

A Brief History  
of the  
Hoyleton Memorial Park Inc.  
1923 - 2016

Notes taken from the Minute Books.



Hoyleton Memorial Park Gates relocated to 390 Hoyleton  
Road, adjacent to the Hoyleton Cemetery.

### The Hoyleton Memorial Park Inc.

In the early 1920s a number of residents of the Hoyleton Community felt the need to acknowledge the service of those who had enlisted from the district, to "fight for the Motherland in the Great War – "World War 1". Informal discussions had taken place as to how this could be achieved. The idea of a Memorial Park was muted, and a General Meeting was called for March 12<sup>th</sup> 1923, to take place in the Hoyleton Institute. Those attending were W Ward, B Kirk, G & C Minney, WH Newnman, HW Robinson, H Muller, J Evans, Mr Zurchieck, S Pengilly, A Jordon, Mr Graham, L Harvey, H Beckman, AR Baum, WG Catford, E Klingner, P Zwart, HP Chapman, & EA Chandler. HP Chapman chaired this meeting, and Minutes were taken by ED Chandler.

There was some correspondence emanating from previous discussion seeking to identify suitable land to acquire for this Memorial project. Section 102 in the Hundred of Hall was deemed very suitable – abutting on to the northern edge of the town. Some of this had been sectioned off for building blocks in past times, and some judicious land wheeling and dealing took place to come up with a suitable and sizable chunk of land which would be eminently suitable to set out various facilities for a Sports Park.

Mr Ward offered about 2 acres toward the required amount at a price of 35 pounds, the Estate of the late JW Gleeson offered blocks 3 & 7 for 50 pounds – block 3 being essential,

Mr Merritt offered to exchange Block 2 for Block 7 for a transfer fee of 2 pounds 2 shillings (2 Guineas). Block 7 is actually between the old Methodist Church and the Hotel. The Church of England expressed their willingness to exchange Block 1 for Block 20 (Block 20 is near the School) for a fee of 10 pounds. This fee was paid by Mr Chapman and later refunded. Mr Chapman then offered to give the land necessary (approximately 3 ¼ acres) to provide a suitable sized area to accommodate a park for all the sporting activities nominated. (It is interesting to note that all Land Titles documents specified areas in acres & roods or thereabouts).

Block 4 was owned by Miss CE Chapman, and was, on her death in 1943, transferred to the Park, by Messrs WJH & CR Chapman, her beneficiaries).

After unanimously passing the motion to proceed, they then elected a permanent Committee.

Chairman WH Newman

Secretary JH Catford

Three Trustees B Kirk, WG Catford & AR Baum.

Mr EA Chandler was later appointed "Collector of Monies"  
These constituted the Inaugural Committee.

Mr JG Williams was approached to supply timber for fence posts – 3 sides of Park land to be fenced with 4 plain no6 wire, topped with 2 barb 12 x 3, and the 4<sup>th</sup> side to be 42" cyclone.

Gate posts to be 8'x8', with a 12' gate, and a smaller 3' personal access gate.

The first fundraiser was a concert, supper and a dance on August 29<sup>th</sup> 1923. Charges were – front seats 3/6pence, back seats 2/6pence and 1 shilling for the dance. The next fundraiser was a Strawberry Fete in November, and the ladies were asked to help with Trading Tables.

By March 1924 plans for the laying of a cricket pitch were well in hand, carting gravel by horse & trolley, and ordering 6x3cwt barrels of Portland cement. The surplus barb wire was to be used as reinforcing for the cement pitch (but it was revealed when the pitch was removed in 1997 for a cropping program, that far more interesting things were also used – old binder blades, and bed frames etc.)

The building of the toilets was also let out for tender, stipulating that hinged seats were required for “easy access to buckets”.

The Football Club fees for the use of the Park for the season were set at 1 pound 1 shilling – (1 Guinea). As a Fundraiser, the Balaklava Dramatic Company offered to give a concert in aid of the Park.

Dimensions for the Park and Oval were laid out – goal posts to be East & West – 170 yards apart, ladies' lavatory to be built in the South West corner, and the gentlemen's lavatory to be built in the North West corner, leaving sufficient room for

In May 1925 a tender for 255 pounds and 16 shillings was accepted from Mr Winter for the building of the pavilion; conditions being that the building be completed in 10 weeks, and a penalty of 5 shillings per day, if not completed in that time. This building to be erected in the South Western section of the Park.

At the AGM – March 1926 - a ballot had to be taken to elect 11 Committee Members from those who were nominated. (These days we do not have that many people in the district).

By 1929 there were 17 people nominated for the Committee and all were duly elected.

