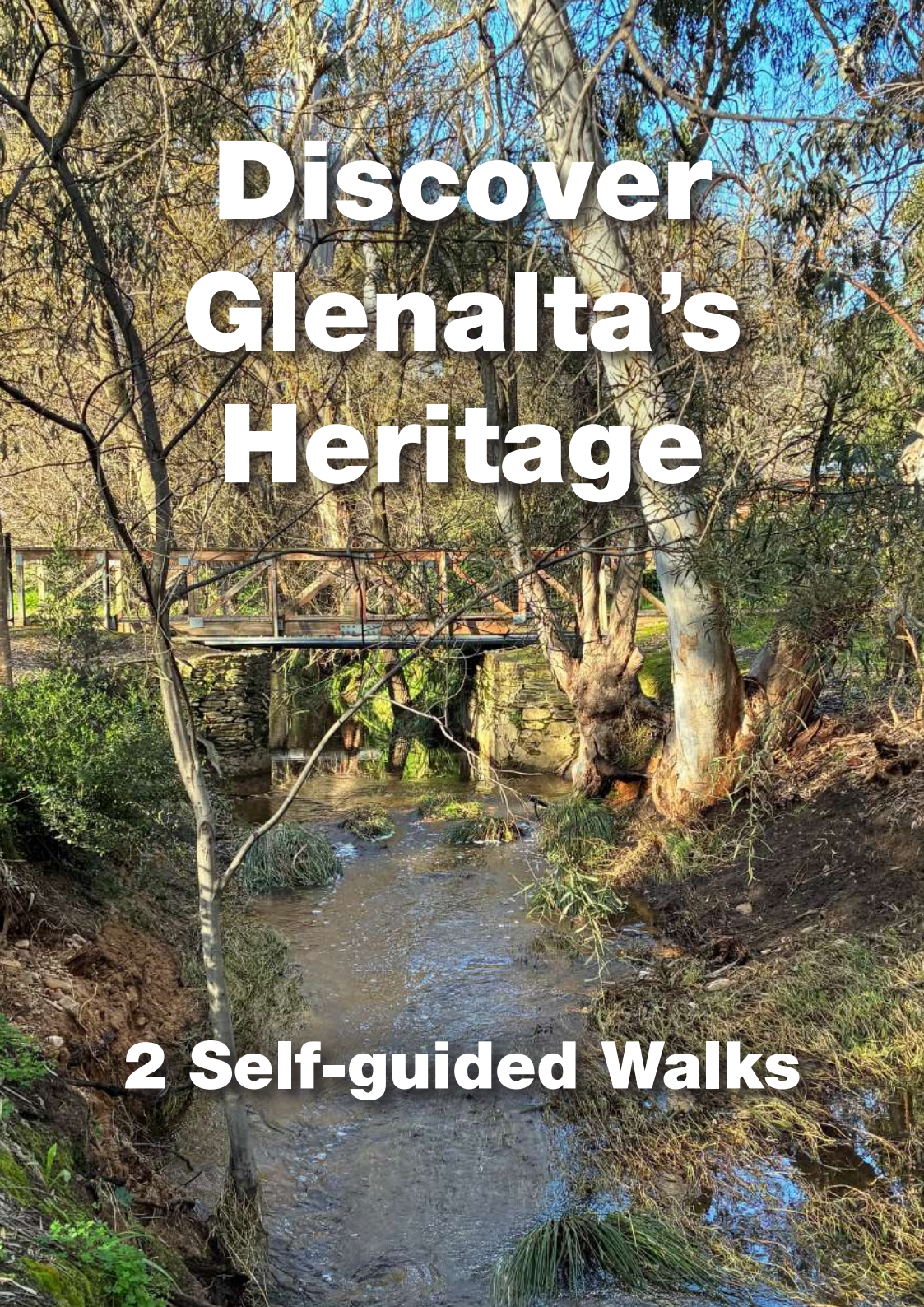


A scenic view of a river flowing through a wooded area. In the background, a wooden bridge with railings spans the river. The river is surrounded by lush greenery and trees, some with bare branches and others with green leaves. The water is calm, reflecting the surrounding trees and sky. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

Discover Glenalta's Heritage

2 Self-guided Walks

Discover Glenalta's History

Introduction

We respectfully acknowledge the Kaurna people as the traditional custodians of the land which became Glenalta.

