



NATIONAL TRUST  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

## *Coromandel Valley and Districts National Trust*

### **COROMANDEL VALLEY WALKS: POINTS OF INTEREST.**

**(Numbers on walking maps)**

January 2013

- REF No      *These points of interest have a bigger story to tell. Some stories are held in National Trust Branch records.*
- 1 GAMBLE COTTAGE: Joseph Gamble, employed at Blackwood Experimental Orchard, built this cottage in 1902, and began the garden; acquired by the National Trust from two of his daughters 1984.
  - 2 MINNO CREEK: Tributary of the Sturt River; an important waterway for the Blackwood Experimental Orchard; location of major recent restoration plantings by Mitcham Council.
  - 3 DALL'S BRIDGE: Constructed to cross Minnow Creek, as part of the major traffic route (now Main Road), agitated for in the mid 19th Century by Alexander Murray and other Coromandel residents.
  - 4 SUMMERS' HOUSE: Walter Lloyd Summers acquired the land from George Frederick Dall in August 1913.
  - 5 GOVERNMENT ORCHARD: Established early 1907 on land appropriated from George Frederick Dall of Blackwood, a Farmer.
  - 6 TURNER'S AVENUE: Originally surveyed to continue straight on from Plymouth Avenue, but Minnow Creek had to be negotiated around.
  - 7 HALL HOUSE: Now in Hawthorndene, but originally owned by the Halls, a pioneer Coromandel Valley family, from 1891.
  - 8 JACOB ADAM SMITH HOUSE (THE KNOLL): Built 1897 by John Weymouth the Younger; Mitcham Heritage Research Centre has a copy of the handwritten contract.
  - 9 CONLON HOUSE: 30 Turners Avenue was built for William Conlon about 1913 to relocate from the cottage by the Sturt. He had acquired Lot 19 of Section 866 in July 1893.
  - 10 TURNER HOUSE (SWINTON): One of Coro's oldest surviving houses; started with the cottage in early 1850's by Thomas Turner, later expanded by a larger house for his developing orchard and farm.
  - 11 TURNER HOUSE (RENFREW): Now in Hawthorndene; built ca 1927 for Joseph Turner the Younger by builder Hewett.
  - 12 TURNER HOUSE : (now demolished) At 74 Turner's Ave for Isacc Turner, later to be occupied by the Penno family.
  - 13 PLYMOUTH AVENUE: Originally drawn as continuous with Turners Avenue; the original line of the road as surveyed can still be envisaged on the left, looking south.
  - 14 SOMERSET HOUSE: Oldest house in Blackwood - signed on a rafter "Thomas Garland Matthews, builder of Adelaide, finished this job 4 March 1849"; also called Chool House; linked to Dalls.
  - 15 FRANK SMITH'S MILK STAND: A plank cut into the side of a gum tree provides a stand for milk cans to be collected by AMSCOL, and survives from the 1950's and earlier times.
  - 16 ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH: Built 1872-1873 on land donated by the South Australia Company; apse and vestry added 1907; beautiful leadlight windows
  - 17 COROMANDEL VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL: Built 1877 by Daniel Johnn Hewett, as one classroom (53 students!) and teacher's house, for £884; second classroom added 1897
  - 18 CARR'S BRIDGE: Built 1872; named for John Carr MP, who campaigned strongly for major traffic routes to run through Coromandel Valley.
  - 19 FRANK SMITH PARK & DAM: Frank Palmer Smith, son of Jacob Adam Smith, created this beautiful area as a memorial to his only son, John, who died very young.
  - 20 METHODIST CHURCH BUILDING: Originallly built 1859, including a small graveyard; sold as a private dwelling in 1997 to help finance the new Uniting Church on Main Road.

