

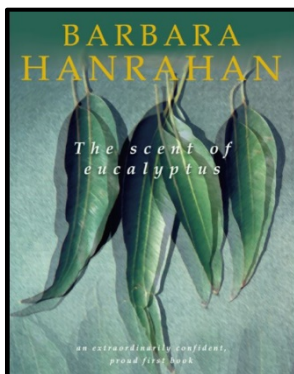
# The Scent of Eucalyptus Walk:

an historical walk of Barbara Hanrahan's

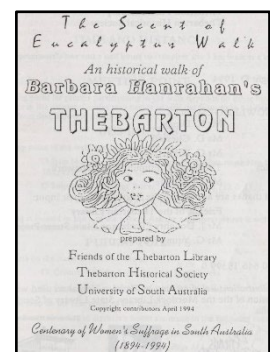
# THEBARTON



**West Torrens Historical Society**



This booklet has been updated from  
*The Scent of Eucalyptus Walk: an historical  
walk of Barbara Hanrahan's Thebarton*,  
prepared by Friends of the Thebarton  
Library, Thebarton Historical Society  
University of South Australia, 1994  
ISBN 0 646 18399



## BARBARA HANRAHAN

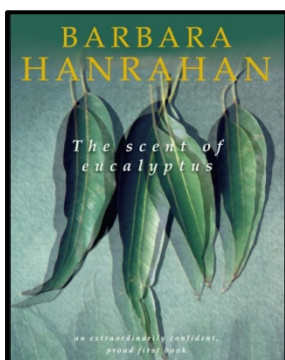
**Barbara Janice Hanrahan** (1939-1991), writer and artist, was born on 6 September 1939 in Adelaide, only child of South Australian-born William Maurice (Bob) Hanrahan (d. 1940), labourer, and his wife Rhonda (Ronda) Gwenlythian, née Goodridge, commercial artist.

Barbara was raised by her mother, her grandmother, Iris Goodridge, and her great-aunt Reece Nobes in the working-class suburb of Thebarton. She was educated at Thebarton Technical School, Adelaide Teachers' College, and the South Australian School of Arts and Crafts (later the South Australian School of Art).

The death of her grandmother in 1968 prompted nostalgia for her Adelaide childhood, resulting in the memoir *The Scent of Eucalyptus* (1973).

Barbara Hanrahan writes of her childhood and early years in growing up in Rose Street, Thebarton and describes the people and places of the era.

A blend of fantasy and realism, it is a powerful, lyrical story of a child's rites of passage through a world where the family home, its garden, and the three women who preside over it, are vital and compelling participants in the shaping of a child's rituals of discovery and awareness.



***The Scent of Eucalyptus* is available to borrow or eBook download, from the West Torrens Hamra Centre Library.**

## THE SCENT OF EUCALYPTUS WALK

On this walk you will visit places which were important to Barbara Hanrahan as she grew up in the 1940s and early 1950s. The walk seeks to give you an impression of how the suburbs of **Thebarton** and **Mile End** would have appeared in those days. It was an environment which Barbara described so poetically and with incisive accuracy in her semi-autobiographical book *The Scent of Eucalyptus*. Discover for yourself what is the scent of Eucalyptus.

What are the distinctively Australian keys Barbara provides for us in her book that have unlocked for so many the door to their childhood and home?

*(Learn all about the district in the 1940s and early 1950's at the back of this booklet.)*

### TIME AND DISTANCE

It takes approximately one and a half hours to complete the 3.5km walk at a leisurely pace.

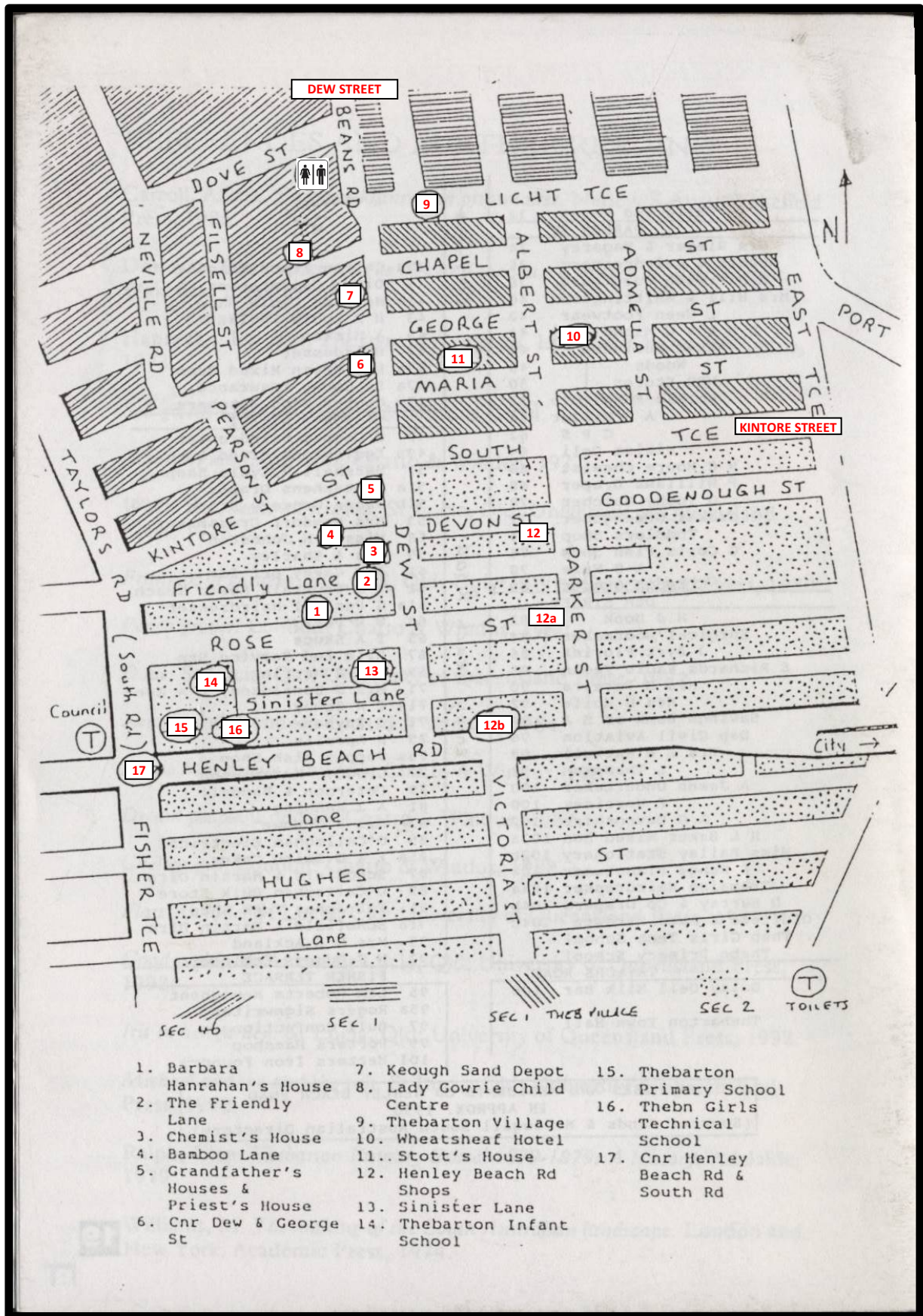
### CAR PARKING

Parking is limited in some of the streets, ensure to note parking restrictions and times.

### REFERENCES

Notations of sources are made throughout the booklet, please also refer to references and further reading.

**SOME SITES ARE PRIVATE PROPERTY,  
PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL**

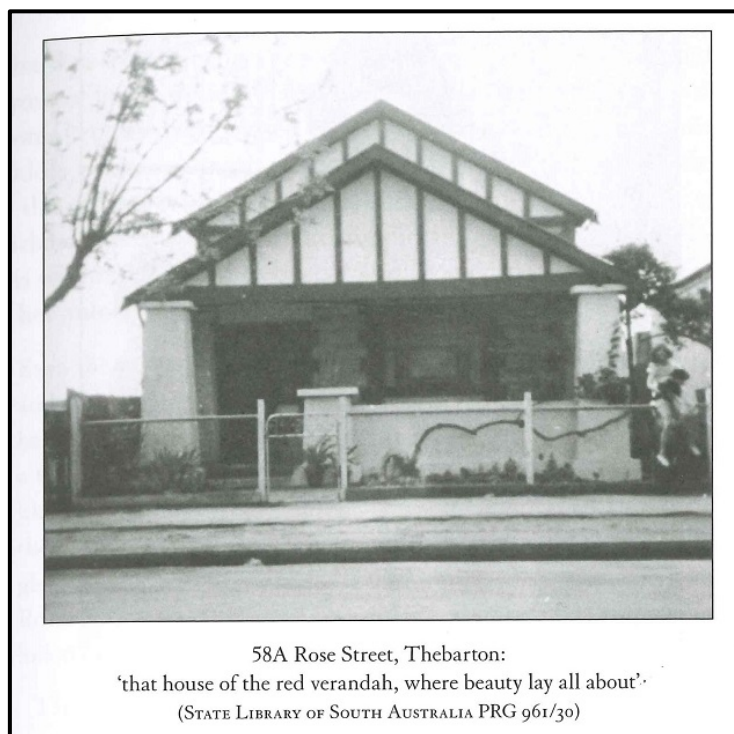


## ➤ START OF WALK

### **I. [site of] Barbara Hanrahan's House**

*58a Rose Street, Mile End*

For the first 15 years of her life Barbara lived at 58a Rose Street with her mother **Ronda Hanrahan**, her grandmother, **Iris Goodridge**, and her grandmother's sister (great-aunt) **Reece Nobes**. The house was close to the street and in front of her house was a small lawn and Iris' flower garden. Reece often stood at the front gate to peer at the people going up and down the street.



The house was demolished in 1999 to make way for a car-park. Some other houses in this part of the street have been knocked down and replaced by new homes or units, and some have been restored.

