uniform.

No girl may stand on street corners or at bus stops to wait for friends.

Girls must obey the Prefects, who take the place of the Sisters.

## COLLEGE RULES

### 1. GENERAL RULES

No girl may leave the school ground during school hours or visit city stores after school hours without permission from the Principal and class teacher.

Girls may not "window shop".

Children are not to eat in the street or while travelling in buses, trains, and trams. Girls may not go into milk bars in school uniform.

A note in the diary signed by the parent is required when a girl has been absent or is unable to do her homework or wishes to go down the street.

Girls may not remain at school after 4.15 p.m.

### 2. UNIFORM

Full uniform must be worn travelling to and from school. At no time may articles of uniform be worn separately with street clothes.

WINTER UNIFORM—Tunic, Beret (with Badge), Blazer or Raincoat, Stockings hile or heavy nylon), Lace-up Shoes (crepe soles may not be worn), Gloves.

SUMMER UNIFORM — Summer Frock (top button must be done up for street wear, Summer Hat, Blazer (optional). Winter Beret may be worn with Summer Uniform when it is raining.

### 4. INTERVIEWS

It is not possible for Sisters to leave their classes to interview parents. Interviews with the Principal or members of the staff are by appointment only.

### 5. SOCIAL LIFE

Parents are asked not to give mixed parties or allow children to attend them.

Parents are asked not to allow children to go to dances or socials until they are in fourth year of secondary school.

PARENTS are asked to read these regulations carefully, as children will only be accepted and retained at this school if parents agree to support these regulations.

Parents are asked to retain a copy for reference and return a copy signed with entrance fee at earliest convenience.

Signature of Parent.....

Class.....

# Preserving Memories

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## MARIE KNOWLES

*Marie Knowles and I met each other in grade one when we were five years old. Marie is older than me by 12 days. She never married and lives at Highgate. I still see her regularly.*



*Kathryn and Marie Knowles, 1959*

*Marie usually comes down to me because of my two bung knees now. She used to love driving but doesn't want to drive very far now. She used to pick me up and we'd drive for miles. The furthest we went was to Burra in the Mid north.*

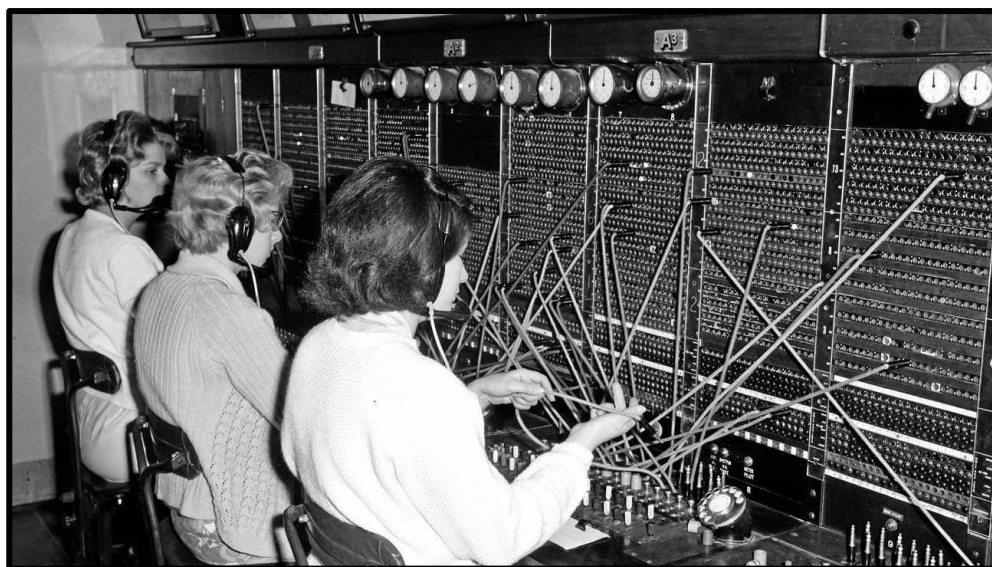


*Kathryn and Marie in Victor Harbor, 1999*



## BUSINESS COURSE

*Marie and I did the business course through school, and we were taken to the GPO to learn how to use phones and switchboards. If we got a job, we were allowed to leave school.*



*Telephone Exchange in 1966 [couriermail.com.au]*

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## LYNETTE ALLPRESS ( NÉE WILKINS )

*My other lifelong friend is Lynette Wilkins. We met at the age of ten and have been friends ever since.*

*Even though Lynette and I went to different schools we spent a lot of time at each other's houses, she lived around the corner at 10 Blackburn Avenue.*

*Lynette's parents had a Table Tennis table and we often played there with her brother and his friend Peter. We would go together to the local picture theatre and the occasional dances.*

*When I married on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 1969, she was my bridesmaid. When she married the next year on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 1970, I was her Matron of Honour.*



*Lynette and Kathryn, circa 1960*

**A** GUIPURE lace gown with a lace-edged chiffon train falling from the shoulders, and a flowing tulle veil held by a band of flowers were worn by Lynette Wilkins when she married Ian Allpress today.

The 'groom's mother, Mrs. K. V. Allpress, travelled from Morwell, Victoria, for the wedding, as did his attendants, Peter Hughes and Campbell Polwarth.

