City of Burnside

Historic Self-Guided Walk
Glen Osmond

GLEN OSMOND

Glen Osmond was one of the earliest villages laid out in South Australia. Bounded by what is now Portrush Road, Gilles Road and extensions of Cross Road and lower Sunnyside Road, it was taken up by Osmond Gilles, the first Colonial Treasurer, in 1838. In due course, his name was perpetuated by the naming of Glen Osmond and Gilles Road.

The first recorded resident of Glen Osmond was Edwin Olliver, who lived in an old house at the back of St Saviour's Church Rectory. His name appeared in the S.A. Directory for the year 1840, under 'Country Districts'. In March, 1841, it is recorded that Gilles lived here. The building was on part of his property which he donated in 1854 for the construction of an Anglican church, known today St Saviour's Church.

That portion of Glen Osmond east of Glen Osmond Road became part of the District Council of East Torrens, which was proclaimed on 2nd June, 1853. Later, when the District Council of East Torrens was "sub-divided", it became part of the District Council of Burnside, gazetted on 14 August, 1856.

An extract from Bailliere's S.A. Gazeteer, Adelaide, 1866, describes the area.

The district is an agricultural one, inhabited by small farmers, gardeners, and vignerons, there being also several residences of gentlemen having business in Adelaide in the surrounding locality. The country is hilly, with fine fertile valleys and slopes, many of them in a high state of cultivation. Glen Osmond has a public pound, an Oddfellows' Lodge (A.I.O.F) and one hotel - the Vine ... There is a silver-lead mine in the village, on the property of Osmond Gilles, Esq., who has leased it on royalty to an English company. It contains several good lodes, and many hundreds of tons of ore have been raised. There is a fine vineyard ... the wines produced being of excellent quality. A large cellar and some good wine-making machinery have been erected on the ground.

This walk starts at the carpark on the corner of Gill Terrace and the Adelaide - Crafers Highway.

For information on bus routes and timetables please refer to www.adelaidemetro.com.au The distance covered by this walk is 6.7 km and takes 3 hours to complete.

I The Toll House (c1841)

On an island in the middle of the road is the Toll House, built in 1841, when the colony was suffering severe financial hardship. Tolls were collected (from those travellers who did not choose to undertake a hazardous bypass route), until 1847, when the levies were abolished, it being seen as unjust that this road should be the only road in the State to be taxed. The toll-gate keeper lived in the hexagonal house, with a small garden. His hours were fixed by the Act (No. 4 of 1841) "from twelve o'clock at night to twelve o'clock of the next succeeding night"!

2 **Wheal Augusta Mine Adit (1840s)** - Gill Terrace/Jikara Drive, corner of Adelaide Crafers Highway next to car park on left hand side.

The G. V. Allen Mining Reserve and the Wheal Augusta Mine Adit, which are part of the considerable complex of mine workings in these foothills. These were the first metalliferous mine workings in Australia. On the hillside above there is the chimney stack (not visible from here) of the Glen Osmond Smelting Works, constructed in 1849, somewhere near Jikara Drive. It was connected to the chimney by an underground stone tunnel. The smelting work ceased after a short time. The stack was later painted white and served as a guide for ships in the Gulf for many years.

3 **Toll Gate Motel** – Adelaide Crafers Highway

As you walk along the elevated footpath, you will pass a stone retaining wall beside the Toll Gate Motel. The motel was built in 1968 on the site of a hotel licensed in 1844, under the name of 'The Miner's Arms'. It is quite probable that this only operated until 1850, when the mines ceased to operate.

4 **Gurdwara Sikh Society** - Adelaide Crafers Highway

In recent decades this building was the Colonial Restaurant Complex but is currently occupied by the Gurdwara Sikh Society. The single storeyed section was built in about 1845, as a bakery and grocery store. The original wall ovens are still part of the building. Thomas Smith acquired the business in 1852 and his family remained here until 1968, when the Colonial Restaurant was established. Smith is reported to have operated the second Glen Osmond Post Office from this store in its early years.

5 **Gum Tree -** Portrush Road (adjacent to traffic lights)

This large gum tree was planted in 1867, to celebrate the visit of the Duke of Edinburgh (see adjacent plaque).

6 **House and Church (1883 and later) -** Corner of Pridmore Road and Portrush Road

The first church was built in 1862 and the Chancel later dedicated by Bishop Hammer. The adjacent Parish Hall was opened in 1898 by Mrs Henry Scott. The Rectory was built in 1883. The original church was demolished after the construction of the present church dedicated in 1966 by Bishop T.T. Reed.

7 **St Saviour's Cemetery** – corner of Highway and Cross Road

The earliest graves in this cemetery date from the late 1850s, and many of Glen Osmond's earliest identities are buried here. The cemetery is still used occasionally. The rather modest gate facing Glebe Road is in memory of Clara Langley (see No. 11).