Glenalta's streets follow the area's natural contours and wind around the creeks that originate in the Belair National Park. It is bordered by the railway line / Cypress Avenue to the west, Laffers Road to the north, Upper Sturt Road and the Belair National Park to the east, and Hawthorndene Drive to the south. It includes Sections 878 and 879 in the north and Sections 874, 875, 1063 and 1279 in the south. These sections were usually 80 acres.

In 1840, Glenalta land was included in the SA Government plan for a Government Farm. However, when the colony's capital works programme had a cost overrun the plan was cut back and the land disposed of as Land Grants to 'gentlemen' looking to grow their wealth. Coutts was first in 1844. Then Daniel Tregallis took up land grants in the north-eastern area in 1847, naming the property Blackwood Vale Farm after the abundant dark limbed trees. Soon after, key landowners began purchasing large acreage properties, attracted by woodland and the natural water supply, especially from Minno Creek, essential for agriculture, horticulture and habitation. As elsewhere in the Adelaide Hills, orchards soon spread across the district and large land holdings changed hands many times. Few older residences remain, but some with significant history are identified along the walks.

The first significant subdivision creating suburban sized blocks occurred in 1926. However, the development of Glenalta did not happen in earnest until the period of the 1950s to the 1970s. In 1954, blocks sold for £150 but were not connected to water, power and sewerage for several years. Several names such as Sun Valley and Sherwood were used to promote the sale of various land subdivisions. 'Glenalta', was chosen in the late 1940s as the name of the suburb, after the many gullies and hills in the area. Many of the suburb's 44 streets were named according to themes such as birds, Hollywood, and Robin Hood. Scottish links and early settlers were also acknowledged.

Although the Adelaide to Melbourne railway was opened in 1883, it was not until 1934 that a timetabled station called Belair Rd was established. It was renamed Glenalta in 1948. Prior to this, people hailed trains to get on or off near the Belair Hotel, built in 1880. The railway construction led to the rerouting of Main Road.

The area is blessed with several open space reserves, enabling retention of magnificent old trees and bushland and provision of community recreational amenities like playgrounds. This has created an idyllic environment for young

families, with children having the opportunity to climb trees, pick fruit from remnants of old orchards, play in the creeks and nature, and ride around the safe neighbourhood.

From 1912, children could attend Belair Primary School on Sheoak Road, where St Johns Junior Grammar School is now located, or catch the train to other local public schools such as Blackwood and Mitcham. With many young families buying into the area in the 1950s, the Belair Primary School was relocated to Main Rd, Belair, and early childhood educational services were established within Glenalta.

In terms of other services, just outside the Glenalta boundaries, north of Laffers Road, the Blackwood and District Community Hospital was established in 1954 through community fundraising. Within Glenalta there was only one church. A general store and unofficial post office opened on Main Road, Glenalta, in the 1950s, and several shops including Tom the Cheap supermarket opened across the road from the hotel in the 1960s. But Glenalta residents mostly relied on businesses and amenities in Blackwood and Belair, or further afield as cars and buses became common place. The nearby Belair Hotel has remained a significant community meeting place since 1880.

We hope you will enjoy discovering the local heritage and history of Glenalta as you explore the leafy suburb using this guide.

Self-Guided Walks

Two directed walks (1.5-2hrs) have been created but can be varied as you wish.