In cyclamen gowns of swiss cotton, with pin-tucked bodices and matching bows in their hair, were the matron of honor, Mrs. Mervyn Whittlesea, bridesmaid Ann Elmslie, and junior 'maid Leonie Wilkins, the 'groom's young sister.

The ceremony was followed by a reception at Fernilee Lodge, Burnside, given by the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Wilkins, of Cowandilla.



*Wedding of Ian and Lynette Allpress, Kathryn as Maid of Honour, 1970*

*After she married, Lynette and her husband Ian moved to Morwell, Victoria for 8 years, but we still saw one another regularly. The friendship has continued for nearly 70 years.*

*We found it funny that after our marriages, our surname initial swapped. I went from A to W (Andrews to Whittlesea) and hers from W to A (Wilkins to Allpress). We both had sons, I had two and Lynette had three, no daughters to be seen!*

*She was the one who suggested that when I started travelling by self to go to Hawaii as it was close enough to see how I would cope with air travel.*

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## SPORT

*I played some sport in my youth - YCW (Young Catholic Women) basketball. It is now called netball, but it used to be called basketball. I played at the Richmond Church one week and then next week we would go to another court. I played for about 3 or 4 years in my teenage years.*



*Richmond YWC Basketball team, 1964*

*L - R : Kathryn Andrews, Rosemary Doran, Rosemary Kerr, Pauline Koen, Cheryl Sampson, Christine Brock, Gina Beltrame*



*Richmond YWC Basketball team, 1966*

*Back: Kathryn Andrews, Helen Costello, Marilyn Cakebread, Anne Hoardacre*

*Front: Sharon Adams, Francis Ahern, Rosemary Doran*

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## HOLIDAYS

*My first holiday when I was about 11 years old in 1957, was to the Northern Territory. Auntie Bess and Uncle Don managed a station at Newcastle Waters. My cousin and I flew to Tennant Creek.*

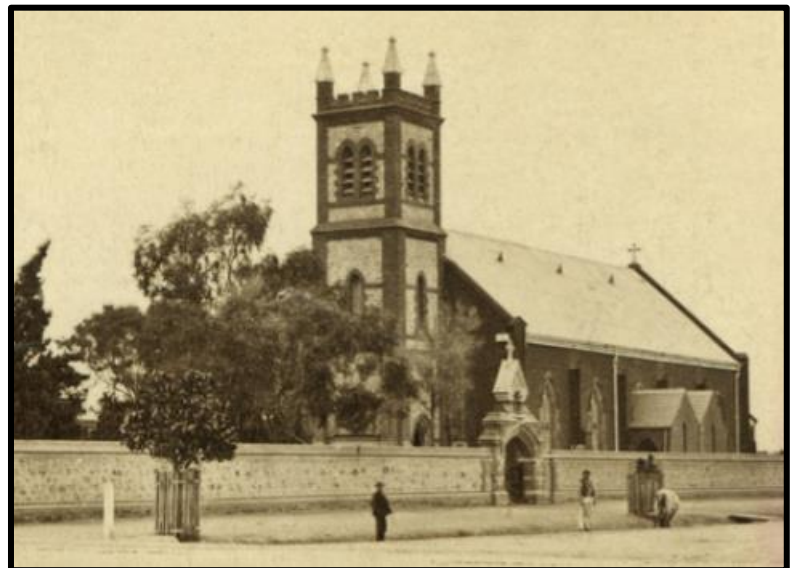
*I remember that we always had to buy a whole Fritz all tied up from the local butcher, Ross Gue, to take up to them because Uncle Don loved it and couldn't get it there.*



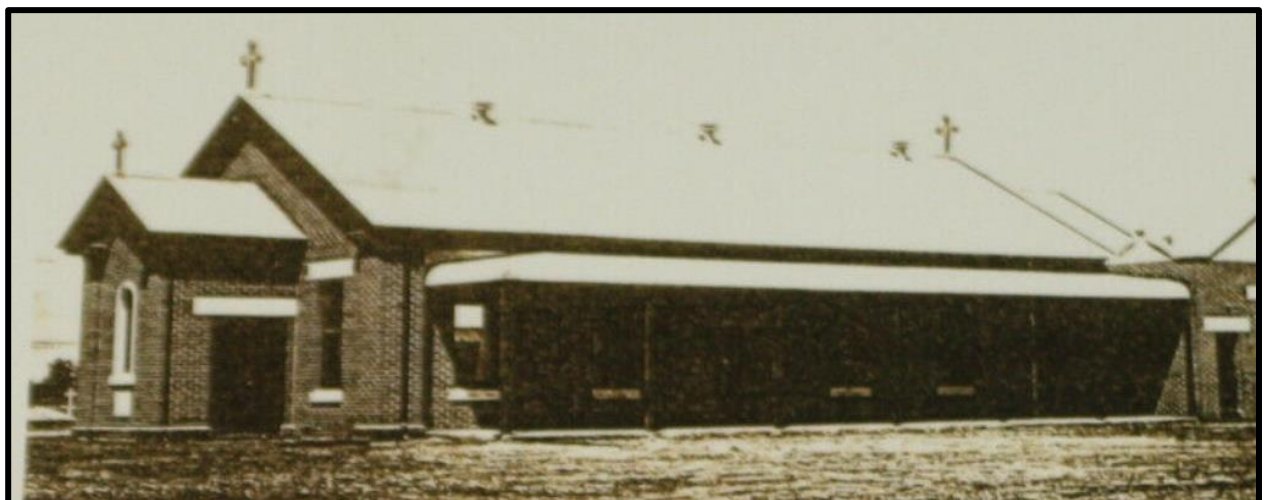
## CHURCH

*The first church we went to was St Patrick's in Grote Street.*

*Then we went to St Aloysius on Brooker Terrace at Richmond when I was growing up. We went every Sunday.*