Outside the cemetery gates you will see wooden posts originally used for securing horses.

8 **5 Elinor Terrace**

This house was built in about 1928 for Elinor, the daughter of Thomas Gill, (see No. 9), and the person after whom the street was named.

9 **12 Woodley Road**

Built by the Langleys for Thomas Gill, Under-Secretary for the State in 1884/85. The house, 'Willalar' was almost a twin of No. 9. Thomas Gill owned a considerable tract of land, down to Portrush Road, and it appears it was he who planted a row of kurrajong trees along the edge of the property, facing Woodley Road, at least down to Elinor Terrace, where they still stand, despite showing signs of their great age. Elinor Terrace was apparently constructed when Gill sub-divided that portion of his land to the west of it. No. 12 was occupied by various local identities, before passing to Mr M.T. Phillipps in the 1930s, and was progressively sub-divided from 1959, with five houses being built on new blocks so created.

The four early Langley houses are thought to have been built here to take advantage of a solid layer of limestone rubble about 500 mm below the surface, providing a very sound foundation for building.

10 **9 Woodley Road**

Also built by the Langley clan, for George Gill, in 1884/85.

In 1891/92, Mr F.G. Scammell, a solicitor, purchased the property 'Arranmore', and Mrs Scammell occupied the house up to 1945. This is a distinctive piece of architecture, representative of its time, and maintained well to this day.

11 5 Woodley Road

This was built by J.G. Langley for Charles Langley, also a building tradesman, (b. 1863, also thought to be the son of J.G.) and Clara Langley, in about 1885.
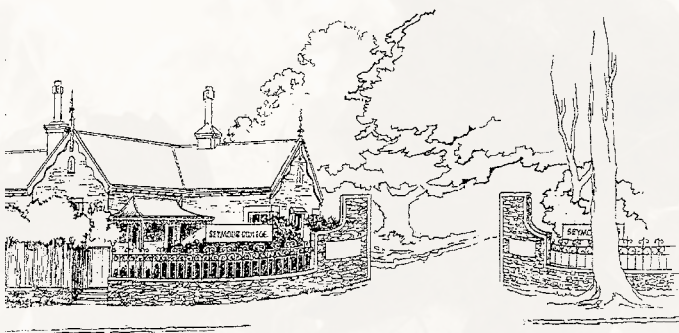
The title records show that Charles Langley did not have a mortgage at any stage of his ownership, so apparently the comprehensive building capacity of the family served them all most handsomely. This block still extends through to Day Road.

12 3 Woodley Road

Built by Mr J.A.G. Langley, for A.D.J. (a mason) and A.G. (an ironworker) Langley, apparently sons of the elder Langley, early in the 1880s.

This house remained, alone on this block going through to Day Road, until 1972, when Mr L.S. Kingsborough, its owner of many years, died. The land was sub-divided into four equal blocks, requiring the demolition of the house if sold separately, but a Mr St Leger Kelly rescued the house by purchasing both blocks facing Woodley Road, and then built a small cottage, in sympathy with the style of No. 3, as accommodation for his mother-in-law.

When Mr Kelly sold out later, the new owners sold the cottage as the Council was now more sympathetic to separate titles of lesser area. The new owner of No. 1B then added a top floor.

13 Seymour College

Wooton Lea was acquired by a Presbyterian group looking for school premises in 1921, and Presbyterian Girls College was established. From its inception, the lodge was occupied by the school's head gardener, and in later years by other staff members.

In 1977, the school became Seymour College, after the amalgamation of the Presbyterian, Methodist, and Congregational Churches formed the Uniting Church.

The school grounds are, of course, private property, and not available for casual walkers, but if you now return to Gilles Road, and walk up beside the school, you will see the Junior School, the sports grounds, a large indoor sports building, tennis courts, boarding house buildings and classrooms, and eventually arrive at your starting point.

The College has developed around 'Wooton Lea', a large, plain Georgian house of 17 rooms built in 1861 for Francis Hardy Faulding, (founder of F.H. Faulding & Co) and his wife Elizabeth. Its next owner, G.S. Fowler, a principal of the firm of D.& J. Fowler, enlarged the building.

Other remaining structures of note are an attractive bluestone and brick former laundry, stables and cottages, pump house with a slate roof, and the former coach-house which is now a music room.

Stately trees, including Moreton Bay figs and Queensland Kauris are features of the grounds, and form borders to the long drive.

14 546 Portrush Road

The former gate-house to 'Wooton Lea', now Seymour College. The first records of this lodge and the associated gates appear in 1877, when Mr G.S. Fowler was the owner of Wooton Lea. You will note that Fowler's Road and the drive to the college are in the same alignment.