### **Ia. NEIGHBOURING HOMES**

*62 Rose Street, Mile End*

The house of **Carol Ricks** was two doors west of Barbara's. It was a miserable little place, one of the poorest in the street.

### *62a Rose Street, Mile End*

The District Nurse, lived in the house of **L.H. Lendrum**, painter and decorator. Barbara writes of her:

*Then there was Nursie next to Carol and she was the District Nurse. We saw up her dress behind the roses and her legs were very fat and had garters and skin coming out over the top. It looked really rude. But good fun peeping.*

### **[site of] Mile End Coopery**

#### *64 Rose Street, Mile End*

The **Mile End Coopery** was a small factory at the rear of this block. It was run as a partnership by an old German gentleman, **Mr. Borchers**, and a **Mr. Schahinger**. Mr. Borchers and his wife lived in a cottage, then the oldest house in the street, hidden behind a high hedge. A large carob tree, which Barbara describes, grew at the front.

Barbara mentions the sounds of the circular saw, and the factory siren, which blew a shrill note every week-day at noon when, almost simultaneously, the angelus rang. [Catholic bell traditionally rung daily as 6am, noon and 6pm]. This is now the site of a block of five units. The hedge and tree are gone, and unspectacular palms adorn the front.

On the south side lived the milkman, **Mr. "Pop" Pryor**, whose grandson, Willie, piqued Barbara's interest:

*And Pearce's boy is another queer one too—white hair and has a habit he can't stop but salutes the flag up-and-down when there isn't one...*

This strange malady was not Tourette's syndrome, but an involuntary nervous reaction brought about through cutting his forehead open by walking into an apparently immovable stobie pole, and suffering the same misfortune a second time before the first wound had healed. He kept putting his hand up to the painful contusion, and could not thereafter rid himself of the habit.

## ➤ *OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE STREET (SOUTH)*

Directly opposite was the house where the girl with the same name, but not related, sometimes stayed. This was probably No. 57, the home of **Mrs. Seedsman**.

At No. 61 lived the girl Barbara thought was a boy. This is now a block of four units. SOE 94

The three attached houses 55, 55a and 55b had assorted occupants.

Thebarton Heritage Survey 191-192

Barbara writes of **Dot Cherry** (Berry) and her painted toenails, and the dying lady that didn't get many visitors.

Also near the house in Barbara's time, were schools, churches, the **Town Hall** (also a picture theatre), the **Thebarton Council Chambers**, the **Assembly Hall**, used as a dance hall, and the main shops. Many of these are encountered on this walk. In many ways her suburban childhood was typical of the Australian Post-war era.

## ➤ *WALK EAST*

### *1b. CORNER OF DEW STREET AND ROSE STREET*

**Kel Dingle**, who wrote the 1994 edition of this walk booklet and led most of the walks of Thebarton at that time, was a lifelong acquaintance. As a child he, like Barbara, went to the Lady Gowrie Child Centre. His mother would bring him, from their home in Gladstone Road, to this spot, where they would meet Iris and Barbara. Mrs. Dingle went home, while Iris took them to the Centre.

Dew Street is said to be named after **George Dew** who was one of the first councillors of West Torrens. The **District Council of West Torrens**, which included the town and industries of Thebarton, was proclaimed in 1853. In 1882, the Thebarton townspeople, their interests being different to the rural interests of the rest of West Torrens residents, petitioned for separation. This was successful and in 1883 the **Corporation of the Town of Thebarton** was proclaimed.

➤ *TURN LEFT, WALK NORTH ALONG DEW STREET*

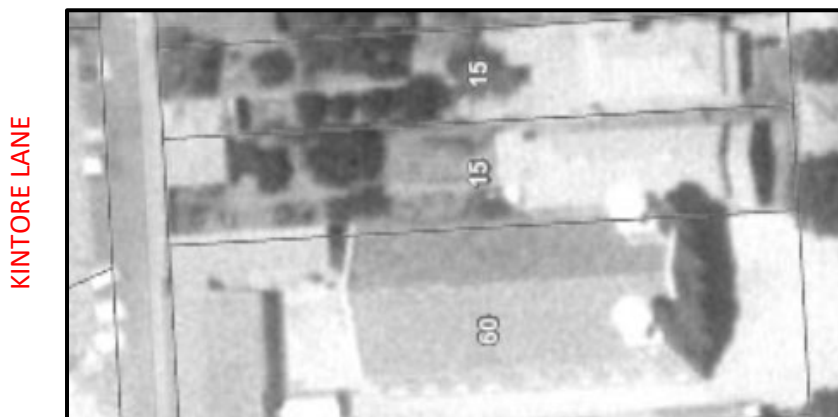
## **2. THE FRIENDLY LANE**

*(Kintore Lane, also named Barbara Hanrahan Lane in 1994)*

*All the streets had their lanes. Ours was friendly with nettles and the manure Nan collected in a bag .There was a wood yard and a coopery where timber sky-scrapers were turned into barrels and sawdust. There were yards that served as cemeteries for bindweed and soursofs, broken staves and the reek of wine.*

SOE p61, 117-118, 120, 145, 159

This lane ran along the rear of Hanrahan's property. Mile End East houses were serviced by lanes which were used by the night-cart men until the houses were connected to the sewerage system, which occurred after 1910, and by the garbage collectors.



58a ROSE ST

*Image:*

*WestMaps Public Aerial Maps 1969*

In the 1940's and 1950's Mile End lanes were adventure lands in themselves. To children they were Tarzan's Jungles, the Wild West, and the Western Front. The lanes had surfaces of compounded dirt and stone and were, in places, edged by mounds of earth on which weeds grew, or sometimes sunflowers or clumps of bamboo. About one quarter of the rear fences were in poor repair or were missing.



### 3.[site of] CHEMISTS HOUSE

*19 Dew Street, Mile End*

This Spanish Mission style house was probably the most modern house in the district at the time. It was the home of **Frank Moore**, who owned a chain of **M.C. Moore** pharmacies in Adelaide suburbs, the principal shop was around the corner on Henley Beach Road, nearly opposite Victoria Street. Frank was well known and held in high regard by the residents of Thebarton and Mile End. His range of medicinal preparations, with his own label, brought relief to many sufferers who took them in addition to the doctors' prescriptions.

SOE p49

### 4. THE BAMBOO LANE

*(Moore Lane)*

This short lane was an access to the wood-yard of the coopery, which occupied the back half of a house in Kintore Street. The coopery had a gate in the Friendly Lane. There were some bamboos growing at the farther end, hence Barbara's name for it. SOE p49

### 5. GRANDFATHER HANRAHAN'S HOUSE

*23 Dew Street, Mile End*

### 5. GREAT-GRANDFATHERS COLLIN'S HOUSE

*25 Dew Street, Mile End*

Grandfather **William Hanrahan** (23 Dew Street) married Margaret, daughter of Great-grandfather **Maurice Collins**, in 1912, and they had two children, Kathleen and Maurice (called "Bob"), who was Barbara's father. It was in this house that Italian boys, Elvio and Dominic, lived later on. SOE p444, 53 (and Barbara Hanrahan Diaries)

*Grandfather Hanrahan and Great-grandfather Collins lived next door to each other in Dew Street. Their semi-detached cottages were separated by a small side yard. Each was joined at the spine to a red-brick twin. Grandfather Hanrahan's neighbour remained anonymous, but St. Theresa, where Great-grandfather Collins lived, drew status from being next to the priest's house... I visited the grandfathers every*

*Sunday ... Grandfather Hanrahan did not speak to Great-grandfather Collins. He contented himself with a wry comment about his father-in-law's peculiarities as he lifted me over the fence to the glum little housekeeper on the other side. My mother told me that the grandfathers hated each other ... SOE 49, 51*

Barbara described the grandfathers' houses as semi-detached cottages... each being *joined at the spine to a red-brick twin*. These villas are, however, a pigeon pair.



Image: Google Street View August 2008

## **5.[site of] THE PRIEST'S HOUSE**

*27 Dew Street, Mile End*

**Father Smyth** lived here with a housekeeper. He was the priest at the **Queen of Angels** church, and is said to have been respected by his flock. He was a man of sombre appearance in his black clerical garb. Barbara says of the house:

*.. the priest's house. This house with its rosary-clicking stillness, its incense laden spruce hedge was lovely. SOE pages 49-54*

➤ **CROSS KINTORE STREET AND CONTINUE ALONG DEW STREET**

### **5a. THEBARTON, COLONEL WILLIAM LIGHT & MARIA GANDY**

In 1837, after he had surveyed the site for the capital city, Adelaide, **Colonel William Light** surveyed the surrounding district, dividing it into sections of 134 acres each. (You have just left section 2, and are now in section 46, see shaded area of map). Section 1 which Colonel Light purchased, is the eastern side of Dew Street.

The area enclosed by Dew Street to the River Torrens, the river, Port Road (and its continuation, East Terrace), and Kintore Street from East Terrace to Dew Street, was Country Section No. 1 in Colonel Light's survey. The order in which those holding land orders could make their selections was decided by ballot on 17 May 1838. By sheer chance Light drew the first choice, and selected Section 1. The **South Australian Company** took up Sections 2, 3, 4 and 6, where were from here down to Richmond Road.



1839 Map (SLSA)

The South Australian Company was a joint stock company formed in 1835 by a group of people who had been fired by the scheme for a private-enterprise colony as described by **Edward Gibbon Wakefield**. They had sought and gained the sanction of the British Parliament, which passed an Act, The South Australia Act, 1834, which empowered "His Majesty to erect South Australia into a British Province" for "divers of His Majesty's Subjects ... " The Company carried on many kinds of business. It was liquidated in 1949.

See Sutherland, George The South Australian Company (London, Longmans, Green, 1898);  
Australian Encyclopaedia - article: South Australian Company.