*Original St Patrick's Church, demolished in 1959 [SLSA B 1938]*



*St Aloysius, Brooker Terrace, Richmond, 1954 [WTHS LH0112]*

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## HAVING A CAR IN THE 1950s

*Sometimes after church we would go for a drive down South Road down to Aldinga.*

*I remember when you went to a garage or service station, they did everything for you. They checked the oil and the water and cleaned the windows and did everything.*



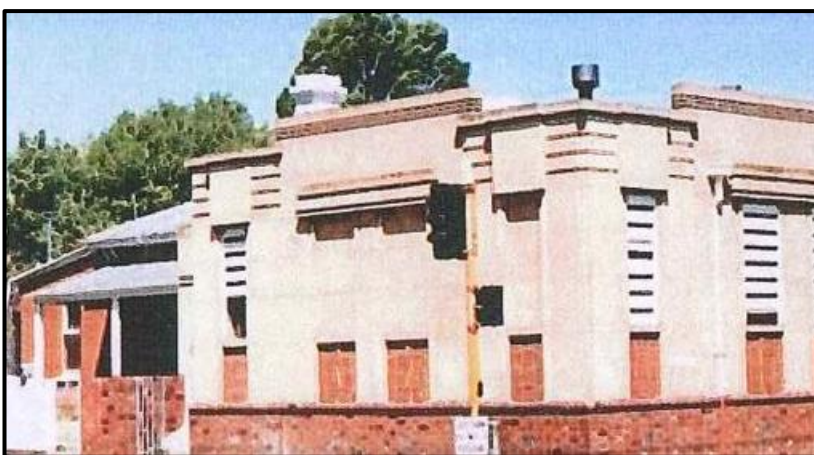
*Singer Car Club South Australia [Facebook]*

*Both mum and dad drove and the first car we had was a little Singer, a little thing that chugged along.*

*Later we had a little blue Ford Prefect. Mum had picked it up in Dalgety's in Wakefield Street and drove it home.*



*1956 Ford Prefect [justcars.com.au]*



*Thebarton Police Station [WTHS LH963-01b]*

*I was 19 when I learned to drive.*

*I had to go over to the police station at Thebarton to do a few written questions, not as many as these days.*

*Then you got in the car with a policeman, and you had to reverse and then drive around the block.*

*I had a little St Christopher medal in my car, and he said something like, "Are you Catholic?" And I said, "Yes". And he said, "Oh, okay, you've passed".*

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## MY DEBUT

*I had my 'Deb' in 1964 when I was around 18 years old. Mum made my dress. The Deb Ball was at the Wonderland Ballroom, and I had to take a partner with me. I went with a Catholic Boy from Henley Beach way, named Dion, that somebody at work knew.*

*All the girls were presented on the stage, and we danced with our partners.*



**debutante, also called deb**, a young woman who is making a formal entrance into society. So-called debutante balls, dating back to at least the 18th century, were originally intended as an avenue through which to present young women eligible for marriage to prospective high-society partners. [Brittanica.com]

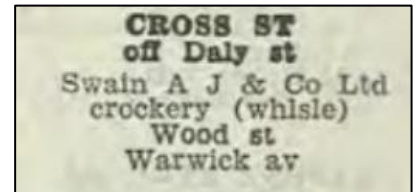
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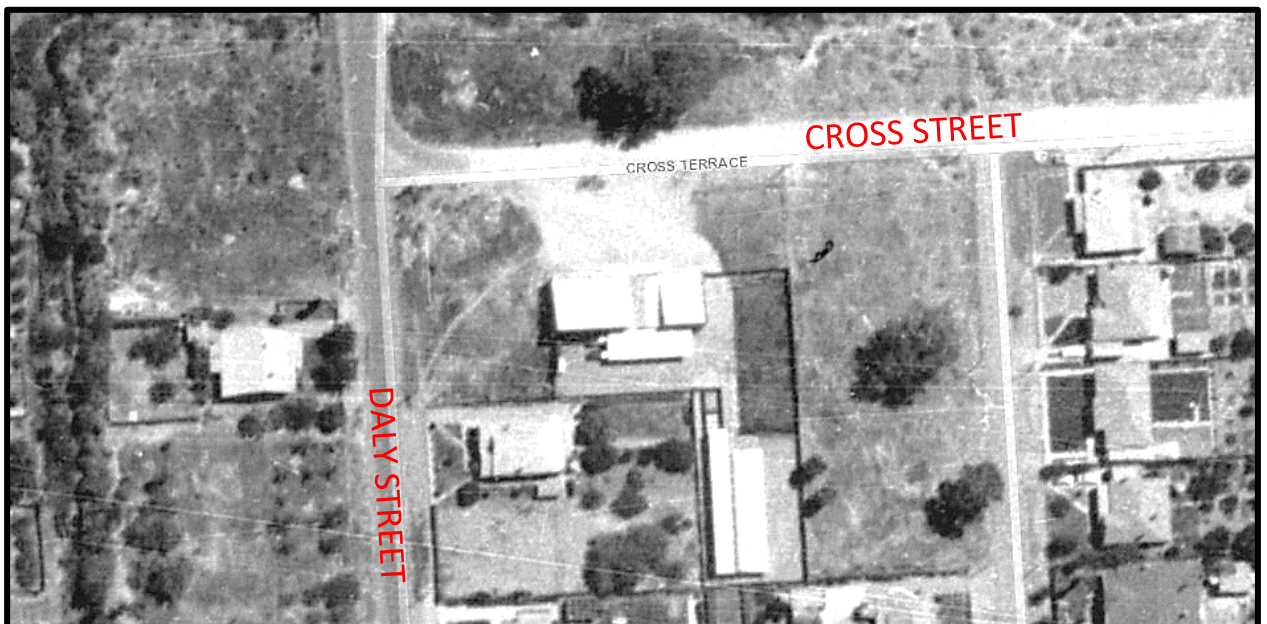
## AFTER SCHOOL