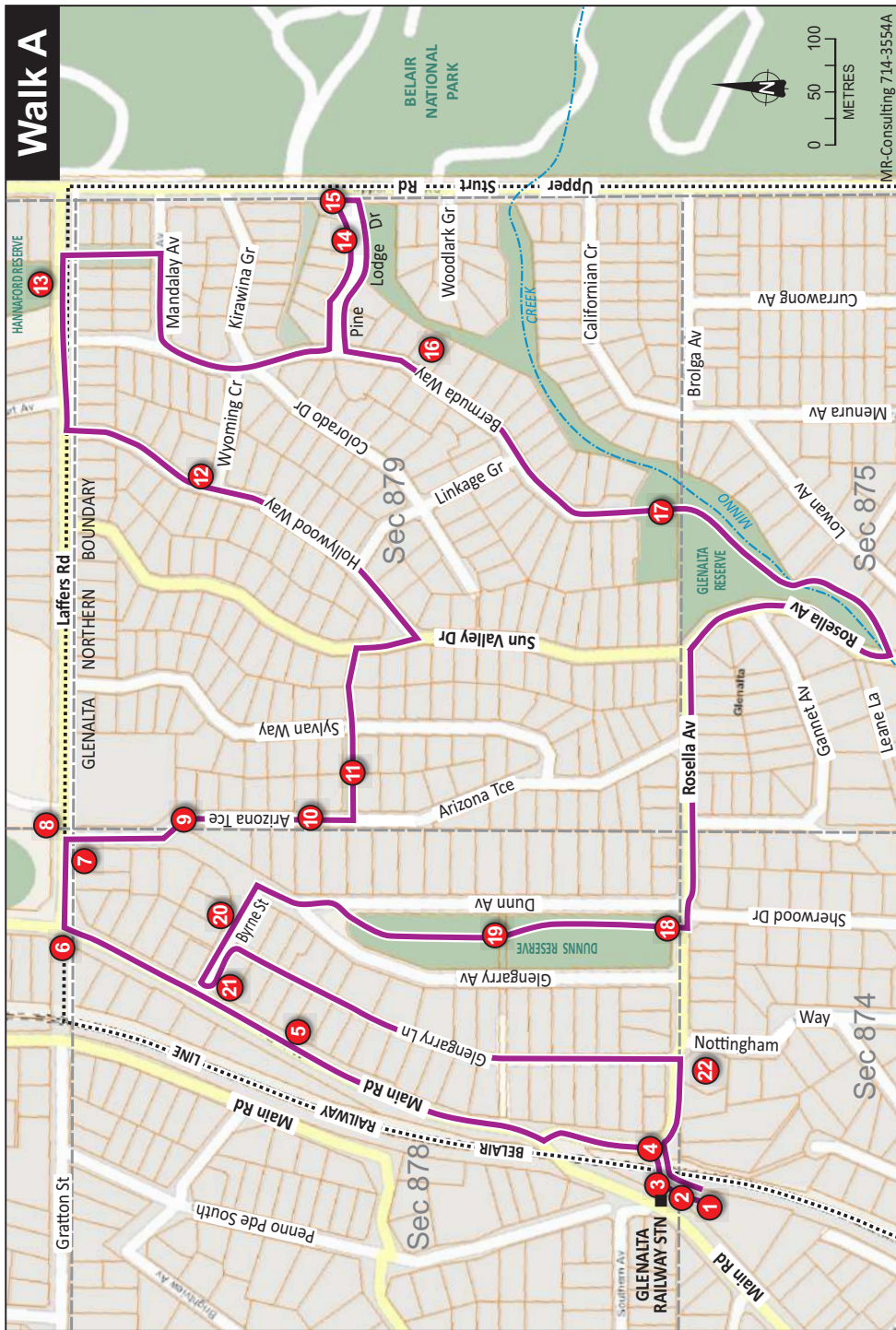
Where this symbol appears, it represents private property and cannot be entered. It remains a POI = **Place of Interest only**.

Acknowledgements

- **This heritage walk brochure was produced in 2026 by Blackwood Action Group's History Group to celebrate 100 years of Glenalta as a suburb.**
- **City of Mitcham** has provided project funding through the Maggy Ragless Memorial Grant. (Maggy Ragless (1952–2012) was Community Historian for City of Mitcham for 26 years.)
- Significant use was made of **Land Services SA (Archives)**, **State Library of SA (SLSA)**, **Genealogy SA** and **Trove** to help present accurate information.
- **City of Mitcham's Heritage Research Centre (MHRC)** has provided many of the photographs and has been a useful source of information.
- We also thank the many **community members** who have contributed.

Additional information and photographs to enhance or correct our collection of stories/information about Glenalta are welcomed. To provide these, contact: blackwoodactiongroup.org.au

Walk A



Walk A: Starts at the car park on the south side of the Glenalta railway station.

Walk towards Belair Hotel to view the original two-story quarry stone building, which is south beyond the Sports Bar.

1A. Blackwood Inn and Belair Hotel: Main Rd, Blackwood

The land on which this hotel stands is not actually in Glenalta but in the early days before the railway line's dissection of the land in 1880s, this was part of the extensive property known as Blackwood Farm. (Land Sections 874, 875, 1063. See maps.) It was owned by Robert Burfield until 1878 when it was sold to Philip Frederick Laffer.

Mitcham District Council divided the area into wards in 1881 and land on the western side of the railway became part of Blackwood.