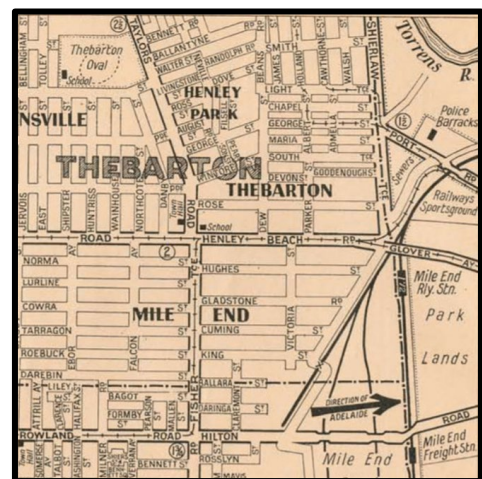
Colonel Light died on 5/6 October 1839, leaving everything to his housekeeper and long-time companion, **Maria Gandy**.

Maria married **Dr. George Mayo** in the following year on 7 July. In order to raise sufficient money to pay outstanding debts, Maria Gandy had the southern portion of Section I subdivided into blocks suitable for workmen's cottages. The main street was George Street, and the (narrower) ones either side were Chapel Street and Maria Street.

The northern perimeter was called Light Terrace, and the southern left unnamed, but later named South Terrace, and more recently changed to Kintore Street. TPS p5



1882 Map (SLSA)



1936 Map (Gregorys)

Although many of the original houses were built of bricks, a lot of the first houses in Thebarton were pise constructions, which have since been replaced by more substantial buildings.

The neighbouring area, Mile End, began to be subdivided for housing in the early 1860s. The newer area, while still working-class, had wider streets and larger blocks. The houses existing today date from the 1890s and later.

Thebarton was originally part of the area first proclaimed in 1853 as West Torrens, then it established its independence in 1883.

*Corporation of Thebarton.*

SOUTH AUSTRALIA, } *Proclamation by His Excellency SAMUEL JAMES*  
*to wit.* } *WAY, Esquire, Chief Justice of the Province of*  
*(L.S.)* } *South Australia, the Administrator of the Govern-*  
*S. J. WAY.* } *ment of the Province of South Australia and the*  
*Dependencies thereof, &c., &c., &c.*

**W**HEREAS by an Act of the Parliament of South Australia, passed in a session held in the forty-third and forty-fourth years of Her Majesty's reign, being No. 190 of 1880, it is enacted that the Governor, on the petition of not less than two-fifths of the ratepayers or owners of ratable property within the proposed municipality may constitute new municipalities, and may define the number and boundaries

SA Government Gazette (8<sup>th</sup> Feb 1883)

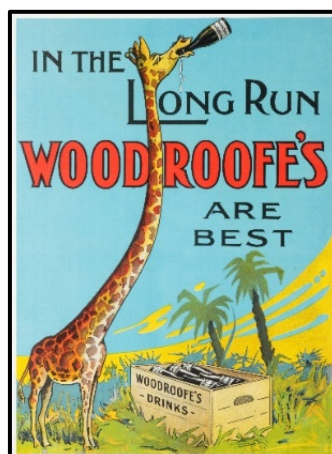
There were several reasons why Thebarton residents wanted to go their separate way. Industries had made Thebarton richer than the rest of the local government area. Properties there were more valuable than those in most other parts of West Torrens, so its ratepayers had to pay what they considered a disproportionate proportion of the rates. These details explain why this particular area, so beloved by Barbara, has a unique character which, in spite of the changes wrought by the years, is still evident.

BC and S 26-27 TO&N 39-40 TPS 4-5

## 6. CORNER OF DEW STREET AND GEORGE STREET

There was a grocer's shop on this corner, a corner store, which never looked busy or prosperous. The outer wall, along Dew Street, bore the advertisements.

*There were advertisements for Ipana toothpaste, Woodrooffe's Lemonade, Amgoorie Tea. SOE P39 & AM p115*



# RESIDENTS IN ROSE STREET [WEST] MILE END IN EARLY 1950's

(Source: Recollections and Sands & McDougall South Australian Directory)

## ROSE STREET (West of Dew Street)

### DEW STREET

- P Davey & R Sutton 52
- 54
- H J Frith 56
  
- Mrs WN Claire (Carter) 58
- Mrs Goodridge and Hanrahan 58a
- CW Chandler 60
- RJ Rick 62
- LH Lendrum (painter) 62a
- H Borchera (coopery) 64
- Mr 'Pop' Pryor (milkman) 66
- Mrs JV Turner 68
- R Russell 68a
- CA Schahinger 70
  
- RG Ralph (Jacobs) 72
- Mrs P Saridakis 74
- JC Moore 76
  
- RK Spry 78
- RS Thomas 80
  
- PS Harvey (mixed business) 82

### TAYLORS ROAD [now SOUTH ROAD]



### DEW STREET

- 55 D Rodighero
- 55a CH Jennings
- 55b LJ Berry & Miss D Berry
- 57 Mrs CA Seedsman
- 59 Mrs H Ullrich
- 61 Frank Moran (librarian)
- 63 P Higgins
- 65 E (Neil) T Isley
- 65a G Peters & AG Couzens
- 67 W Wright
- 67a Mrs AA Corsey
- 69 Thelma Jury

### SCHOOL LANE

Thebarton Infant School

Thebarton Primary School

### TAYLORS ROAD [now SOUTH ROAD]

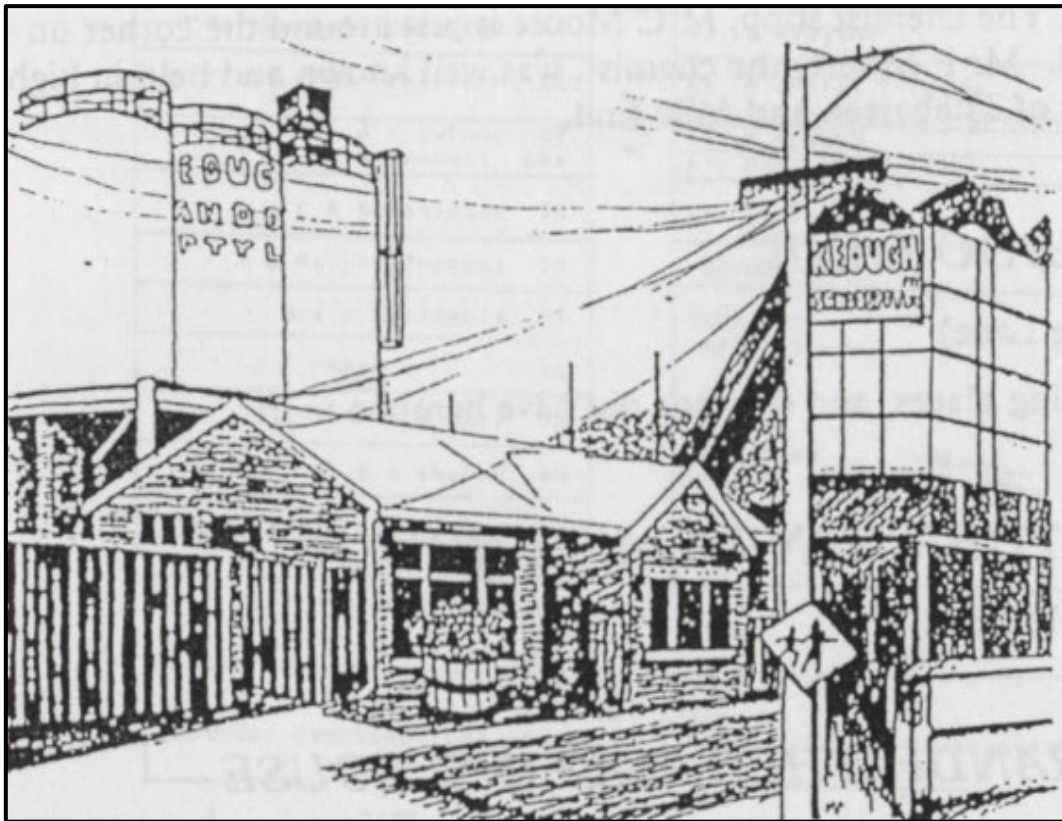
Image: WestMaps Public Aerial Maps 1969

➤ CONTINUE ALONG DEW STREET

## 7. [site of] **KEOGH SAND DEPOT**

39 Dew Street, Thebarton

Art: Holly McNamee



A landmark in the district. **Francis Keogh** bought himself a horse and tip-dray, and started carrying bricks, and then began to supply sand to builders. The Keogh family sold sand and gravel from this site from 1906, reflecting the wider social practise of work and home being combined. The proprietor, **Mr John Keogh**, was Mayor of Thebarton from 1980 to 1985.

John's great-grandfather was a tanner who lived in Chapel Street, Thebarton. He moved to Mt. Barker, but in the mid-1870's moved back to Thebarton where he became part-owner of the **Lenard Tannery** in Dove Street. In 1898 he established his own business as a brick carrier. Builders asked him to bring sand too and in that way he started his sand business.

## 8. LADY GOWRIE CHILD CENTRE

*39a Dew Street, Thebarton (walk down the driveway to view the building and grounds but please remain outside the fence)*

The Commonwealth Government's concern for the health of pre-school children in less affluent areas led to the development of six **Lady Gowrie Child Centres**, one in each capital city. It was intended that these centres should play a leading role by being demonstration and research centres for each State. Named for **Lady Zara Gowrie**, the wife of the Governor-General, Baron Gowrie (afterwards 1st Earl of Gowrie), their creation was eagerly supported by **John Cumpston**, Federal Minister of Health.



Lady Zara Gowrie 1936

[SLSA SRG 488/18/114](#)

Much research and thought was given to the siting of these pre-school centres, and innovative Montessori programmes were introduced. In addition to being a pre-school, the Lady Gowrie Child Centre provided day care, emergency care, transport, nutrition, dental health, toy and book libraries, playgroups, and parent programmes. The Centre provided state-wide in-service training to childcare staff, teaching of new students, and assisting other childcare centres with their programmes and resources.