*Marie and I left school in year ten.*

*Marie went to work for lawyers, and I got a job at Swain's that was off Daly Street in Kurralta Park. There used to be a business there that sold all sorts of housewares like salt and pepper shakers. I was what they called a comptroller. I had one of those machines where you pressed the buttons to add all the stock and the sales.*



*Sands and McDougall directory, 1961*



*Kurralta Park 1959 [West Maps public]*

*I was only there for a little while.*

*In 1964, when I was 18, I got a job with O'Neill and Clayton, builders at 5 Commercial Street in Richmond. I was a telephonist and typist doing invoices and letters. I worked there until I got married in 1969.*



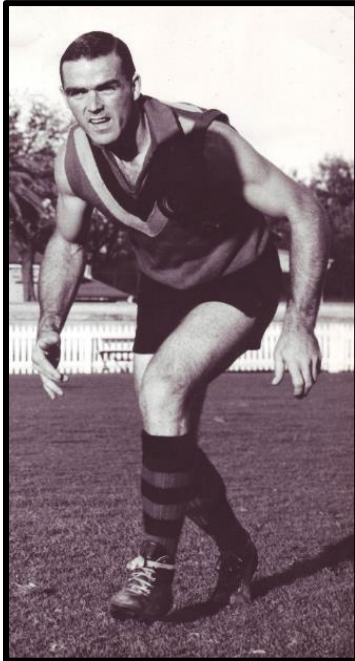
*Sands and McDougall directory, 1963*

*When we changed from pounds to the decimal currency it was dreadful. I was trying to explain to the apprentices how you do it. I got the money ready for the pays and would go to the bank for so many fives and so many cents and dollars. We had little envelopes to put the pay in. I didn't have too much trouble converting over, but the apprentices were jumping up and down and saying, "This isn't right!"*

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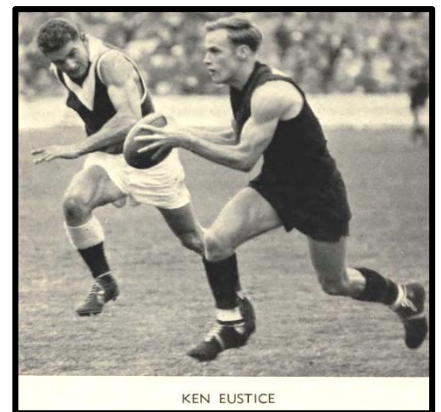
## FOOTBALL



*When I was younger, I followed West Adelaide Football Club and was a huge Neil Kerley fan. I've got autographs of the West Adelaide players. Marie and I used to go see them play at the Richmond oval.*

*Neil Kerley was a good player, and he had the Lord Raglan Hotel in Waymouth Street in Adelaide. Since Marie lived in the city, we would casually walk past the hotel hoping we might spot him!*

*Marie liked Ken Eustice. There was a car place in Angas Street where he and Doug Thomas worked, and we'd go that way to see if we could see them too!*



KEN EUSTICE

*West Adelaide Football Club Annual Report, 1963*

*After 1964 when Neil Kerley played for South Adelaide, I followed him so then I barracked for South, I still do! I knew someone who belonged to the South Adelaide club, so I managed to get all of their autographs in my book too.*

Perhaps the most recognised name in SA Football, Neil Kerley was South Australia's own 'Mr.Football'.

Having made his debut for West Adelaide in 1952, Kerley played 163 games for the Bloods before coming across to the Panthers in 1963.

Having finished bottom in 1963, the Panthers were desperate for someone to help turn things around, and Kerley was their man.

