



Local History Factsheet:

A brief history of the suburb West Croydon

Most of West Croydon was subdivided and developed in 1925 when the Shillabeer family sold part of their large landholding 'East View Farm' (established in about 1840). Many blocks were laid out and built up by the Trustees of the State Bank for rental or purchase by returned soldiers or their widows. Croydon Primary School became a 'Central School' with a boys, girls and infants department and some secondary education provided.

West Croydon Kilkenny RSL club rooms were built in 1927.

In 1929, the South Australian Baptist Union built the West Croydon Uniting Church to replace a portable hall provided by the Home Mission Department in 1924.

In September of 1930 a wood-and-iron ice-cream cup manufacturing factory in Blandford St was damaged by fire to the extent of £2,000. Woodville and Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigades were able to save the adjoining home of the factory's owner Robert Balfour.

The Westcourt Street home of Mr and Mrs George was ransacked while they were enjoying a night at the theatre in September 1932. £27 worth of silverware, linen, and cutlery was stolen, along with a suitcase.

The impact of factories in West Croydon on local residents was debated by Woodville Council in May 1935.

West Croydon railway station has been the scene of a number of tragic incidents over the years, including in August 1935 when William Anstey, a 38 year old shop assistant, had his left leg nearly severed and his left forearm crushed when he was run over by a train after falling off the station platform.

The Shillabeer farm homestead was purchased by the Education Department in 1944 and became the site of Croydon Technical High School, later Croydon High School. In 1947, a female student died in hospital following a fall down a flight of stairs at the school. The Adelaide Secondary School of English (ASSE) moved to school in 1998. Croydon High School closed in 2006, but the site has been retained as the campus of ASSE and the Adelaide School of Languages.

MJ McInerney Reserve was established in 1955 on land formerly owned by the water works as a clay pit for pipes. Michael John McInerney was a returned World War One serviceman and Prisoner of War. He became president of the RSL and a local councillor.

Sources

'The Advertiser' newspapers sourced from the digitised newspapers database at Trove:

www.trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper

'A History of Woodville' by Susan Marsden, Corporation of the City of Woodville, 1977.