When it opened on 28 August 1940, there was only one building and the playground was fairly bare. Being wartime there was an underground "rabbit burrow" air raid shelter near the northern boundary and some large stormwater pipes above ground. The children put these to other uses and had air raid practice. The Dove Street playground adjoins on the other side. Barbara says she thought one of her earliest memories related to this Centre.

SOE p 38-40, 69 ; Barbara Hanrahan Diaries p43

See also Jubilee History of the Kindergarten Union of SA 1905-1955, by Burgess, Keeves and Prest pages 56-58



- (PUBLIC TOILETS - CONTINUE THROUGH THE NO THROUGH ROAD TO THE DOVE STREET PLAYGROUND)
  
- RETURN TO DEW STREET/LIGHT TERRACE)

**9. [site of] SALVATION ARMY CITADEL,**  
*32 Light Terrace, Thebarton*

The **Salvation Army Citadel**, which Barbara mentions was a red corrugated iron structure with white woodwork, which stood right on the end of Light Terrace, at the Dew Street S-bend. Unlike the house that now stands on the site, it faced Henley Beach Road, from which it was clearly visible. It was torched one afternoon by a couple of teenagers. At the time it was being used as a storage-place for goods to help the needy.



*Salvation Army Citadel, Thebarton Corps, circa 1940 (LH1086-02b)*

➤ WALK EAST ALONG LIGHT TERRACE

**9a. THEBARTON VILLAGE**

*Light Terrace was the northern boundary of the old "Thebarton Village". (The other boundaries being West Terrace (now Dew Street), East Terrace (part of which is now Port Road), and South Terrace (now Kintore Street).*

The land, part of Section 1, was owned by **Colonel William Light**. He has subdivided in 1839, and by 1841, it contained 100 houses and a population of 50. Some of the residents worked in local industries (brickmaking, fellmongering [dealing in hides or skins, particularly sheepskins], tanning [treating animal skins to produce leather]), but many were agricultural workers, hay being the principal produce.

In 1840, Thebarton had two public houses, **The Great Tom of Lincoln** and the **Brickmakers' Arms**.

LICENSES.—The following applications for Licenses were heard before the Bench of Magistrates on Monday last, 14th December :—

TRANSFER OF LICENSES.

• "Rose Inn," Start-street, from E. Baudall, to E. Clayfield. Granted.

• "Union," Weymouth-street, from J. M. Herring, to Charles Jaty. Granted.

• "Gawler Town," from Sarah Calton, to Henry Calton. Granted.

• "Horseshoe," Noarlunga, from Philip Collins, to Wm. Green. Granted.

• "Suffolk Hotel," Rundle-street, from W. J. Sayers, to W. Pohnman. Granted.

• "Plymouth Commercial Inn," Hindley-street, from N. Prettyjohn to T. Dudley. Refused.

• "British Hotel," Pirie-street, from S. B. Garratt to J. Williams. Granted.

• "Grapes Inn," Grenfell-street, from J. Hayter to J. G. Witt. Granted.

• "The Robert Burns," Hindley street, from W. Bennett to W. Kelham. Refused.

• "Great Tom of Lincoln," Thebarton, from R. Bristow to J. Hayter. Granted.

Image: South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register (Adelaide, SA : 1845 - 1847)

View title info Sat 19 Dec 1846 Page 2 LOCAL NEWS OF THE WEEK

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/195934416>

- PROCEED EAST ALONG LIGHT TERRACE, TURN RIGHT AND WALK SOUTH ALONG ALBERT STREET TO CHAPEL STREET, THEN CONTINUE ALONG ALBERT STREET TO GEORGE STREET.

## 10. WHEATSHEAF HOTEL

*Corner of George and Albert Streets, Thebarton*

The present two-storey hotel on the corner of George Street and Albert Street was opened in 1919, but the history of the Wheatsheaf began in 1844, when it opened as the **Wheatsheaf Inn** (William Gardiner, licensee) in a building with no upper floor situated east of the present hotel, where the carpark is now. It was designed to accommodate the farmers who brought their wheat to the Victoria Mill run by **Gardiner and Craigie**, a huge factory in George Street between the church and Albert Street. The horse tram from the city went along Holland, Albert, and Parker Streets, and made a U-turn at the end of Parker Street. TO&N 19, 31-32, 132 & Thebarton Heritage Durvey 145-146

Barbara walked with Grandfather Hanrahan, who bought her custard tarts, past the Wheatsheaf Hotel *in the back streets of Thebarton where the girls know they are different, and have no hope*. Many of the houses in these narrow streets were 'settlers cottages' on small allotments.

SOE p52, 154 MMS p86



*Image: Wheatsheaf Hotel from George Street WTHS 2021*

- WALK PAST THE WHEATSHEAF, TURN RIGHT INTO MARIA STREET AND PROCEED WEST

## **II. STOTT'S HOUSE (BARBARA HANRAHAN STUDIO)**

*64 Maria Street, Thebarton*

*We sat at a table on the verandah and painted pictures...* SOE pages 98-99

A single fronted brick cottage built at the turn of the century with remnants of horse stabling and a well. There are some 1950's additions at the rear. Note the Federation verandah details at the 'polite' end.



*Image: Google Street View 2020*

Barbara's friend **Joan Stott** (who was born on the same day as Barbara) lived in this house. Joan's father was a rubbish collector, for which he had a horse and cart. The stable for the horse and shed for the cart are at the back. There are also the remains of an old cottage.

The art life of London and the lure of Mexico and Frida Kahlo were not enough to make Barbara lose her love for Thebarton. In 1982, when she had returned to Adelaide with her companion, **Jo Steele**,

to live in Hyde Park, the reading of Thebarton Primary School, and a chance encounter with the agent, resulted in the purchase of this old house:

*On Monday Jo was 'led' to Joan Scott's house in Maria St. (and that morning I read Glen Ralph's Thebarton School book and saw mention of Maria and wished we could find [a] place in the old part -Maria, Chapel, George). Jo had turned away and was driving home down Henley Beach Rd when a feeling made him go to 64 Maria and as he got there the agent was coming out from inspection to put house on market and Jo was there, interested -Rang me, we met agent at 5 p.m. and we signed contract for \$36,000.*

*54 SOE 98-99, 109; Annie Magdalene has much about this house and the one next door where Annie Magdalene lived  
55 SOE 440,41,69,109,110,167  
56 Diaries 190*

After the purchase in 1982, Barbara and Jo both worked in the studio. Jo kindly allowed the **Thebarton Community Arts Network** to use it and foster art work in Thebarton. It has now passed into private hands.

This street is the location of much of the *Annie Magdalene* story.

## **ANNIE MAGDALENE'S HOUSE**

The house of **Anne McGeoch**. Barbara tells how she recorded long interviews with the old lady that lived in this modest house, and wrote the book *Annie Magdalene*. The cement at the front of the house is explained in the following passage:

*And I had the front garden cemented, except for a circle in the middle where I grew a privet bush.*

*Diaries 196,204,236-236  
Diaries 210 etc Also Annie M in Dream People 37-50  
Annie Magdalene p116*

➤ **CONTINUE TO DEW STREET, TURN LEFT**

**11b. [site of] 'MARIA GANDYS COTTAGE'**  
*Corner of Maria Street and Dew Street, Thebarton*

On this corner there was an old, low cottage, which was called **Maria Gandy's** cottage by many people. Local history research has not turned up any evidence to support this belief as Maria Gandy lived at Thebarton Cottage, Light's home, until she married Dr Mayo, and then until 1841, when the cottage was sold.

*Thebarton Cottage, by John Tregenza and Charles Fenner 5-6*

**11c. KINTORE STREET PARK / DEW STREET RESERVE**  
*Corner of Dew Street and Kintore Street, Thebarton*



The land on the Kintore Street and Dew Street corner has been designated a reserve and has been embellished with the imaginative mosaic of a house created by the members of where the **Thebarton Community Arts Network** (TCAN) as a community project, and opened in 1998.

A compass in mosaic shows that this is "The corner of Colonel Light's Section One."



WTHS 2021

The house on the opposite corner was the **Flint** house, the home of the family connected with the well-known Adelaide hardware business. There were stables at the rear of the property.

➤ CONTINUE SOUTH ALONG DEW STREET, CROSS KINTORE STREET

We are now back in Section 2. This section was purchased by the **South Australian Company** who set up a farm on a parkland frontage. The Company sold it on 1880 and it was subdivided for housing between 1886 and 1896.

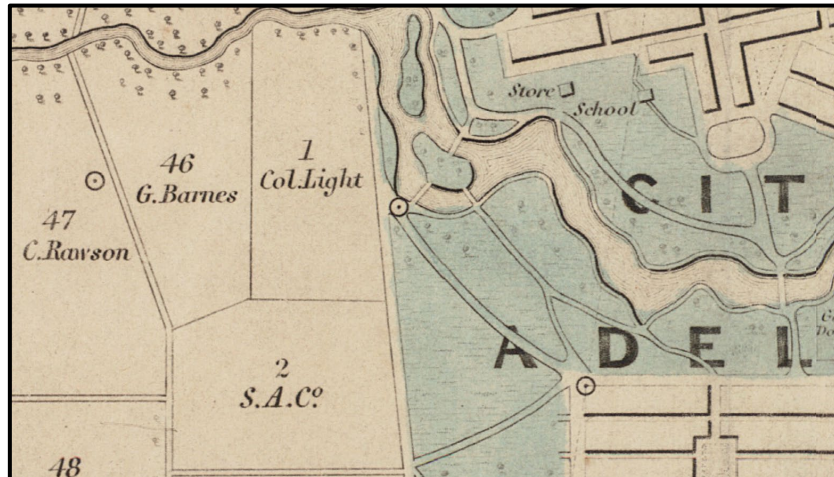


Image: The District of Adelaide South Australia John Arrowsmith 1839

➤ CONTINUE ON THEN TURN LEFT (EAST) ONTO DEVON STREET

➤ CONTINUE ALONG ALMOST TO PARKER STREET

## 12. PIANO TEACHER'S HOUSE

*1 Devon Street, Mile End*



*1 Devon Street, Mile End WTHS 2021*

This house, known as "Bonnie Hill," is the home of **Miss Dorothy McGregor**, Barbara's piano teacher. *SOE 145-148, 149-150*

Barbara remained attached to Miss McGregor throughout her life.  
*Diaries 43-44, 52, 158, 196, 236, 237, 279, 285*

- TURN RIGHT (SOUTH) INTO PARKER STREET
- CONTINUE TO ROSE STREET AND TURN RIGHT (WEST)

### **12a. ROSE STEET COTTAGES**

36-50A & 39-45A Rose Street Mile End

**Rose Street Cottages** were built between 1902 and 1907 by an institution called the **Adelaide Workmens' Homes**. The cottages, now classified as a heritage item, were built in straight lines on both sides of Rose Street between Dew Street and Parker Street.