*Vale Neil Kerley [safc.com.au]*

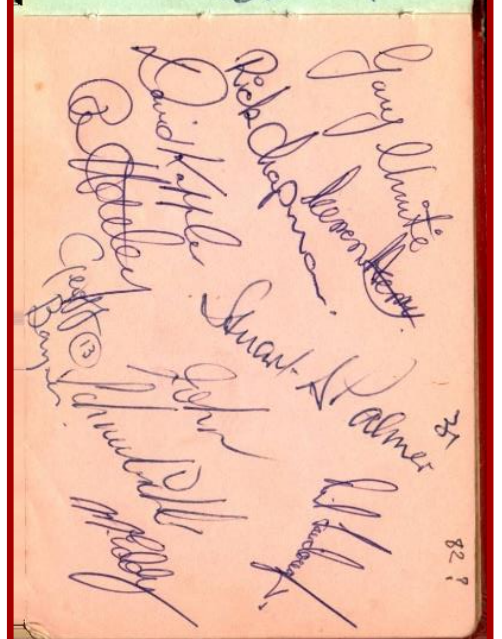
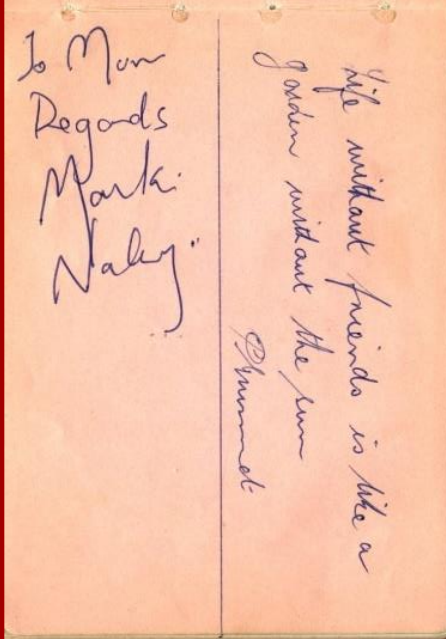
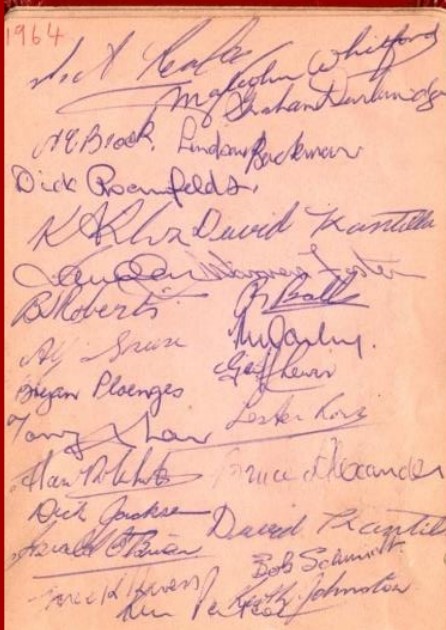
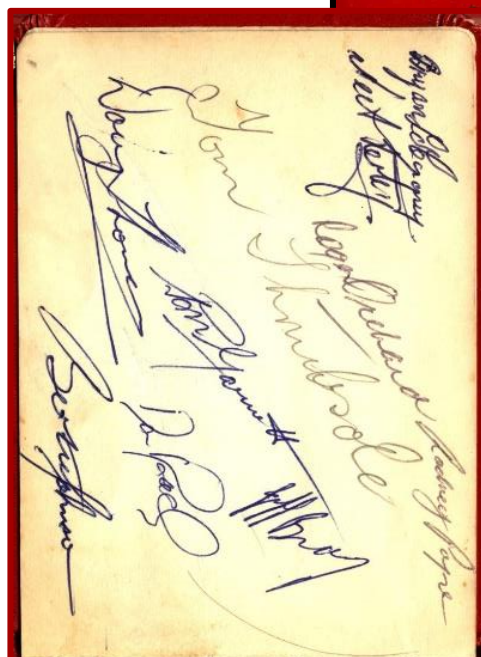
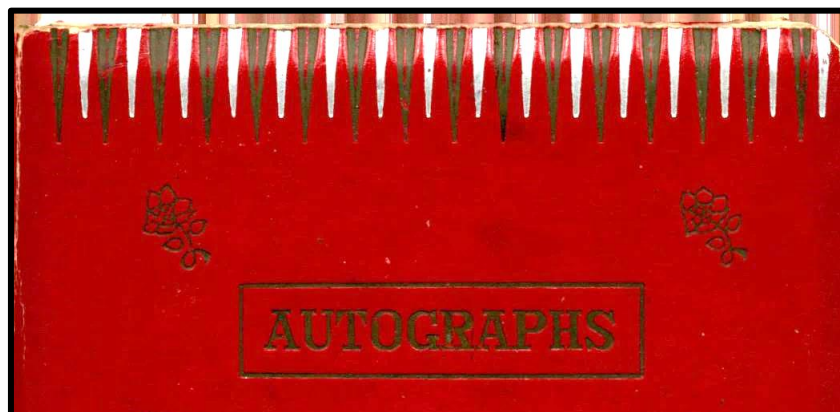
*When West and South played and the match was at the South home ground, Marie would drive me there because I didn't like driving all that way.*



*Vale Neil Kerley [safc.com.au]*

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West Adelaide 1961

South Adelaide 1964

South Adelaide 1982

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## SEEING THE BEATLES AND GLEN CAMPBELL