Mr Marshall, as Caretaker, was paid 5 pounds per year to keep the Park tidy. Again onion weed was a problem. After some discussion it was resolved that a wooden box, as used in pickling grain, was needed to distribute the mixture (poison). This was provided by Mr Chapman; the necessary piping was supplied by Mr Graham and fitted by Mr Catford on to Mr Kirk's vehicle. (Sounds like an early model boom spray)

Sports Day, March 1926, included Stepping the distance, Wheel barrow race for Ladies, Hack race for horses residing with-in a 10 mile radius of Hoyleton – Rider must be upward of 9 stone, the Sheffield Handicap winner to receive 3 pounds and a Gold Medal, a 220 yard Sprint and bicycle races.

Sports Days became a yearly event – always followed by a dance & supper. Sometimes a concert was also included. For

many years Mr Mugge & Mr Bishop supplied the music for the dances. It was decided that the Pavilion should be painted before Sports Day, and that Mr HW Robinson would be asked to open the Pavilion.

Permission was granted to local sub branch of the RSL to water and dig around the trees on the Park.

According to the minutes, correspondence was received from the Basketball Club, Kybunga Football Club and Bank of Adelaide. Moved that correspondence read, be received and dealt with. (There was not much information there for history recording).

Most of the Committee Meetings business in this period was around setting admission prices for entrance to the Park, and Dances and Concerts at the Institute (Fund raisers), and who were to be Door/Gate-keepers and Stewards for the Sports Days and organizing such functions. All improvements were left to the Committee to organize.

Mr Canaway was elected President in 1931, replacing retiring Foundation President Mr WH Newman. A vote of thanks to Mr Newman was proposed by Mr Chapman, and supported by Mr E Dunstan - also supported by Mr Canaway on behalf of the RSL Branch. At this meeting it was moved that all officers are elected, and remain in office for two years, and that the Annual General Meeting be held annually.

Mr CW Dorman and Mr AP Graham were elected as Auditors in 1934, positions that they held for many years.

July 1934 saw the placing of copper plates (plaques) on the gate posts, listing the names of all who served from around this district in WW1.

In 1936 floors were put in the lavatories, and proper pans installed. "LADIES" was painted on the ladies' loo! However, later that year the "Ladies'" was converted to the "Men's", the old "Men's" shifted to nearer to the pavilion, asking the Football Players not to use the shower room as a urinal. A new "Ladies'" was constructed nearer to the tennis courts. 1936 also brought a request to Farmers of the Community to deliver bags of wheat to a fund to augment Park monies. Mr Neil Graham was appointed agent to receive the grain on behalf of the Park for "Bunge" – the grain buying agent.

Mr W Chapman was elected Chairman in 1938 – Mr Hamp and Mr CR Chapman were appointed Vice Presidents. Mr JH Catford continued as Secretary.

In 1942 AR Baum resigned as Trustee and was replaced by Mr J Hamp and Mr WJ Chapman.

There was a lapse of five years where no recorded activity took place until February 1948, when at this meeting it was moved "that the names of all people who enlisted for the WW 11 should be listed on a plaque to be attached to the Memorial Park Entrance Gates". A letter of thanks was sent to the Red Cross ladies and the coursing Club for their help in clearing the Park debt. In latter years the Park, through their

cropping program, has been able to assist Red Cross, the RSL and other Charities, with their fundraising.

In August 1948 the unveiling ceremony of the new plaques was mooted for 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3pm, with Mr Frank Kennedy to be invited to unveil the plaques; if he was unavailable Mr Neil Gilchrist to be asked to do the honours. The Balaklava sub branch of the RSL and the Servicemen's Association were invited to send representatives.

There are no further records of minutes until April 1960, during which time discussion must have taken place re "Incorporation".

**The first Annual General Meeting after the Incorporation of the "Hoyleton Memorial Park Inc." was held on April 11<sup>th</sup> 1960.**

Elections saw	President	BR Sandow
	Vice President	EJ Catford
	Junior Vice President	GK Baum
	Secretary/Treasurer	JM Berry

Committee for 1 Year – expiring 1961 RJ Chapman, KM Williams, HE Schneider & JH Redpath

2 Years – expiring 1962 RPSaunders, AR Reinke, KW Catford & GR Chapman

Auditor PJ Saunders

Funds in the "Hoyleton Soldiers Memorial Park" a/c were transferred to the "Hoyleton Memorial Park Inc."

A minute of appreciation was recorded for the many years of service rendered to the Park to keep it financially viable by Mr WJ Chapman during the 1948 – 1960 period.