Blackwood Inn (photo on the left) was opened on this land by Robert Burfield in about 1869. As a clever entrepreneur and local resident, he seized the opportunity to establish the inn after the closing of the Travellers Rest Inn at Belair. This was due to the rerouting of the old Govt Road from Mitcham and the construction of a new road via Windy Point in 1866. The next watering hole enroute to Goolwa was at Clarendon.

Burfield initially built a rough hut, a blacksmith shop and a stable to provide hospitality to travellers and care for their horses overnight. Following Burfield's death in 1878, the Belair Hotel was built adjoining the inn in 1880 on what had become Laffer's property.



Blackwood Inn c.1869 & orig. house, courtesy MHRC



Belair Hotel c.1890, MHRC

Walk back towards the railway station to view the colourful mural, POI.

2A. Mural of Belair Hotel

The mural on the control shed of Australian Rail Track Corporation was painted by artist Vaughn Odenaal (Vinko) in 2025 from a 1936 photo (SLSA B 31810).

Walk to the railway station, POI.

3A. Glenalta Station

The Adelaide-Nairne railway opened in 1883. In early times, passengers flagged down the train and climbed aboard using steps lowered from the carriage. 'Belair Rd' station opened in 1934. The station name was changed to Glenalta in 1948. See 3B

Walk back to the rail pedestrian crossing, over the tracks (when it is clear) to asphalt road, to view POI.

4A. Main Rd and Rosella Ave: roadway

The section of road running north from the rail pedestrian crossing was originally part of Main Rd before the railway was built (refer to Item 3B). Rosella Ave leading to the east (to Gannet Ave) was a property border, essentially a 'farm fence' rather than a road.

Use the footpath to take Main Rd to the north. POI is about 300m ahead on the right.

5A. General Store: 107–9 Main Rd Glenalta

Shee's store, which served groceries, 'delicatessen' smallgoods, ice creams etc. was established on Main Road in the 1950s. Ownership changed hands several times and the variety of services also changed. In 1957, Gaze's store also became an agent for the South Australian Insurance Co., Commonwealth Savings Bank and Lasscocks Nurseries. In 1966, Higgs opened a Serv-Wel store. Unfortunately, the development of large supermarkets (Tom the Cheap opposite the Belair Hotel and others in Blackwood) saw the demise of the Glenalta Serv-Wel store. The building is currently occupied by Cooida Curtains & Blinds, which manufactures and supplies many of its own products.



Shee's General Store advertisement



Current Cooida Curtains & Blinds shop

Continue to corner of Main Rd and Laffer Rd. POI is west across Main Rd.

6A. Gratton St Walkway: alongside 90 Main Rd & in line with Laffers Rd

Historically this was a road easement that was never developed. The walkway today serves people living to the west (Belair) as a pedestrian crossing over the railway line, especially for those walking to shops or schools located in Belair.

Turn east toward the church.

7A. Our Lady of the Way Church: 1 Arizona Tce

The current Catholic Church building was opened in 1974. The previous church, established in the Belair on Sheoak Rd in 1966, was affectionately known as 'The Tin Shed'. This newer church was comparatively more spacious and comfortable.



Cross over to the other side corner - Laffers Rd/Arizona Tce. View the POI which is across Laffers Rd, extending back (north) left and right beyond the hedge.

8A. Monalta Estate, Belair

Belair Primary School (BPS) and the Community Health facility occupy a site which was formerly Monalta House. The property was owned by A.G. Downer (from 1880) and H.O. Hannaford (from 1920) until 1954 when it became Blackwood and District Community Hospital. (Refer also to Item 12A–13A.). The school was opened in 1958.

Turn and follow Arizona Tce to POI on left (east).



Upper Glenalta and lower Monalta, Google Earth 2008

9A. Former Belair Junior Primary School

The land on the corner of Arizona Tce and Laffers Road was purchased by GA Adcock as Belair Estate and sold to the Minister of Education in 1956. In response to a growing student population at the neighbouring primary school, Belair Junior Primary School (BJPS) commenced in 1965 on this site. At its peak, the school had about 200 students. BJPS co-located with BPS in 1997. The two principals worked collaboratively and all facilities, resources and staff were shared across the Belair Schools' campus. In 2013 the two schools amalgamated to become Belair Primary School. A retirement village was built in 2011 on the site of the BJPS land called Belair Close.



Belair Junior Primary School (BJPS) 1975, MHRC

Continue south along Arizona Tce to POI on left (east).