They are very much a part of the character of the area, however, do not seem to have been mentioned by Barbara. The crenellations [top row of building that looks like the top of a medieval castle] on the porches are noted in the Heritage Survey:

*Pairs of attached random coursed stone cottages with brick quoins and surrounds. Rendered hood mouldings, lintels and gable ends. Hipped and gabled corrugated galvanised iron roofs with louvred vents to gable ends. Brick chimneys. Raked verandahs on turned timber posts with timber brackets. Castellated parapets on entrance porches.*

*Thebarton Heritage Survey 193-194 and also pp.59, 128 See also TO&N 116*

- TURN BACK AND WALK ALONG THE OTHER SIDE OF ROSE STREET BACK TO PARKER STREET / TURN RIGHT



## **PARKER STREET**

Some 1920s bungalows were built in the suburb. In the 1940s and early 1950s many of these houses still had their original roofs and paintwork. Today, some of the houses are still in existence and, fortunately, some retain their original character.

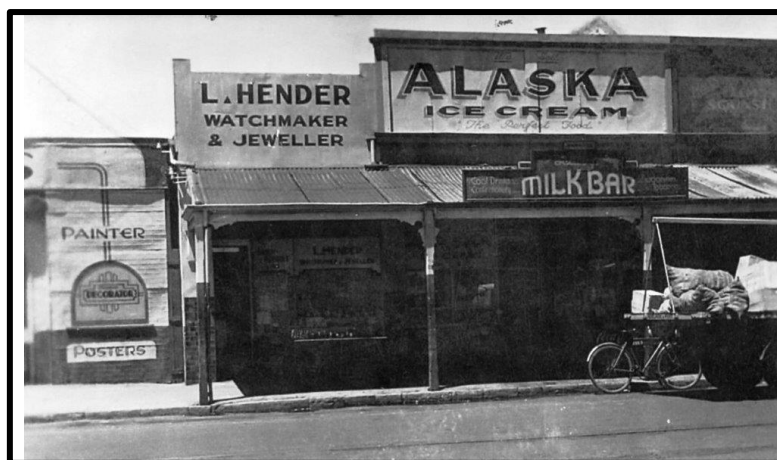
➤ **CONTINUE SOUTH ALONG PARKER STREET AND TURN RIGHT ONTO HENLEY BEACH ROAD**

### **12b. HENLEY BEACH ROAD SHOPS**

Henley Beach Road was originally known as **Reedbeds Road**. It was declared a public road in 1841 but not properly surfaced until 1855. Tramway lines for horse trams were laid along the road in 1882. From 1909 until 1957 electric trams ran along the lines.

The shop architecture on the northern side of Henley Beach Road from Parker Street to Dew Street is largely original - rusticated quoins, original shopfronts, ornamented parapets, and detailed verandah posts. These shops and those which were to the west of Dew Street, and those which were opposite, catered for all needs and made Henley Beach Road, Mile End, a busy shopping area.

SOE p 121



*Lionel and Lorna Hender's jewellery and watchmaking business was located on the southern side of Henley Beach Road, Mile End (at 97a) c.1941-57. Moved to north side of Henley Beach Road (110a) c.1957-70.*

LH0739-01 WTHS

➤ *CROSS TO THE CORNER OF HENLEY BEACH ROAD AND DEW STREET*

## **CORNER OF DEW STREET AND HENLEY BEACH ROAD**

The tram stops used by Barbara and her family would have been those near **Hook's the Bootmakers**, which was formerly on this corner.

SOE p 13, 116, 176.

He was a surgical bootmaker, and did shoe repairs as well.

SOE 66, 80, 137, 176

The side fence along Dew Street carried advertisements, as Barbara mentions:

*We clasped chips we bought from the Greek and followed the paw marks, frozen deep in the concrete, of a dog that was not there. They went past the hoardings by the side of Hook's, and the wooden fence that said AMGOORIE, and stopped at the lane I feared. I thought I saw a white tail wag, and was scared as we scurried across the black gulf and into the light again.* SOE 137

At some stage a dog had gaily trotted along the footpath just after the council workers had laid fresh cement. They had put up rope surrounds and flags to stop mindless pedestrians from walking over it, however, this little dog permanently etched itself into history and literature.

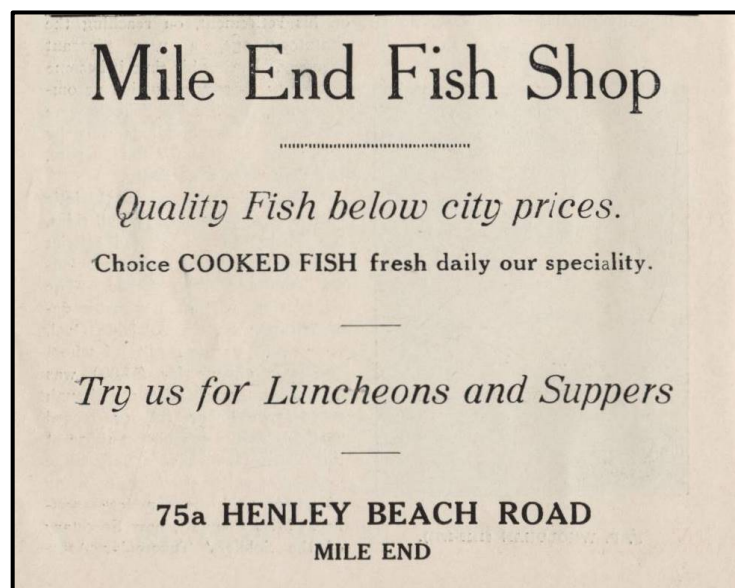


Image: 1929 Back to Thebarton School Jubilee Celebrations

# PREMISES AND RESIDENTS APPROXIMATELY 1950.

(Source: Sands & McDougall South Australian Directory)

## CITY ^

Mile End Hotel

### PARKER STREET

Drs Rieger & Margery 34

Abbott's Hairdressers 36

H Harrison Furniture 38

Mrs Hill & Whittington 40

L Ween Footwear 42

GH & VU Nicholls (mixed bus) 44

GH & VU Nicholls (mixed bus) 46

Woods HBR Stores 48

Woods HBR Stores 50

Kolkas Furniture 52

A P Millar 54

C P S 62

T Nikias Deli 64

M C Moore (chemist) 66

P Williams (draper) 68

G Touhy (butcher) 70

Craker (greengrocer) 72

Toddlers Shop 74

G Coris Fish Shop 76

A B Ware 78

C Keogh (grocer) 80

### DEW STREET

H J Hook (surgical bootmaker) 82

H J Hook (surgical bootmaker) 84

J Byrt (florist) 86

E Richards (radio tech) 88

Mrs M Pereira 90

Mrs H Hoile 92

Savings Bank of SA 94

Dept Civil Aviaion 96

Mrs E M Hatwell / L Thompson 98

F Morrisey 100

A G Devonshire 102

HL Baker (mixed business) 102a

Miss Bailey (stationery) 102b

E Runge (piano tuner) 104

Tremaine (hairdresser) 104a

D Murray & Co (draper) 104b

Oldfield & Ames Hardware 104c

Thebarton Girls Technical School

Thebarton Primary School

### TAYLORS ROAD

[now SOUTH ROAD]

Daisy Dell Milkbar 106

Thebarton Town Hall

Image: WestMaps Public  
Aerial Maps 1969



## ^ CITY

39a Chifon Frock Salon

41 Dixon Hairdresser

41a Heffron Cycle shop

43 HR Louis (engineer)

45 A Mickan

47 Hairdresser

47a LC Green (mixed business)

47b Le Cornu Insurance

47c Cooter Bros (butchers)

### VICTORIA STREET

49 C Cooper (hairdresser)

49a Egglestone (mixed business)

51 Marshall motorcycle shop

51a J Stephens (draper)

51b Ranee Grocery Store

53 Mrs Hamdorf (dressmaker)

56 Miss L M Johnston

### MCCARTHY LANE

59 Mrs A Sharley

61 JR Carey (prf fdr)

61 VJ Fountain (music teacher)

61a G Penhall (hairdresser)

63 W R Perry

65 T A Skuse

67 Mile End Service Station

69 WLR Martin

71 Mrs J Donaldson. E A Reed

71a C R Bowey

73 G Raybone

75 N Apoeffis

75a Pappas Fish Shop

77 Grooby, Hutchinson

79 Peterson & Randall

81 AJ Henning

83 Mrs FG Howe

85 O'Callaghan Electrical

85a E&D Smith Cakes

87 Schofield & Martin Dealers

89 O'Callaghan Bulk Store

91 FE Jones Tuck Shop

91a Schofield & Martin Dealers

93 Mrs HE Ackland

93 WJ Odgers Engineers

### FISHER TERRACE

[now SOUTH ROAD]

95 Len Roberts (newsagent)

95a Rogers (signwriter)

