



# Local History Factsheet:

## *A brief history of the suburb Cheltenham*

Land was subdivided in 1849 to create the village of Cheltenham but it was not until turn of the century that development of the area began.

In 1853 fourteen families were recorded as residing in the Cheltenham area. High Street and Stroud Street were the two key streets of the village.

The Cheltenham Cemetery was opened by Port Adelaide Council in 1876.

The Cheltenham railway station opened in 1895. That same year the Port Adelaide racing club relocated from a site near Grand Junction Road to Cheltenham. The club leased the site before purchasing it for £25,000 in 1921. The racecourse was utilised as an army training camps during both world wars, and also for a convalescent hospital for returned and wounded soldiers during world war one. It was also the site of some of Australia's first adventures in aviation. An event, billed as 'the first public exhibition of flight in Australia' took place in July 1910. In 1911, a Vickers Monoplane intended to accompany Douglas Mawson's Antarctica Expedition crashed during a flight at Cheltenham. English born aviation pioneer AW Jones camped at the racecourse for several weeks from around late 1913 to early 1914. The racecourse was sold for housing in 2007 and the final race at the track was held in February 2009.

Construction of the Cheltenham Congregational Church commenced in 1913. In 1975, the church building became Cheltenham Community Centre.

The SA Farmers Union Cooperative successfully sold 18 allotments in Cheltenham in May of 1924. Those fronting Cheltenham Parade fetched up to 45 shillings per foot.

Tragedy struck in 1926 when five people from one family were killed when their car was hit by a train while crossing the Cheltenham level crossing. As a result of the accident the Cheltenham Station Master was relegated to a clerical position.

A new Scout Hall opened on Torrens Road in 1929. The popularity of motorcycling led to the formation of the Cheltenham Social Motorcycle Club in 1932. One of the club's first events was a trip to Middle Beach for the annual crabbing party.

The tram from Kilkenny was extended to Cheltenham in 1942.

In June 1950, a fair-headed boy of about 12, wearing a grey long-trousered suit and riding a bicycle was believed to be responsible for the ransacking of at least 10 homes over a 48 hour period.

### **Sources**

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

'A History of Cheltenham Park racecourse' by Jonathan Hull, University of Adelaide on behalf of the City of Charles Sturt, 2009.

'Cheltenham Community and Church: Introduction to an Adelaide suburban community and local church' by Rev Dean Eland, Historical Society of the Uniting Church in South Australia, 2005.