- 21 MAGAREY'S ORCHARD: Thomas Charles Alfred Magarey bought over 12 acres of alluvial land in February 1909 to establish the orchard still run by the Magarey family.
- 22 YEO COTTAGE (site of): Probably built by or for William Aaron Dawes, a Baker, who acquired the land in December 1892.
- 23 ACKLAND HILL ROAD: Originally (ca. 1844) the road to the Ackland family cottage just 800 metres east of Main Road, but now a major thoroughfare to Iron Bank and Cherry Gardens.
- 24 ACKLAND FAMILY HOUSE/COTTAGE: The original Ackland cottage has been absorbed into a modern dwelling.
- 25 SCHERER HOUSE: No 1 Heather Drive was built around 1915 for the Scherer family on their orchard property at the western end of Ackland Hill Road to Main Road.
- 26 COROMANDEL VALLEY CFS & SES STATION: Built as a Telstra depot in the 1980's; now the home base for both SES and CFS volunteers - an invaluable community resource.
- 27 WINN/WATCHMAN HOUSE: Built 1887 for Oliver Winn and his wife Sarah (nee Wait) and operated as a butcher's shop until 1932.
- 28 WINNS BAKEHOUSE: Built by Enoch Shepley circa 1878 for his son-in-law Henry Langsford; taken over by Walter Winn in 1887; became a National Trust Museum in 1970.
- 29 SHEPLEY HOUSE: This house was built by Enoch Shepley in 1860 to serve as a residence with a general store and post office underneath; taken over by Richard Winn in 1887.
- 30 WINNS ROAD FORD: A watering point in the 1840's for wagons to draw water to deliver to households; later established as a crucial river crossing point on a major Adelaide-Goolwa traffic route.
- 31 BORONIA AVE: Another intended through road, as originally surveyed, which proved (like Turners Avenue) to be unworkable on the ground because of the Sturt River.
- 32 NW CORNER OF ABORIGINAL RESERVE: The 1840 survey of Coromandel Valley assigned the land bounded by Boronia & Crane Avenues & Driscoll Road as an Aboriginal Reserve.
- 33 (WALLY) WATCHMAN HOUSE: Mary Hack bought part of the released Aboriginal Reserve in March 1908, and probably had the house built soon after; Walter (Wally) Stanley Watchman bought it in 1922.
- 34 PORTER/SCROOP HOUSE: The house now used as the Sleepers & Creepers office was probably built by Robert Fuller around 1900; James Scroop, Butcher, acquired it in 1923.
- 35 MAAG'S VEGETABLE FLAT: Alluvial soil east of the Sturt River and a spring created highly fertile conditions for Maag's market garden to prosper in the early decades of the 20th Century,
- 36 CRANE AVENUE: Named after Norman Arthur Crane, a Dairy Farmer who was instrumental in subdivision of this area in the 1950's; the house at 4 Crane Avenue dates back to at least 1910.
- 37 COLMER COTTAGE: Traditionally dated ca.1880, but the first purchaser of a land grant in this area was Albert Edward Colmer in 1902; the cottage may have been built while the land was leased.
- 38 CEMETERY: On land donated by Thomas Matthews, originally for a Congregational Church and school; the first burial was of John Matthews in 1849; now there are some 750 graves.
- 39 BAPTIST CHURCH CHAPEL: Opened for worship in March 1895; built by John Weymouth the Younger in 1894; vestry added in 1908.
- 40 MURRAY HOUSE (CRAIGLEE): Built by John Weymouth Senior for Alexander Murray in ca. 1849, using stone from the quarry on Murray's property.
- 41 MURRAY'S QUARRY: Renowned and much utilised in the mid- to late-19th Century for the extreme hardness of the stone found there.
- 42 BISCUIT & JAM FACTORY: Started up by Alexander Murray in ca.1860, constructed by John Weymouth Senior to innovative layout and design by Murray himself; the biscuits were world-famous.
- 43 POST OFFICE: Enoch Shepley, "Postmaster," bought land here in 1868, but little is yet known about its early history before a succession of postal officers and storekeepers ca.1959-1998.
- 44 INSTITUTE: Built in 1881 by John Weymouth the younger, on land donated by Alexander Murray (son); incorporated a library; much used for various social and entertainment purposes until ca.1980's.