*When I was in my late teens, and working for O'Neill and Clayton, the brother of a girl I was working with, took the day off school to queue up to get tickets for the Beatles. It was at Centennial Hall, and you couldn't hear a thing because all the kids were screaming.*



*Beatles at Centennial Hall, 12 June 1964 [beatleg.info]*



*Apollo Stadium (WTHS LH0420-13)*

*We also went to the Apollo theatre round here and saw Glen Campbell. We could hear him - not as noisy as the Beatles concert!*

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## MERVYN JOHN WHITTLESEA

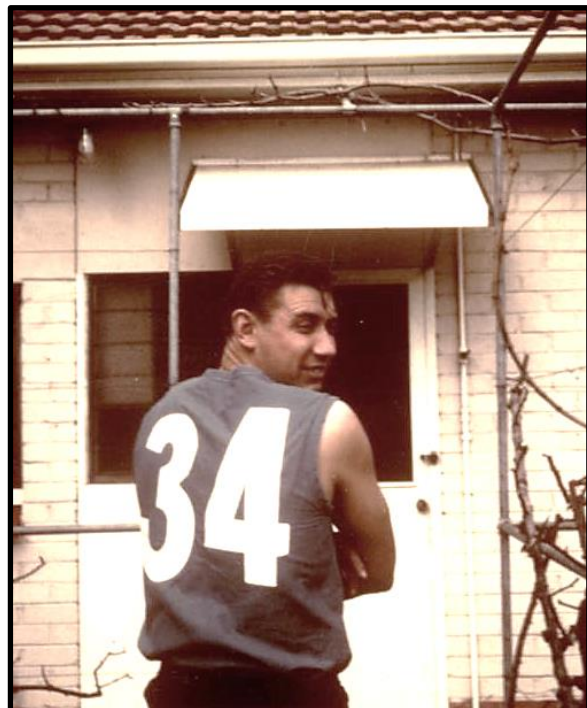
*I met Merv through one of his friends that I knew as well.*

Merv was born 1 April 1943 and was the only child of Jack Arthur Whittlesea (c1919 - 25 Oct 1982) and Molly Claudia Emily, née Gryst (c1911- 30 January 1997).

*Jack was an aircraft mechanic and because the main metropolitan airport was at Parafield, the family first lived at Salisbury. When the airport was moved to West Beach, his work was transferred and the family moved to 45 Burbridge Road, Brooklyn Park (renumbered to 385 later).*

*Jack started off when it was known as Guinea Airways, and he was with them all through the changes to Ansett, ANA, all the different names. Jack and Molly went to Holland with KLM and the KLM people came out here to Australia in a swap over. Merv could get cheap air flights, but I wasn't allowed to because I wasn't a direct descendant.*

*In the late 1960s Merv played for the West Adelaide Colts and then he played amateur football for Alberton United.*



*He also played basketball, and cricket and volleyball for the Salesian Old Boys. I used to help him practice volleyball and punch the ball over the net. By the time we finished my arms were aching!*

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## MARRIAGE

*We married on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 1969 at St John Bosco Church in Brooklyn Park. I was 23 years old. My bridesmaid was Lynette Wilkins who I'd known since we were ten, and Merv's friend, Trevor Aust was his bestman.*

*Mum made the dress, but not the veil. The flowers came from Saunderson's Florist, on Marion Road.*

*We had the wedding photos done by Colin Ballantyne a photographer in the city.*

The bride, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.V. Andrews of Cowandilla wore a dress of Swiss crepe over laid with guipure lace. The bride's only attendant Lynette Wilkins was in Daffodil Swiss crepe with guipure lace sleeves.



*Kathryn, Jim Andrews (father) and Lynette Wilkins, at the Neill Road, home in Cowandilla, 1 March 1969*