April 1962 saw the need for an extra Clubroom for the Tennis area. A Housing Trust Transportable was purchased at a cost of 50 pounds – plus delivery charges. This building was delivered by July. After renovations and power and water connections were made a 6 foot veranda was added on to the East side. It was to be used by Basketball, Tennis and Football Clubs, with each Club to paint a room, also later used by Methodist Sunday School. John Rowland provided the back stop poles for the third tennis court.

During 1963 an Inter Association football match was played on the oval.

Blyth District Council had a new brick toilet block built near the tennis courts in 1965, which was connected in to the church water meter. When the Hoyleton Primary School closed at the end of 1971 the playground equipment was moved to the Park and positioned between the toilets and the tennis courts.

Early in 1973 the Watchman Football Club sought permission to play all home matches on the Hoyleton Oval. This required power and water to be laid to the pavilion, and extensions were carried out on the dressing room area.

1974 saw a small catering shed erected on the North side of the Grandstand (sometime during the preceding period the

Pavilion became known as the Grandstand) and the Watchman Football Club erected lights for night training.

In 1976 a small rainwater tank was placed at the tennis club house – however at some time later this tank, together with court nets and other small items were stolen. The Memorial Gates were to be painted in 1978 and minor repairs to four names on the Honour Plaques.

The finances were being stretched and help was sort from the District Council, asking for a reduction in Council Rates. However we were told we were already on the minimum rate of \$20. The Committee then suggested a levy of \$2 from all families in the district. Park funds were assisted by the local Hotel selling beer tickets for us.

A suggestion was brought to the meeting in 1984 “that we inquire about procuring a war time souvenir for the Memorial Park. By 1986 the 4.2” Mortar was sitting on a concrete block, just inside the Memorial Gates.

At some point in time the goal posts had been relocated to a North/South trajectory and an elevated scoreboard was erected on the Eastern boundary fence of the oval, once again the Committee doing the work, and nothing recorded in the minutes of dates etc.

### South Australian J 150 Celebration.

The Hoyleton Community was invited in 1986 to be involved in the South Australian Jubilee 150 Celebrations when a group of people came up with the idea of re-enacting the cartage of copper on the "copper trail" from Burra to Pt Wakefield, using both bullocks and donkeys as the beasts of burden. Hoyleton was on the donkey trail. The bullock trail was further south – travelling through Halbury.

Encouraged by the local Councils, committees were formed in many of the small communities along the track to arrange a function in their town to celebrate the arrival of the team.

Our Hoyleton Community formed a J 150 Committee to plan a program for this auspicious occasion. The night before the arrival of the donkeys in Hoyleton, the team had camped near the old Wesleyan Church in the Upper Skilly Hills. It rained that night. October 22<sup>nd</sup> is forever embedded in our memories. In excess of 35mls of rain fell overnight, on top of an unusually wet winter, and so everything was saturated – the roads were sloppy, the oval was squelchy and the tents were water logged.

A Gala Day with sports and novelty activities day had been planned and we had hired a large marque for some of these segments to be under cover. However the rain was accompanied by gale force winds which loosened the guy ropes on the marque. Farmers, being very well able to think outside the square, quickly decided that the only way to hold

down the flapping canvas was to fetch their tractors to tie the ropes to, to stabilise everything. There were six tractors brought into the rescue, hence a crisis was averted and everything preceded according plan.

Those who attended will long remember the heavy rain the night before, and the Team Leader of the donkey team commenting that it was the first time he had seen a Million dollars' worth of tractors (as anchors) holding up the marquee. A cairn was erected to mark the 1986 Jubilee Event (100 years since the founding of South Australia).

A Grand Ball – with everyone dressed in period costumes – was held in the marquee some two days later. This function was a great success, although still rather wet outside on the grass. A wooden dance floor was hired, a band for the music and tables were sat around cabaret style. Everyone looked grand in their period finery.

#### Australian Bi-Centennial Celebration

Our Committee was enthused to organise another gala occasion in 1988 celebrating the Bicentenary of the first settlement of Australia. This time it was a "Sack Truck Race" with relay teams of six leaving the Goods Shed precinct, running to Pt Wakefield with a bag of salt on board, and back again to Hoyleton – destination – the Memorial Park with another Gala Day of competitions and fun for all. This novelty day was scheduled for April 16<sup>th</sup> 1988 and was also well attended.

This sudden burst of activity must have exhausted everyone because the number of people interested in attending AGMs dwindled remarkably. This resulted in moves in 1989 to amalgamate both the Hoyleton Hall Inc and the Hoyleton Memorial Park Inc as the same few folk attended both Annual General Meetings held consecutively on the same night.

