

# AUBURN EXPRESS

October, 2018

[www.auburn.sa.au](http://www.auburn.sa.au)

ACDC Committee Members

Rhonda Seymour (Chair), John Osborne (Secretary), (Public Officer) Wayne Butcher (Treasurer),  
Graham Richards, Helen Smith, Liz Pridham, Phil Sanders.

Contact: Rhonda Seymour Tel: 8849 2389, E-mail: rhoje100@gmail.com, PO Box 202, Auburn SA 5451

## ACDC October Report

**Christmas Eve in the Park:** Since last meeting, Auburn Traders have hosted two meetings to discuss and plan for "Christmas in Auburn". Christmas Eve in the Park will be jointly run by ACDC and Auburn Traders. Discussions included creating an Auburn Christmas diary, promoting "Shopping locally" and decorating Auburn for the Christmas period. The next meeting will be the 7<sup>th</sup> of November at HATs (Courthouse). All interested people most welcome.

**Upper Wakefield Landcare** The local Landcare group will be meeting again on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October in Centenary Park at 10am.

**ACDC Annual General Meeting:** All ACDC members and the Auburn community are advised that the AGM for ACDC will be held at the Auburn Institute on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm. All welcome.

**Auburn Institute:** ACDC and AIMC have received a quote for reinstating the Stage curtains in the Institute. Other maintenance items being addressed include: treatment of the Institute Main Hall and stage floors; a hand rail for the stage steps; developing the garden beds in front of the entrance to the Hall and Foyer.

**Rhonda Seymour, Chair, ACDC.**

Items for next Express due

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2018

Editor: Kim Bleeker. Tel: 8849 2397 or

E-mail: [acdc@hillsviestate.com.au](mailto:acdc@hillsviestate.com.au)

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**AUBURN SPRING FÊTE**  
**AUBURN INSTITUTE**  
**SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**  
**10.00am until 4.00pm**

Auburn Institute to provide a wonderful home for the inaugural Auburn Spring Fête.

Organised by members of the Hall Committee, the fête is to be a fundraiser to help cover the annual running costs of the iconic Auburn Institute, now owned and cared for by the Auburn Community.

'Decorated Bikes' competition to be judged by members of Auburn CFS,

- Face painting
- Second hand Books
- 'Swap your extra Fruit & Vege' Barrow managed by the Auburn Primary School.

Fabulous Food by local Foodies - tables & chairs on the stage and if the weather is good, there'll be tables & chairs outside.

- Gourmet Strawberry Plates from the Hall Committee
- Savoury Dishes from Andrea Mitchell
- Asian Specials from Juanita
- Pistachio Ice Cream from Corrumbeena Orchards
- ..... and to wash it all down some equally Fabulous Clare Valley Wine & Beer!!

The Institute will come alive with a vibrant day of fun for all ages.....

We invite you to join us!

Further details: Glen Osborne Ph: 0417 323 159 [johnlenny@bigpond.com](mailto:johnlenny@bigpond.com)

Sandra Crawley Ph: 0419 990 185 [tavenders@gmail.com](mailto:tavenders@gmail.com)

**Auburn Uniting Church.**

Annual Heritage Service, 28th October 2018.  
 28th October is near the anniversary of Auburn's starting date of 29th October 1849

when Thomas Henry Williams, the Manager of the Koorunga Smelters (Burra) set about establishing a staging place for the bullocks carting the copper ore to Port Wakefield. Since the Jubilee 150 celebrations of SA, an annual heritage service has been held when the community is most welcome to become involved.

It is 100 years since the end of the first World War. Many families have memorabilia relating to their family or friends service for their country over the years. You are invited to bring any memorabilia along and talk about your item or family or community member participation in the services.

As a number of people usually participate, presentation time up to 3 minutes is planned.

Any inquiries to:

Kay Lambert, 08 8849 2075

or email: [dklamb@rbe.net.au](mailto:dklamb@rbe.net.au)

The Uniting Church Hall facilities are available free of charge for playing pool or socialise. Please enquire with Kay Lambert on 08 8849 2075

**SAT 27<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER FEST in the CLARE VALLEY**

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**DRINK SPECIALS** **THE RISING SUN**  
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The Rising Sun Hotel in Auburn will be hosting a huge rock n roll reunion in their beer garden for the 2018 October Fest on Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup>. from 5pm.

The headline act for October Fest is an all-star band, Twilight Zone which features Peter Tilbrook from Masters Apprentices and John Bywaters from The Twilights who were the first two musicians to be inducted into the SA Music Hall of Fame.

Bring your deck chair and/or picnic rug and soak up the festival atmosphere. There will be drink specials, tacos, burritos, anti-pasto and cheese platters available and feature the

popular local Blenheim Goose Trumpet wines as a major sponsor.