97 Bull Confectioners

99 Porters Hamshop

101 Metters Iron Foundry

- WALK NORTH ALONG DEW STREET
- TURN LEFT INTO TAYLORS LANE

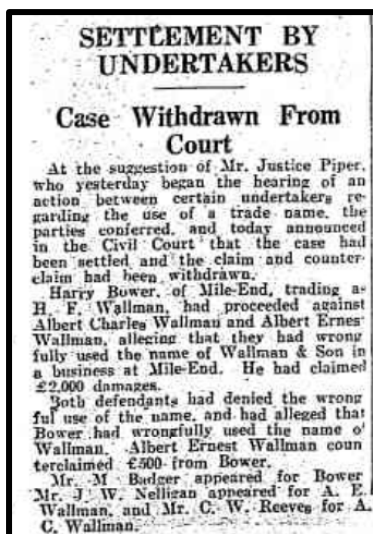
### 13. THE SINISTER LANE

*Taylor's Lane [formerly Rose Lane], Mile End*

Barbara called this the *Sinister Lane* and *the lane I feared*, probably because of its general ambience. But impressionable children knew of dreadful things in this lane. SOE p 60, 66, 137

*The lane by the side gate [of the Primary School] was different. The grass was matted—dank with rain in winter, thick with dust in summer. Tins and newspapers skulked in the boles of trees. Drifts of oyster-shells were remnants of some sinister paper-chase below walls sprouting jags of glass and prickly wire. It was the lair of boys with Argyll pullovers and brilliantined hair. SOE 61. See also pp.60, 137*

Indeed, there was a certain ambience about this lane that made it different from the others. There were high fences on the Henley Beach Road side, and mournful wormwood bushes at one place, and the workshop of **Harry Bower** the undertaker, where he made his coffins. Apparently, he earned some notoriety by burying bodies of babies in his back yard, and there was a police inquiry. Barbara later overcame her fear of the lane. SOE 66



Harry Bower of Mile End, traded as R F Wallman, and took the Wallman's to court in 1933, and after a counter claim the case was withdrawn.

10 May 1933, Advertiser [TROVE](#)

## ➤ WALK TO THE END OF THE LANE

### CORNER OF ROSE STREET AND SCHOOL LANE

School lane was opened after a long and acrimonious debate by **E. T. Isley**, a former Mayor of Thebarton, who conducted a building and contracting business, situated on what was then (1911) the lane, which ran from East Terrace to Taylor's Road.

When the Education Department acquired the allotments on the northern side of the lane, and had established the new classrooms, it wanted to close off the lane which divided the school into two halves. An Act of Parliament was passed in 1918 to close off the lane, and to create this right of way for E. T. Isley. Mr. Isley's son, **Ted Isley**, later used the same site for his business, **Sno-Whyte Bag Wash Company**.

Next to it, on the western side, in a short western arm of the Sinister Lane which ended with the white gates, there was a shed with an upper floor. It was here that the **Henley and Grange Brass Band** used to practise (mainly on Sunday morning, but sometimes in the evening), and the school carried on various activities.

Barbara mentions that **Puffing Billy** worked at the laundry. After Mr. Isley junior retired - the contract to wash blankets for the military, practically the only work done there, came to an end - the buildings were occupied by a firm dealing in neon lighting, **Wyt-Ray Products**. The place was destroyed by fire.

*Two or three gum trees grew between the eastern side of the infant school building and the fence. Children sat beneath the jacaranda trees on the Rose Street side to eat their lunch<sup>1</sup>. I can remember having classes there on fine days.*

All along Rose Street on both sides there were white cedar trees.

Facing the laneway was the house, No. 72, of the **Ralph** family. (Now replaced by a block of units). Barbara uses the pseudonym for the family, Jacobs, and describes two members of the family - Donald, who had been born with infantile paralysis as it was called in those days, and Glen:

*And there is the Jacobs family that is queer and they all go along together. And Puffing Billy, something like Reece—but Nan says no. He doesn't even run but gallops with one hand tucked up like a paw and spit everywhere. And Puffing Billy is dirty-looking with eyes too close and doesn't shave but he should. He has brothers that are all right—one called the Professor he's that clever but I don't like him. They saw me up the tree. And Puffing Billy sells flags for Torrens at the football and people look and he does the bags at the Laundry.<sup>2</sup>*

Glen Ralph said, 'Puffing Billy had a passion for the pictures (cinema), West Torrens Football team, travel, and steam trains. Encouraged in the last by our paternal parent, who worked his life out as an engine-driver with the S.A.R., Puffing Billy would choof down Rose Street like the Melbourne Express, working his good arm like the driving gear of a big 500 class loco-motive. He spent some years at Minda Home (Oct. 1941 to Jan. 1946), then worked with Mr. Isley at the Bagwash (Feb. 1946) until it closed down in November 1955. After that he worked at the Adelaide Railway Station at the Laundry and in the Equipment Room, retiring early through ill-health. In 1999, aged 68, he lived at the St. Laurence Home for the Aged at Grange. Barbara's description of him is accurate.'

Next door, on the western side, lived Philip and Despina Saradakis, whose boy, Michael, plucked daisies for Mr. Harrington, the teacher.<sup>3</sup> On the other side lived Charlie Schahinger and family, Geoff, Maureen, and David, and dog Sam.<sup>4</sup> Mr. Schahinger was a partner of Mr. Borchers in the coopery, which was further up the street at No.64.

1 SoE 63

2 SoE 95, See also pages 97, 164

3 SoE 110-111

4 SoE 95-96

## 14. [site of] THEBARTON INFANT SCHOOL

Rose Street, Mile End

The Infant School buildings were constructed in 1923 and 1924. Six classrooms, a large assembly hall, headmistress's office, hat porches, vestibules, verandahs, and a staff room... very advanced for 1924... but no electric light! SOE p 41, 60-65, 106

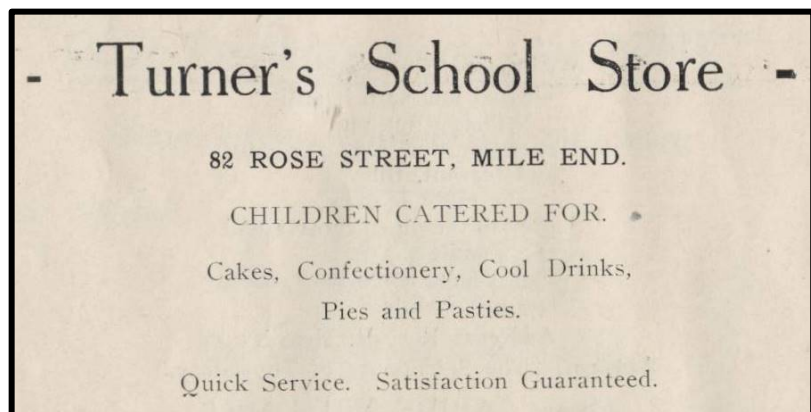


Image: Old Thebarton Infant School from Rose Street WTHS 2021

## ROSE STREET SCHOOL TUCK SHOP

82 Rose Street, Mile End

Run by **Turners** in 1929, then **Michell and Harvey**, this was a tuck shop with a bakery. Mr Mitchell withdrew from the partnership in the 1940's and took the shop opposite the Thebarton Boys' Technical School. After that it was run by **Stan and Lola Harvey**. When they left the business was bought by **R. Mittiga**. The children from the school were later forbidden to go there. Barbara called it the Italian Shop. SOE 92

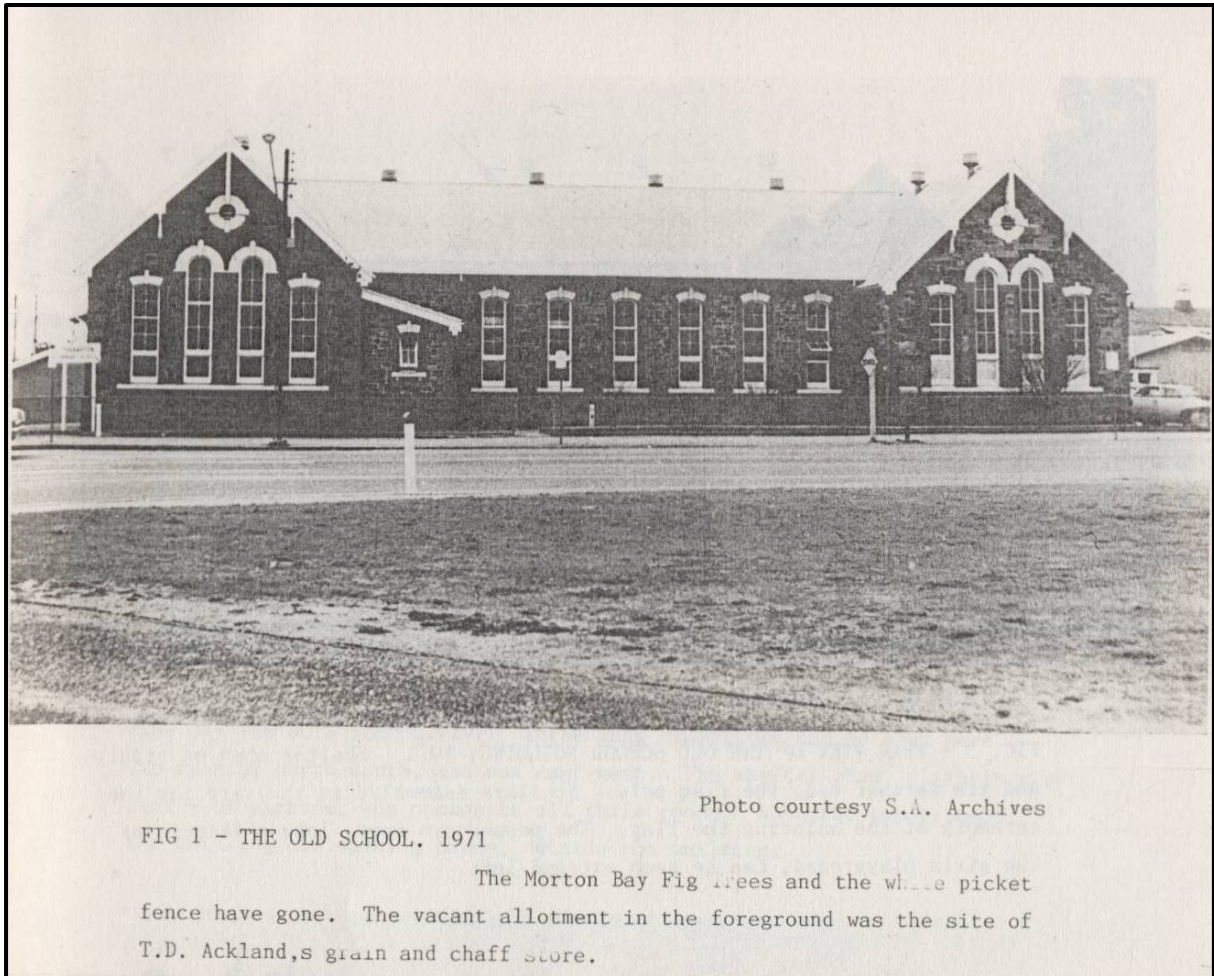


1929 Back to Thebarton School Jubilee Celebrations

## 15. [site of] THEBARTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Henley Beach Road, Mile End

This school comprised two main buildings. One, erected in 1879 and extended in 1897, fronting Henley Beach Road, and another, erected in 1904, adjacent to Rose Street. Both have been demolished.