- 45 BAPTISMAL POOL: A natural blue stone rock pool deep in the Sturt River, used by Baptist Ministers from early days in Coro until their own church became available in 1895.
- 46 HURD'S HILL: The home of Thomas Matthews, built ca.1848 by John Weymouth Senior and much extended and embellished by its owners during the second half of the 20th Century.
- 47 FORMER FOREMAN'S RESIDENCE: Built for the Biscuit Factory and part of the Murray & Son complex of buildings; the front façade remains, but otherwise the house is extensively renovated.
- 48 NE CORNER ABORIGINAL RESERVE ( MAIN/McNAMARA ROADS): The second Aboriginal Reserve in Coro, designated in 1840, though available for lease, then for land purchase from late 1880's.
- 49 MCNAMARA ROAD: Named after Michael McNamara's family (13 children), early residents of Coro's western end; name changed from Moulden Road in 1988.
- 50 MCNAMARA FORD: An early link across the River Sturt to get from the "Back Road" (Murrays Hill Road) and Coromandel Parade to the Main Road route from Goolwa to Adelaide.
- 51 LIGHT ROAD: Named after the Light family, members of which bought land in the area as early as 1905, but mainly from the mid-20th Century as gardeners and vigneron.
- 52 HORNER'S BRIDGE: Nathan Horner was one of the building contractors for this important bridge over the Sturt River, on a major Goolwa-Adelaide route; built in 1866; State heritage-listed.
- 53 MOULDEN HOUSE: The Moulden house at 422 Main Road can be dated back to ca.1896, but ongoing ownership by the Moulden family did not begin until the 1940's.
- 54 ROWLANDS HILL ROAD: Eastern boundary of an Aboriginal Reserve; named after William Henry Rowland, who lived in Coromandel Valley in the late 19th century and is buried in the Coro Cemetery.
- 55 WEYMOUTH HOUSE: In May 1879 John Weymouth the Younger, then a Bricklayer, acquired land here and later built what is now 17 Rowlands Hill Road. In 1815 he added two rooms for his daughter and her family.
- 56 WAIT HOUSE: William Wait built a cottage here in ca.1855, and later expanded to a house plus butcher shop, store & post office; taken over by Robert Vawser in 1890; closed ca.1905.
- 57 WEYMOUTH (RESERVE): This land, owned by the Weymouth family (their cottage was demolished in 2002?), contained an orchards and a flat area used for sport; now a sports oval.
- 58 JONES' BAKEHOUSE: Weymouth's land at 17 Rowlands Hill Road included a cottage and provided in 1915 land to build a bakery for his Son-in-law Walter "Tim" Jones (and brother Stan) to start a business.
- 59 OLIVE BANK COTTAGE: 2 Nicolle Drive is built on land purchased by Annie Jones, wife of Edwin Jones of Glen Osmond, Labourer, in March 1898; the significance of "Olive Bank" is not known.
- 60 WAIT COTTAGE SITE: 5 Nicolle Drive stands on the site of the locally well-known "Wait Cottage," demolished in 1979, with some of its bluestone being used on the front of the new house.
- 61 CHAMBERS CREEK AND RUN: James Chambers held runs in Coro along Chambers Creek as early as 1837, as did his brother John higher up in Cherry Gardens - both major colonial figures.
- 62 BEN LOMOND: A prominent hill in the southern part of Coromandel Valley; copper was being mined there in the 1870's.
- 63 LIGHT'S VINES: The Light family maintained orchards and vineyards over part of the western side of the Aboriginal Reserve around Chambers Creek until sub-division began in the 1970's.
- 64 GOLDSACK ORCHARD: Wiliam Goldsack created an orchard in this area around 1923, which stayed in the family until the land was sub-divided in the 1970's.
- 65 WAR MEMORIAL: Originally located among the memorial pine trees above the Croquet Ground; moved to its present site with a major landscaping upgrade in 2003.
- 66 WEINSTADL: This property has been a restaurant, under various names, since the 1970's; land originally owned by James Chambers (ca.1840) but probably not built on until early 20th Century.