Pre-booking your ticket online or at The Rising Sun Hotel [functions@therisingsunhotel.com.au](mailto:functions@therisingsunhotel.com.au) will ensure you avoid disappointment for this huge rock n roll reunion and night out.

**CONTACT: Andrew Cooper 0402 0497742**  
[functions@therisingsunhotel.com.au](mailto:functions@therisingsunhotel.com.au)

## **Auburn's History Column:**

### **Railways at Auburn**

Some years ago, a former Auburn Railways Station Master, Malcolm Hopkins, wrote a very good description of the Station Master duties. Earlier this year I asked if he would write down the duties of the railway line staff for our historical records and understanding. The following is repeated for your interest. Malcolm's tenure as Station Master was from 1963 to 1965.

### **Railway Maintenance Gangs**

Railway maintenance gangs were stationed at different towns along the rail route that trains travelled on to Spalding from Riverton. These gangs usually comprised about six members. The person in charge of the group was the ganger, whilst the other members were known as fettlers or packers.

Each morning the ganger from each location i.e. Auburn, Clare, Spalding and Riverton would speak to the District Foreman at Riverton on the phone, and be allocated their duties to be carried out. The District Foreman would advise the ganger the mileage or now in these times kilometrage, to which they had to travel to and carry out the necessary track repairs. To travel to their destination there were track machines, which had various names i.e. Cassey Jones, Quads, Trikes or Fairmont's, also there used to be hand operated, by pumping action, machines named as Kalamazoo. The motorised vehicles sometimes towed a trolley behind loaded with tools, dog spikes, sleepers, plates of steel as well as a boring tool similar to a brace and bit to bore holes in the sleepers to insert the dog spikes into, to hold the rails on the sleepers. When the gang was ready to depart to the track location he would speak to the stationmaster, clerk or other qualified employee requesting permission from the Train Controller to their

specified location. Train Control officer would advise the train movements that would be travelling over the site where the work was being carried out and the approximate times these movements would happen. The ganger would have advised the approximate time to travel to and report, when his vehicles were clear of the track.

There were various take offs for the vehicle to be stored safely out of the way of trains, or other trike or quad traffic i.e. Electrical Fitters, Special Riding gangers or District Foreman. When the ganger reported clear of the track to the Train Controller per a phone they carried (*there was a phone line along the rail corridor*), which could be hooked over the phone lines for communication regarding update of train movements or if the need required to move to another location for further repairs.

The Train controller may request that the ganger report each hour or advise him when a train has passed the site where the gang is working. Also, at times a message may be given to the train crew to pass out a message to the ganger, as maybe the District Foreman had been advised of repairs elsewhere needing to be carried out.

The Electrical fitters mentioned earlier could be travelling to carry out repairs to phone wires, signals, level crossing protection equipment. The special ganger or the District Foreman would be on track inspections to ascertain locations that track work maintenance is required.

Alongside, the mileage posts denoted the mileage from Adelaide, which was how the areas requiring the maintenance were able to be reported to the respective gangs to travel to work. In times of derailments or other major works the gangs worked together. These days there are many more road/rail vehicles whereby trucks can travel up the road and at a crossing be placed on the rails when necessary. Of course, safe working has to be carried out and at all times permission has to be obtained from Train Control before machines are placed on the track. Or if the track is to be broken for major repairs a train notice would be issued to cover this work. The Train Controller is also contacted to ensure that all train movements are clear of the area prior to the work commencing.



### **Motor Inspection Vehicle (M.I.V.)**

There used to be a vehicle that residents would have seen driving along sometimes. The vehicle was I think a 1938 Morris Sedan, which had been fitted with a Holden Motor. Naturally the steering wheel had been removed. Special railway wheels were fitted to the vehicle. It was used for various reasons such as a 'pay car' where pay office staff along with a security person would travel to the various stations to pay the staff members.

Senior officers i.e. Superintendents or their assistants making inspection trips, or transporting officers.

Regarding the mention of Kalamazoo vehicles, I think that at Cummins each year they have a race with these vehicles probably as a fund raiser.

The M.I.V. on the Port Lincoln division was a Toyota vehicle, but I am unsure of those used on the Peterborough one.



Derailment in 1982 south of Undalya near Kirk's. Photo shows the phone line, which line staff could use for communication by hooking their phone onto the wires. Photo K. Lambert

**Kay Lambert**  
**Auburn Branch, National Trust**



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Station area – mid 1930's - the rail corridor goes through from south to north. On the left-hand side starting at the top, trucking yards and ramp for livestock off the spur line, long fettlers' cottages, cattle yards, the ganger's house, goods shed then further south wheat stacks along the siding. Top right of photo the "Creamery" now Grosset's Winery, small trike shed for ganger's equipment, then railway station, now Horrocks Wines and Station Master's house, now a private home.

**Rehab & Repair Physio**



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