*From Thebarton Primary School: 113 years of community service Part 2, Glen Ralph (LHT0808)*

*Brass taps over rusting iron troughs, corrugated-iron shelter sheds, red brick and black paint lavatories, an incinerator surrounded by ash, a flagpole and a bell with a lolling rope.*

The pepper-tree seats were important to Barbara and her friends. The surrounding shops were a necessary part of the fabric of the Infant, Primary and Technical schools as there were no school-operated canteens.



When it closed in 1992 the number of pupils at this school had dwindled to 66. But when Barbara attended it was a big school with 500 or more.

➤ *WALK EAST INTO ROSE STREET AND TURN LEFT INTO SOUTH ROAD*

### *15a. CORNER OF ROSE STREET AND SOUTH ROAD*

This part of South Road, from Henley Beach Road to the Torrens, was formerly called Taylor's Road, named after **Benjamin Taylor**, M.H.A., first mayor of Hindmarsh (1874-1876) and Thebarton (1883), who owned a tannery on the Torrens bank.

To the left can be seen the former Thebarton municipal building and Council Chamber, which was styled after **Thebarton Hall, Suffolk**, the home of the **Doughty** family who fostered **William Light** during his formative years and established him in his career.



*Image: Thebarton Municipal Office, South Road WTHS 2021*

There was no Institute Hall. The Institute Library was in an area behind the shops, just further south, on the corner of Henley Beach Road, with an entrance by a passageway, from Henley Beach Road, (later closed and converted into a shop, a new entrance being opened on the Taylor's Road side).

When the buildings were demolished the library was moved to the fine house purchased from the **Bridgman** family at 160 South Road, almost opposite Rose Street.



In 1999 the library was moved into the old Municipal building. Barbara won the Institute Library prize in the year she passed her Progress Certificate. SOE 154



To the right is the **Queen of Angels church**, which had a Catholic junior school on the northern side. The nuns sounded the bell every day at noon, and in those more quiet times it could be heard over a wide area. SOE 63

TO&N / Thebarton Heritage Survey 153-154

## ➤ WALK SOUTH TOWARDS HENLEY BEACH ROAD

### **16. [site of] THEBARTON GIRLS TECHNICAL SCHOOL**

*Henley Beach Road, Thebarton*

Built in 1927 as part of the Primary School, it was originally called **Thebarton Central School** but became **Thebarton Girls' Technical School** in approximately 1942. The building had extensive additions.

*... part of a school that was a factory, pumping forth each year, from the swollen Commercial class, the girls of fifteen who would go to work as typists and clerks. At eighteen they would get engaged, at twenty - married, at thirty - old.*

*Not once have thoughts of the meaning of life - or its lack of meaning, which is the same - been allowed to enter their heads.*

*We are all part of a monstrous tread-wheel of compromise maintained by teachers, parents, newspapers, girls we used to knowl by worthies who preside at Speech Days.*

*SOE p60, 64, 106, 154, 155, 160, 167-172, 179-181*



*Image: Thebarton Girls Technical School, 1961 WTHS collection*

## **17. CORNER OF HENLEY BEACH ROAD AND SOUTH ROAD**

From here, heading south to Burbridge Road, the road was called **Fisher Terrace**. The first set of traffic lights outside of the city were installed here in August 1947.

**Len Robert's Bookshop** SOE177 (South-west corner, where the service station is now) was also a newsagent, stationer and lending library.

The **Daisy Dell Milk Bar** (North-west corner) was in the complex of shops owned by the Thebarton Institute.

*The Daisy Dell Milkbar, The Blue Shop, and the Italian shop all had trolleys which magically appeared at the school fences at recess time. At lunch time students were allowed to go home or to the shops. The Daisy Dell had an island bar with bar-stools in the centre of the shop. Here, tomato soup was served at lunchtimes (nice in the winter), and milk shakes too.* SOE p 106-113, 137, 139-144, 151-155

Odger's workshop (formerly Ackland's old chaff store) was on the South-east corner. It was known as **Acklands corner**.

The **Odeon Picture Theatre** is now known as the Thebarton Theatre, the original **Thebarton Town Hall Building**.



WTHS Collection

➤ END OF WALK

Perhaps if we look at the historical and social context in which Barbara grew up, we can understand something of *The Scent of Eucalyptus*' universal appeal.

## THE DISTRICT IN THE 1940s AND EARLY 1950s

During her *Scent of Eucalyptus* years, 1939 to 1955, Barbara Hanrahan lived with her family at 58a Rose Street, Mile End.

Barbara's Mile End was the eastern part of the suburb, from Rose, Devon and Goodenough Streets in the north to King Street in the south. Within the wider council area of Thebarton, Mile End was a lower middle class suburb, primarily residential, divided into northern and southern parts by the Henley Beach Road and its shops.

Most of its houses had been built in the years from 1880 to 1915 and were mainly symmetrical cottages and small villas, together with a smaller number of single-fronted cottages and return verandah villas. They were comfortable dwellings constructed of brick with four, six, or more rooms, high ceilings and bluestone or freestone fronts.

Some 1920s bungalows were also built in the suburb. In the 1940s and early 1950s many of the houses still had their original roofs and paintwork. Today, some of the houses are still in existence and, fortunately, some retain their original character.



*Image: WTHS Collection*

Very close to Barbara's house was the working class "Old Village" of Thebarton which included the streets Light Terrace, Chapel Street, eastern George Street, Maria Street, Albert Street, Admella Street and South Terrace. Established in the 1840s and 1850s, it was extended as part of the ring of urban villages around central Adelaide by the boom period of the 1870's.

Other villages established included Hindmarsh, Prospect, Norwood, Eastwood and Unley. All these villages were walking distance from the City of Adelaide, near water and placed strategically on stock and transport routes.

The old village of Thebarton was largely comprised of Settlers' and Colonial cottages. These cottages were usually of two or four rooms and were made of stone or brick (a few were made of pise) and generally with a lean-to at the rear. They were built from the 1840s to the 1860s and now only vestiges remain. But in the 1940s and 1950s many were still occupied by poorer families.

Built on small allotments and close to the street the old Thebarton houses had insufficient space for large gardens. By comparison, Mile End houses had huge gardens. In these you would find the flowers that Barbara wrote about - roses, geraniums, cinerarias, fuchsias, lantana, dahlias, daffodils, jonquils, pansies and poppies - sometimes neatly arranged, with gravel paths or a lawn, and sometimes as part of a jungle.

*Image: Eileen McNamara nee  
Skinner at the home of Mr &  
Mrs E Riggs, Rowland Road  
Circa 1940  
WTHS collection*



The Mile End back yards had fruit trees (peaches, apricots, plums, quinces), almond trees, vegetable patches, maybe a lawn, and lots of earth and weeds. During summer days the scent was a heady mixture of flower perfumes.

In contrast to old Thebarton, Mile End had exotic street trees planted around 1920, which gave the streets an "avenue" appearance. The most common tree was the white cedar which provided lots of dense shade in the summertime. They were fun for children being easy to climb and had small hard green berries for ammunition, marbles, etc.

The Second World War saw an increase in the number of women in the paid workforce, but middle-class women with children generally did not engage in paid employment. They provided an important range of informal goods and services to people in their family, church and neighbourhood circles. They did the shopping (they walked to the shops), looked after the children, cooked the meals, baked scones and cakes, made jam, made icecream, and planted and tended the flowers.



*Image: Interior of Supermarket SLSA BRG-305-69-3-1*

Importantly, they talked to the neighbours and to people they met in the shops and in the street. Information and news quickly passed from one to the other. Gossip raged.

Children moved independently and in reasonable safety around the suburbs. They walked to school by themselves or with friends, or they

rode bicycles. After school and after tea they would safely play in the street as road traffic was light. Children, sometimes as young as six or seven, were regularly sent shopping alone. Older children could explore the district. Industrial premises, pugholes, the railway yards, and the parklands provided playgrounds for the more adventurous. Most of the children went to the Saturday matinees at the Odeon Picture Theatre.



Image: 1954 WTHS Collection

## HANRAHAN AND SOCIAL REFORM

Explore Barbara Hanrahan's Thebarton as the small world of one woman artist. Her personal contribution to the movement of women out of the bondage of inequality is a theme to examine.

In her book *Barbara Hanrahan - Primmaker* art gallery curator Alison Carroll wrote that Barbara's childhood:

*....was a typical Australian mixture of innocence of the world's evils and complexities combined with narrow taboos. However, unusually, her close family was of women only: a grandmother, Iris Pearl, mother, Ronda, and great-aunt, Reece...*



Barbara's mother, a commercial artist, was the family breadwinner. It was Barbara's grandmother, Iris, who took on the nurturing role by getting Barbara ready for school each day, welcoming her home, and taking her on outings. Naturally, Barbara developed a close relationship with her grandmother. In this close inner circle was Barbara's great-aunt, Reece, who had Down's Syndrome and is the perpetual child or "Kewpie Doll", the title of another of Barbara Hanrahan's books which explores women's roles.