15 548 Portrush Road

Abergeldie House, formerly named 'Glen Coola', was built in 1861 by Max Weidenbach, a member of a large, wealthy family of nurserymen, wine-makers, hotel-keepers and investors. Two of his brothers built houses alongside - One of the houses was demolished for Glenocre Court.

Glen Coola was enlarged and altered in the 1870s and then early in the 1900s. Presbyterian Girls' (now Seymour) College purchased Glen Coola in 1959, and, shortly after, it became Abergeldie Hospital. Currently, it is a holistic centre trading as Abergeldie House.

16 House (1916) - 2 Wootoona Terrace

Wootoona Terrace was first subdivided in 1916, and restrictions were imposed on the value and building materials of houses to ensure that substantial dwellings were built. This resulted in a street of very large dwellings on large blocks of land, with extensive gardens. The residences were built in a range of early twentieth century styles. A number of them are multi-storey.

This house forms an integral part of the Wootoona Terrace Historic Conservation Zone and is an excellent example of an early Federation Bungalow design in the domestic architectural development of Burnside.

This house was constructed in 1916 for F.M. and R.A. Duncan of the firm of Duncan & Fraser. This is one of the first houses built in this St George's subdivision of the Wooton Lea Estate of Francis Faulding.

17 **House -** 595 Portrush Road

This is a bluestone residence constructed on a sloping allotment and is protected from Portrush Road by a high brick wall of a later date. The house 'Rosebank' was constructed in 1898 for Henry and Edith Hampson. This house is indicative of the size and style of residences which were constructed along Portrush Road at this time when the former wheat farm of the Ferguson family was first subdivided into large allotments in 1893.

Return in a southerly direction & walk to Myrona Avenue.

18 **'Glenholme' (1850)** - 32 Myrona Avenue

This house, together with a wooden stable, was built in 1850, by Christian Ludwig Meyer, on 6.5 acres of land, and named 'Glenholme'. He lived here for 30 years before returning to Germany, leaving his son of the same name to carry on the occupancy. The house can best be seen from the street by looking from the footpath outside number 21.

Return to Portrush Rd and walk in a northerly direction until you reach Fowlers Rd. On the corner of Portrush Rd and Fowlers Rd you will find:

19 **House (c1900)** - 27 Fowlers Road (corner of Portrush Road)

This large stone house was built at the turn of the nineteenth century, and was the home of the wine merchant A.W.R. (Rudolph) Buring. 'Rudy' Buring was well known in the wine industry, associated up to about 1940 with Buring and Sobels 'Quelltaler' establishment in the Clare Valley.

Continue along Fowlers Road to:

20 **'Warrawee' House (c1900)** - 32 Fowlers Road

Built at about the same time as the above this large stone and brick house was originally called 'Warrawee'. It was originally constructed for Mr O. Jones, but soon passed to Mr J.F. Scrymgour.

Continue down Fowlers Road.

21 **House (c1930)** - 7 Fowlers Road

This two-storey brick house built in the 1930s for Margaret and Albert McBride was a show-piece of the district for some time. They occupied it until about 1959. The next owners until about 1978 were Mr and Mrs M.T. Phillipps. The house on the west side occupies part of the original McBride land.

Continue along Fowlers Rd until you reach Glen Osmond Rd. Directly opposite you will see:

22 **Baptist Church (1883)** - Glen Osmond Road

This church was built in 1883, funded very largely by Mr G.S. Fowler, who also regularly provided funds for payment of its ministers. His son J.R. Fowler continued this support and consequently the church was commonly referred to as 'Fowler's Church'.

Turn left onto Glen Osmond Rd and continue walking in a south easterly direction along the footpath. At the corner of Benacre Close you will find:

23 **Benacre Fencing** - 1 Benacre Close

A small length of Benacre's original fencing remains. Original trees from Benacre grounds can be seen in various front gardens in Benacre Close. A brick wall has been built around an old Moreton Bay Fig tree a little further up the road.

Continue walking in a south easterly direction along the footpath until you reach Vine Lane. Turn left up Vine Lane to:

24 **House (c1850)** - 12 Vine Lane

This house was originally three small attached cottages of two rooms each, made of bluestone and brick built in the 1850s.

25 **House (c1855)** - 16 & 16A Vine Lane

Built for Carl Schunke, a German migrant who first worked as a miner, then turned his talents to building and owning cottages for rental.

By 1860, a room had been added, and slates replaced the original roof, at which stage the Rate Assessment jumped from £6 to £9! In 1862-63, large stables with an upper loft and a feedhouse were added, and the Rate Assessment went up to £12, and by 1863 - 64 to £20.