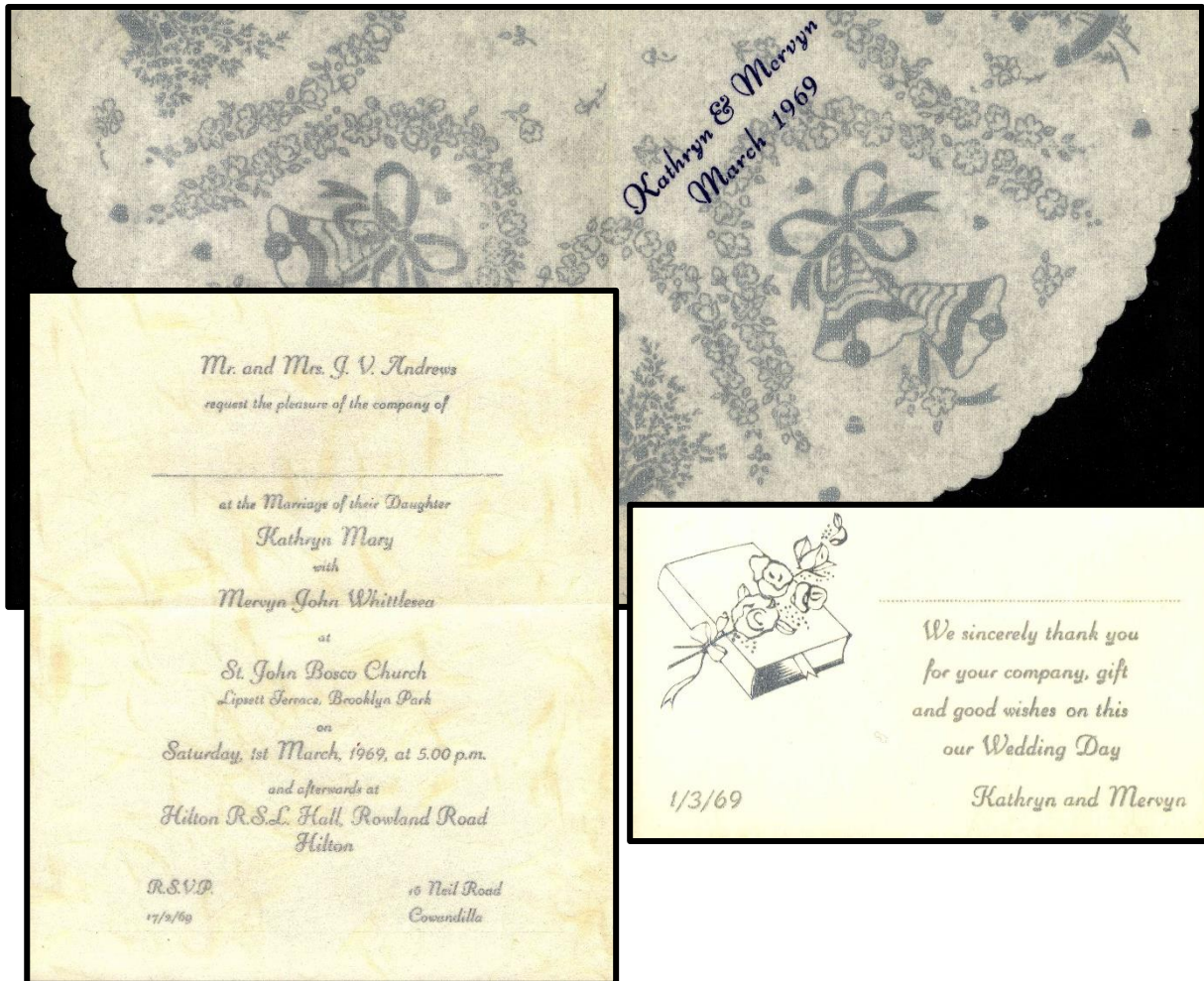
*We received some telegrams from family and also some cheeky people, they were funny telegrams!*

*We drove to Brisbane and the Gold Coast for our honeymoon and stayed at Paradise Island. It's still there!*



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## CHILDREN

*David Matthew was born on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April 1972, and then Robert John was born on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February 1975. Both boys went to Salesians at Brooklyn Park.*



*David and Robert Whittlesea, circa 1998*

*They joined the Cubs and Scouts at Camden Park, Venturers at Fulham and Rovers at Henley. David was a Scout Leader and Robert was a Cub Leader.*



*Robert started archery at Kidman Park. About three times he came home with a flat tyre because he'd put the arrow through it and we had to take it and get it repaired! He is now with Archery SA and been a judge for ten years at places like Mylor and Strathalbyn.*

*David works for the State government at Port Adelaide.*

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## NETLEY

*After we married, we lived in a unit at Kurralta Park for about 6 months, then we moved to a house in Baroda Avenue in Netley. There were only three houses in the street when we moved in, and we watched all the houses being built. All of them were built in that 1960s style.*



1969 [West Maps public]

*The area had been market gardens and we had to keep pulling out bamboo plants because they had been put in as windbreaks. It took years to get rid of it.*

*In 1980 we got flooded. I remember Cowandilla Road was flooded, that might have been from Brownhill Creek.*

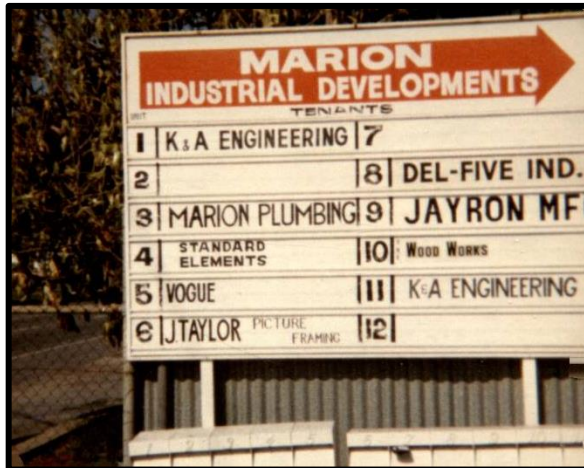


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## STANDARD ELEMENTS

*Merv first became an electrician for Gerard and Goodman. When Gerard and Goodman were taken over by Lawrence and Hanson, they decided they didn't want that side of the business anymore, so my husband started up his own little business called Standard Elements and I did some of the bookwork for him.*



*Initially this was set up in the 1980s at Marion Industrial Developments at 822 Marion Road. This was a group of 12 industries, and we were in Factory 4. The site is now Harvey Normans.*