In 1991 the Gate Posts were replaced with cut to measure stobie poles as the originals had rotted out. The Honour Rolls were replaced at a higher point on the Gate Posts.

In 1992, an inspection of the Title Deeds revealed that the Trustees of the Park were Messrs WH Newman, JH Catford and AR Baum – all deceased. This resulted in the Title Deeds being transferred to “the Hoyleton Memorial Park Inc”.

Discussion during 1992 was about safety of the grand stand. Tenders were called for its demolition – OH&S also being a factor. Public liability issues seemed to be a factor with many things in the Park area. The playground equipment was also a health issue so that was also sold off. In 1995 a \$600.00 tender was accepted for the removal of the Grand Stand. In 1997 the remaining assets – posts, netting and shed items were sold by auction on March 22<sup>nd</sup> 1997 resulting in \$2179 profit for the items. The auction was conducted by David (Shorty) Maxwell.

With the area of 5 ½ acres being now cleared, a crop was sown for the first time in the 1997 by RJ Chapman. That crop of barley yielded 5 ½ tonnes of grain, with the first payment

being \$700. The next year the crop yielded 6 ½ tonnes with only \$430 first payment.

2000 – 01 saw a crop of oats sown for hay. 99 small bales were gathered from around the perimeter and the rest was made into large round bales and were sold to Balco – the local hay merchants. The baling was undertaken by Mr Eime of Blyth making a donation of the job resulting in a profit of \$1200.00

Proceeds of the 2005 crop of \$661.25 was donated to the Eyre Peninsula Bush Fire Appeal.

Who will forget the 2006 AGM on May 12<sup>th</sup> following the aborted AGM in April? The 2006 cropping program was to be suspended due to a resurgence of interest in sport by the residents of the township. However by the AGM in April 2006 the cropping program was reinstated.. It was decided that an allowance of \$300 was to be permitted for the farmer doing the cropping to cover his cropping expenses. This year \$1000 was returned to the treasury by O Chapman.

By 2014 many discussions had taken place at the AGMs regarding the long term existence of the Park in its existing form, taking into consideration the ongoing costs – public liability insurance and quarterly water rates, even though we had not used a litre of water in 20 years.

Many inquiries to SA Water seeking exemption or a reduction in charges resulted in the negative until, with intervention by

Mr Geoff Brock the local MP, a breakthrough was made. He was able to have the water meter removed so that there would be no further costs.

### **The Decision to move the Memorial Gates & Prepare a new Park**

The size of the area, and dwindling numbers of residents interested (age being the important factor) in cropping the relatively small paddock (when all the farmers have quite large outfits) it was decided to down size, and following discussions with the Wakefield Regional Council, we started planning a move for the Memorial Gates, to a smaller block adjacent to the Hoyleton Cemetery.

With mixed feelings about such a move, as all the Committee members have connections with the existing area, having played tennis, football, netball or cricket in the precinct. Reality had to be taken into consideration for a respectable memorial to the citizens of the Hoyleton area who answered the call to defend our country.

What is proposed for this memorial will be a suitable memorial, with the original gates having been given an extensive facelift, and the memorial plaques refurbished, so that they gleam in the sunlight – shining brass and copper!

Cropping will continue on the oval for the time being, as it has been a useful fundraiser, in that we can support various charities. In the 15 years of cropping, approximately \$20,000.00 has been donated to charities such as Australian

Red Cross, Legacy, RSL, Balaklava Hospital, St Johns and Eyre Peninsula Fire Relief Fund. What the future holds for this programme rests with a couple of local farmers, as to how long they wish to continue.

Memories will linger on in the minds of those who spent time playing the various sports offered in this precinct – no doubt some are good and some were bad. On the whole there has been much to celebrate at this well used community facility.

### Costs Associated with the Relocation

Mac's Cabinets	Backing for the Copper Sign	46.20
Hammer Art	50 S bends	270.00
Wadham	Make 4 brass Letters & Fix	400.00
Cunninghams	Make new Gate Frame	1868.19
Mid-North Sand Blasting -	Paint Frame & Gun	1485.00
Delway	Restore & polish Plaques	902.00
Cunninghams	Struts & Flagpole	822.53
Fence Craft	6 Panels & Posts	2189.00
Balaklava Stitch Joint.	Spreading crusher Dust	300.00
Sundry Expenses		<u>650.00</u>
		<b>\$8932.92</b>

Crusher Dust Donated by Clare Quarries.

**Re-opening & Re-dedication Ceremony takes place at**

**390 Hoyleton Road on Sunday August 28<sup>th</sup> 2016**