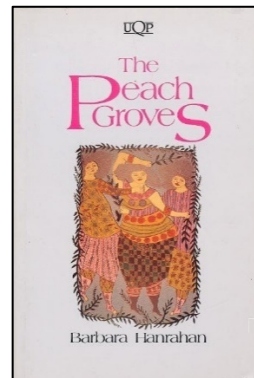
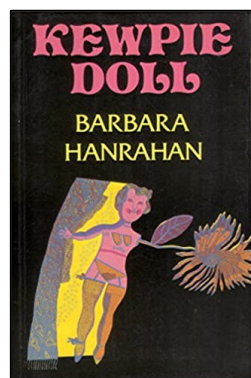
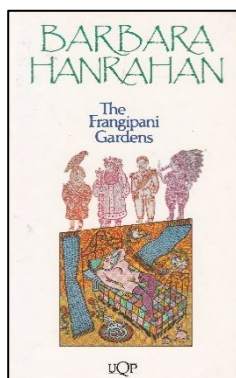
Summarising Barbara's situation, Alison Carroll continued:

*Circumstances set her apart from most families and their patterns, and influenced her own sense of difference and her desire to challenge convention.*

These conventions and conventional people told the schoolgirls of the district how they should behave, what they should (naturally) aspire to, and (without allowing any thought or questioning) how it would be.

*Subtly, with silver tongues, these bland-faced directors and superintendents and inspectors reduced us to our stations; their highest modicum of praise was that one of us would make an admirable girl in an office. SOEp 181*

Barbara's common theme in her art and her books is society's norms and conventions and their effect on individuals, especially women. Some of her books centre on the quiet, heroic and sometimes agonizing struggle of women living ordinary lives in places like Thebarton.



## HANRAHAN AND ADELAIDE'S COLLECTIVE MEMORY

The Scent of Eucalyptus connects us with our collective Adelaide memory, in particular our collective memory of visits to Central Market, Beehive corner and Rundle Street, Henley Beach and the Adelaide Hills. But it is through the presentation of the inner circle of home and the home suburb that Barbara connects us to the inner circle of all our childhoods.

### BIOGRAPHY

Barbara Janice Hanrahan was born on 6 September 1939 at St Ives Hospital, Henley Beach Road, New Mile End. Her father died when she was one year and one day old. She grew up with her mother, grandmother and great-aunt, a family which, until 1955, lived in a house in Rose Street, Mile End. After attending the Lady Gowrie Child Centre, Barbara attended the Thebarton Infant School, the Thebarton Primary School and the Thebarton Girls' Technical School.



*Image: Barbara Hanrahan at Thebarton Girls Technical High School  
SLSA PRG 961/30/116*

From 1957 to 1959 Barbara studied art teaching at the Adelaide Teachers' College, and attended art classes at the South Australian School of Art. In 1960 she was awarded a Diploma in Art Teaching, the H. P. Gill Medal, School Council Prize for Art Teaching. Barbara taught in secondary schools in South Australia but in order to further develop her art she sailed for London in 1963, where she attended the Central School of Art.

Concentrating mostly on etching and printmaking, Barbara produced more than four hundred different works. She is represented in galleries around the world and has held over thirty one-woman exhibitions. She lectured in art in England at the Falmouth School of Art and the Portsmouth College of Art. In Adelaide Barbara lectured at Western Teachers College, South Australian School of Art, Salisbury College of Advanced Education and Torrens College of Art (all became part of the University of South Australia).

Barbara wrote 13 novels, two collections of short stories, and selected and illustrated a limited edition of John Shaw Neilson's poetry.

The Scent of Eucalyptus (1973)  
Sea Green (1974)  
The Albatross Muff (1977)  
Where the Queens All Strayed (1978)  
The Peach Groves (1979)  
The Frangipani Gardens (1980)  
Dove (1982)  
Kewpie Doll (1984)  
Annie Magdalene (1985)  
Dream People (1987)  
A Chelsea Girl (1988)  
Flawless Jade (1989)  
Iris in Her Garden (1991)  
Michael and Me and the Sun (1992)  
Good Night, Mr Moon (1992)

Barbara died in Adelaide on 12 December 1991.

## THE BARBARA HANRAHAN COMMUNITY TAPESTRY PROJECT (1999-2000)

In 1999, the Barbara Hanrahan Community Tapestry Project drew a community of weavers together to interpret Barbara's work into tapestry. Inspired by her writing and prints that helped to shape their understanding of the period and place in Australian culture, Australia in the 1950's and 1960's, particularly the inner city and working class area of Thebarton.

A large tapestry based on the print the *Puppetmaster* was woven in the State Library of South Australia and a series of smaller tapestries were woven in the Thebarton library which served the community where Barbara spent her childhood.



The tapestries were designed by some of the weavers involved in the project and were an interpretation of Barbara's writing, patterns and print images. The intention was to illuminate aspects of Barbara's creative process and to also speak for the women who designed them.

Weavers included Sally Brokensha, Kirsty Darlaston, Karen Russell, Jeanette Marshall, Sharyn Kaesehagen, Dina van der Gaag and Beverly Bills. Members of the public were invited to weave a 'pass' in the tapestry with the assistance of the project weavers.

Four forums were simulatenously held to compliment the tapestry project. These were arranged seasonally to coincide with those represented in Hanrahan's prints.

This *Scent of Eucalyptus* walk, led by historian Glen Ralph, enabled the group to visit the places mentioned in Barbara's first book, *The Scent of Eucalyptus*.

**For this community event the original 1994 walk booklet was updated and included additions by Kay Lawrence. These have been incorporated into this 2021 edition.**

*Her memories of her childhood are expressed with such vivid detail in her writing and prints have the power to connect us to our own memories of our own childhoods in other places.* Kay Lawrence Project Coordinator

An additional tapestry was also woven at the Thebarton Library to mark the significance of the City of West Torrens Council and the involvement of its local community in this project.

The title 'Weave your own world' was taken from the diaries of Barbara Hanrahan. The image was based on the Barbara Hanrahan lino print 'Angel' created in 1991.

The weavers altered the look of the tree to resemble the Laurel tree growing outside of the West Torrens Library. This tree is significant to the library, and the building was constructed to fit around it.

The tapestry continues to be displayed at the West Torrens Library.



## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- BRANSON, V. M. *Thebarton and West Torrens Sketch Book*. [with] drawings by David John Adelaide, Rigby, 1978. (*T& WTSB*)
- BURGESS, A., KEEVES, E., [and] PREST, E. J. *Jubilee History of the Kindergarten Union of South Australia*. Edited by Helen Jones. Adelaide, Kindergarten Union of South Australia, 1975. (*Jubilee History of the Kindergarten Union of S.A.*)
- CARROLL, Alison. *Barbara Hanrahan printmaker*. Netley, S Aust: Wakefield Press, 1986. (*Barbara Hanrahan, Printmaker*)
- DANVERS ARCHITECTS PTY. LTD. *Thebarton Heritage Survey*. Adelaide, Danvers, 1991. (*Thebarton Heritage Survey*)
- DINGLE, Kel *The Scent of Eucalyptus Walk*. [Booklet] Friends of the Thebarton Library, Thebarton Historical Society, University of South Australia, 1994. (*The Scent of Eucalyptus Walk*)
- DONOVAN, Peter. *Between the city and the sea - a history of West Torrens*. Wakefield Press 1986 (*BC&theS*)
- HANRAHAN, Barbara Annie Magdalene. London, Chatto & Windus, 1986. (*Annie Magdalene*)
- HANRAHAN, Barbara *The Diaries of Barbara Hanrahan*. Edited by Elaine Lindsay. St. Lucia, Brisbane, University of Queensland Press, 1998. (*Diaries*)
- HANRAHAN, Barbara *Dream People*. London, Grafton Books, 1987. (*Dream People*)
- HANRAHAN, Barbara *Iris in her Garden: eight stories*. St. Lucia, Brisbane, University of Queensland Press, 1992. (*Iris in her Garden*)
- HANRAHAN, Barbara *Michael and Me and the Sun*. St. Lucia, Brisbane, University of Queensland Press, 1992. (*Michael and Me and the Sun*)
- HANRAHAN, Barbara. *The scent of eucalyptus*. London: Chatto & Windus 1973. (*SOE*)
- LAWRENCE, Kay. *The Barbara Hanrahan Community Tapestry Project*. 1994.

PAYNE, Pauline *Thebarton Old and New*. Thebarton, Thebarton City Council, 1996. (TO&N)

RALPH, Glen *Index to Barbara Hanrahan's The Scent of Eucalyptus*. Lockleys, Wilmar Library, 1994 (Index to SoE)

RALPH, Glen. *Thebarton Primary School 1879-1979: A History* Adelaide, 1979 1st edition. Thebarton, Thebarton Primary School 1979. (TPS)

TREGENZA, John & FENNER, Charles *Thebarton Cottage*. Edited by Glen Ralph. Lockleys, Wilmar Library/Thebarton Historical Society, 1994. (*Thebarton Cottage*)

WILLIAMS, M. *The making of the South Australian landscape*. London and New York: Academic Press, 1974.

# The Scent of Eucalyptus Walk: an historical walk of Barbara Hanrahan's THEBARTON

Update 6/2021

Details correct at time of publication

*Please advise any additions or errors to email address below*



**West Torrens  
Historical Society Inc.**

*Striving to generate interest in local history*

## CONTACT

Website: [westtorrenshistory.org](http://westtorrenshistory.org)  
Email: [westtorrenshistory@gmail.com](mailto:westtorrenshistory@gmail.com)  
Address: 327 Marion Road, North Plympton (BUS STOP 9B)  
Post: PO Box 43, Marleston 5033



West Torrens Historical Society