*In the later 1980s the business was based in Martha Street, Edwardstown, and for a time at Tooronga Avenue, Edwardstown.*

*After a few years he set up the business at our home in Netley.*



*We didn't have computers, everything was written. We used carbon paper and give a copy to the customer and keep a copy in the book, for the people to do the taxes for us.*

*We made hot water service elements and all sorts of elements for degreasing baths. Merv was clever but he kept everything in his head and his writing was atrocious. I sold off the business after he passed away.*

# Preserving Memories

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## LATER YEARS

### HOLIDAYS

*Whittlesea, 1999*

*After Merv died on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January in 1999 at the age of 55, I decided to travel to Whittlesea in Victoria, about 40 kilometres north-east of Melbourne.*



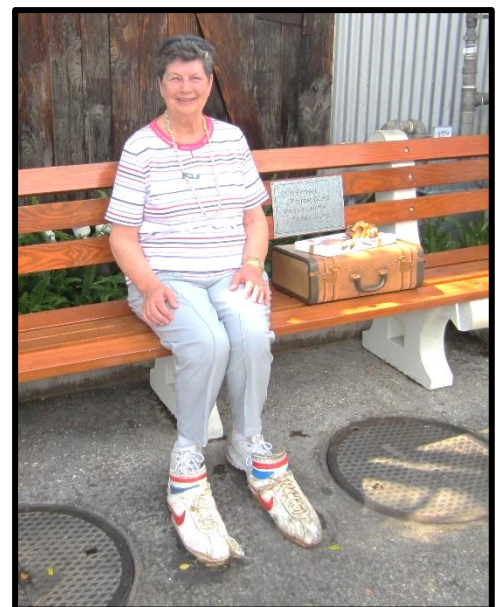
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*In 2013, when I was 67, I started taking holidays by myself. All of them were organised trips where I was by myself, but most people would say, "Come and sit with us", and I would make friends.*

## *Hawaii, 2013*

*First, I went on a trip to Hawaii. I think this was the best trip. I went on the Pride of America cruise liner. I boarded at Honolulu and did all five islands. They loved my accent!*



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## United Kingdom, 2014

*In 2014 I went to the UK including Scotland and Ireland.*



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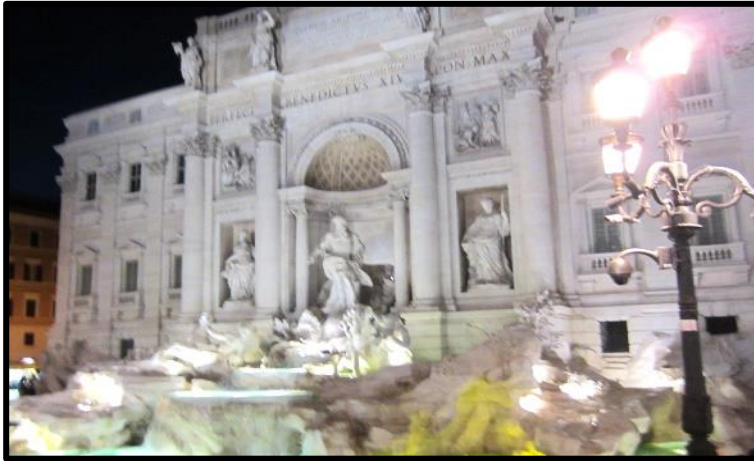
*When I was in Scotland it was just before the Scottish independence referendum and the streets were lined with Yes and No flags and posters and people lined up facing each other in the park.*

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## Europe, 2016

*Robert and I travelled to Europe together in 2016. In Italy we went to Venice and Florence, saw the Sistine Chapel and Statue of David, and Robert threw a coin into the Trevi Fountain. We also went to Leaning Tower of Pisa. The trip also included Nuremberg, Schönbrunn Palace, Slovakia, Prague, Lyon, Hungary and Budapest.*



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## Canada and Alaska, 2018

*I was on a cruise around Alaska, and this was my first time seeing snow and bears. I travelled on the Rocky Mountaineer from Banff to Vancouver.*



## PROBUS AND LOCAL TOURS

*Nowadays, I enjoy going to the Airport Probus Club held at the Over-50s club at Fulham.*

*For the last 20 years, usually once a month, I have been going on trips with Endeavour Tours. My first trip was to the Floriade in Canberra in 2003.*

*My favourite trips have been to the 2011 Australian Open in Melbourne, and Roxby Downs and Coober Pedy for a week in 2015.*

*I also enjoy the annual Christmas lights trips around the suburbs and to Lobethal.*

# Preserving Memories

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

The *Preserving Memories* project aim is to interview people who have lived in or had extensive connections to the West Torrens area. The West Torrens Historical Society in conjunction with the City of West Torrens invite them to share their memories and talk about the events and experiences which helped to make up their life's story. It allows us all the chance to reflect on the past and to preserve those memories into the future.

*This interview was conducted 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023. The opinions and views expressed in this interview, and documented in this transcript, are not necessarily the views and opinions of the interviewer, the West Torrens Historical Society, nor the City of West Torrens Council, and therefore neither the Society nor Council accepts responsibility for any comments or opinions expressed by the person being interviewed.*

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Thankyou, Kathryn, for participating and sharing your life story and experiences.