By this time, Schunke was running a thriving coach business, handily situated near the entrance to the foothills. Two more rooms were added in 1880, and 1883. John Carter, one of the Schunke's coachmen, lived here until 1910 - 11.

The stables now constitute No. 16A, which was converted to residential accomodation in the 1960's.

Now walk along Brook Avenue to Ashley Avenue.

26 **'The Mews' (c1844)** - 1A Ashley Avenue

The core of this building was originally the coach-house to Benacre, and was constructed in about 1844, although a brass plate on the gate-post says 1869. This date may have been the time of some extension. Whether the top storey was included in the first building is not certain, but it seems unlikely in the light of the sequence of events at 'Benacre'. Much of the present structure was added in the 1970s, to match the original style and materials.

On the east side is one of Burnside's many small recreation parks, Ashley Avenue Reserve.

27 **'Benacre' (1840s)** - 6 Benacre Close

Adjacent to The Mews, to the south-west, is Benacre.

Originally built in the 1840's by the chemist William Bickford who also started the garden on a considerable area of land.

The next owner was T.B. Strangways, followed by Thomas Graves. Thomas Graves established a fine garden containing Moreton Bay figs, pines, cedars and cypresses from such diverse places as Norway, India, Lebanon, Japan and Norfolk Island - "an assortment of trees second only to the Adelaide Botanic Garden", according to the book History of Glen Osmond, (1905).
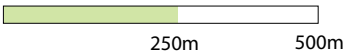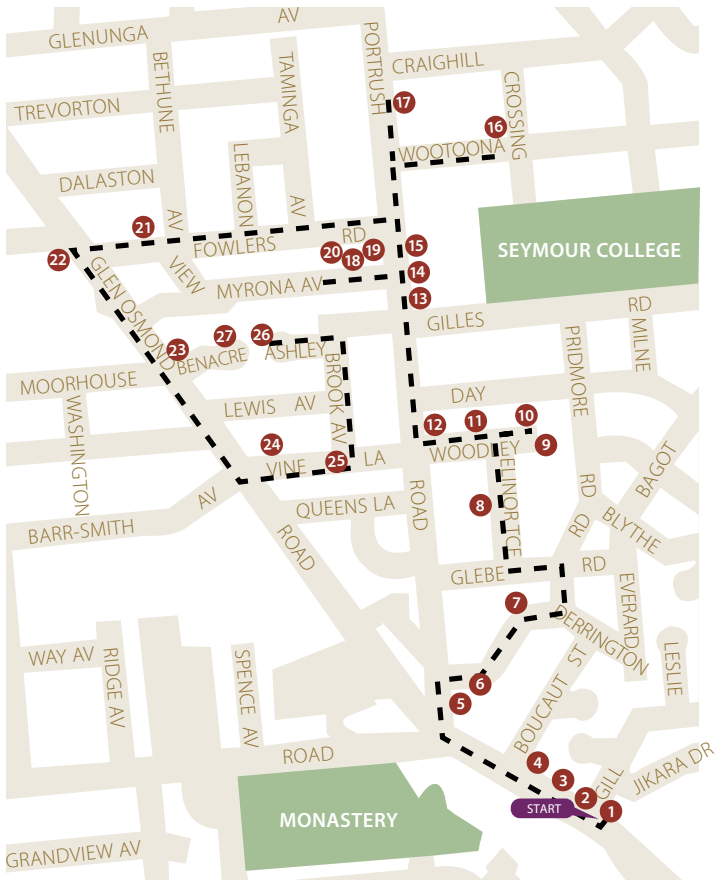
In the mid-1870s, Graves added rooms, a cellar and a top storey, before selling to Henry Scott, Mayor of Adelaide, who named it 'Benacre'. During Scott's tenure of some 30 years, he hosted countless social events.

During the subsequent ownership of Hon. John Lewis, M.L.C., a deer park was established. However, this was sub-divided in 1923 and now only a fraction of the original grounds remain attached to Benacre. Many of the trees remain on nearby footpaths and front lawns of new properties. Part of the early fencing of Benacre fronting Glen Osmond Road still remains.

This is the end of the walking tour. To return to the starting point, walk to the end of Ashley Ave and turn right onto Brook Ave. At Vine Lane turn left and continue up until you reach Portrush Rd. Turn right onto Portrush Rd and walk along the western footpath to the major intersection at the start of the freeway. Use the pedestrian crossing and walk on the elevated footpath a short way to return to the carpark on the corner of Gill Tce and the Adelaide - Crafers Highway.

An electronic copy of this historic self-guided walk and other historic walks within the City of Burnside can be found on **www.burnside.sa.gov.au**

Every effort has been made to ensure the content of this brochure is accurate. If you have any feedback about the content, please contact us via the Burnside Council website at www.burnside.sa.gov.au

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