



Local History Factsheet:

A brief history of the suburb Fulham Gardens



From left: Road construction Fulham Gardens Tapleys Hill Road and Marlborough Street 1960s, cattle grazing in the reedbeds c.1910

Predominantly farming and market gardening land early on. Fulham Gardens is well remembered as a major market gardening area until suburban development took off in the 1960s and 70s.

Through market gardening, the cultural diversity of Charles Sturt was established early on. The first market gardens by Bulgarian migrants were started in 1912. Another prominent local garden was that operated from 1911 to 1966 by a Chinese man known as Hop Sing.

'Fulham Gardens Estate' was offered for private sale in 1925 and was described as being situated within 'easy walking distance of Henley Beach and the Grange'.

Until the construction of the Torrens Outlet in 1937, the River Torrens used to run out through the southern section of Fulham Gardens. Riverside Drive follows some of this original watercourse. Prior to the Torrens Outlet construction, the area flooded frequently, limiting the development of the area.

Following World War Two, post-war construction by the SA Housing Trust occurred in Fulham Gardens. Houses for rent and for sale were built.

The Bulgarian Educational and Friendly Society was established on Tapleys Hill Road in 1949.

Target was built in 1969 and was required to be carefully constructed so that the soft alluvial soil of the site (due to the former 'reedbeds' status of the area) could take the weight of the building.

Heavy development of the suburb during the 1960s and 1970s led to subdivision of many of the remaining market gardening properties. In the 1980s, Collins Reserve 'District Recreation Complex', comprising two sports fields, soccer pitch, clubrooms, tennis courts, lake and public recreation centre, was built on former market gardening land owned by the Collins family.

Sources

'A History of Woodville' by Susan Marsden, Corporation of the City of Woodville, 1977 & 'A History of Woodville – update' by Susan Marsden 1987 (not published).

'From Park Lands to Sea Coast' by Mary Geyer with Peter Donovan, published for the City of Hindmarsh and Woodville by Peacock Publications, 1996.