10A. Jean Bonython Kindergarten: 11 Arizona Tce

The kindergarten was established around 1950 and named in 1952 after Lady Constance Jean Bonython OBE (1891–1977). Lady Bonython, who trained as a social worker, was a strong advocate for the kindergarten movement and was also Mayoress of City of Adelaide in 1913 and from 1927 to 1930. The kindergarten continues to offer programmes to support local children's early years learning.

Continue south past the Kindergarten for about 30 metres, on Arizona Ave. Take the walkway eastwards, towards Sylvan Way and continue eastwards using the 'connecting' walkways through to Sun Valley Drive.

11A. Series of walkways

These walkways provide a shortcut for pedestrians by connecting the roads in the Hollywood Estate. (Note that there are some steep sections and stairs.) For walkers who want to finish (or start) the walk here, there are bus stops on Hollywood Way.

Turn right (south) on Sun Valley Dr until Hollywood Way, then walk up (north) to the corner of Hollywood Way and Wyoming Cres. POI is on the right (east).

12A. Laffer's House: 7 Hollywood Way



James Laffer purchased land in 1852 and built a cottage on the site. The property was passed on through the generations. It seems the cottage was enlarged in several stages to become a substantial sized homestead when grandson George Richards Laffer owned it from 1909 until 1950s.

The Laffer family grew pears, plums and quinces and conducted growing experiments well before the Blackwood Government Orchard was established in Hawthorndene in 1908. See back page for more information about the contribution of the Laffer family.

The land was leased to the Hannafords (who owned land to the north of Laffers Rd, in Monalta) for approximately 15 years. Real Estate Agent G.A. Adcock subdivided the land as Sun Valley Estate in 1958. (Refer also to Item 16A).



Laffer's original cottage was built c.1886, corner of Hollywood Way and Wyoming Cres., MHRC

Proceed along Hollywood Way north to Laffers Rd. Turn right and walk a little way to view Hannaford Reserve on the northern side of Laffers Rd.

13A. Hannaford Reserve: Laffers Rd, Belair

This land was owned by the Hannaford family. The old stone wine cellar, originally built in 1852 to hold the wine produced on the 17 acres of vineyards, has walls about a metre thick. In 1946 Doug Hannaford converted the wine cellar, on his dairying property, into a cold store so that fruit could then be stored for a long time without rotting. Market gardeners from Coromandel Valley also stored their produce here. Currently, the reserve has a Rotary sponsored shelter with a picnic table and benches, a Mitcham City Council heritage table, public art, and plenty of open space.



Doug Hannaford herding cows past old wine store, later used to store fruit. c.1973, MHRC

Opposite the Hannaford reserve is the Mandalay Reserve. Walk through this reserve and then turn west on Mandalay Ave, south on Bermuda Way and then east on Pine Lodge Drive. POI is on left at end of street.

14A. Pine Lodge Cottage: 2 Pine Lodge Dr



Pine Lodge Cottage built c.1860, MHRC

Phillip Laffer took over this land from his father, James, in 1854, built a house for his orchard gardeners, then in 1860 set aside land with a cottage for his younger brother, James. It is opposite the entrance of Belair National Park and adjacent to a reserve.

Move to the edge of Upper Sturt Rd to view the POIs which are on the left and right of the street as you look across Upper Sturt Rd.

15A. Entrances to Belair National Park & National Park Holiday Park

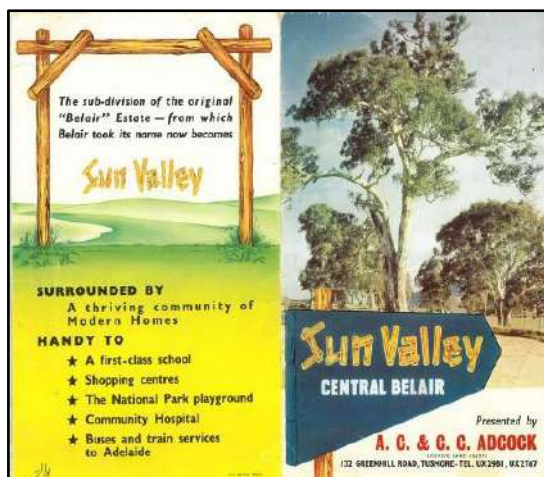
Looking to the left (north) along Upper Sturt Rd is Minno Creek and the main entrance to Belair National Park. Belair National Park, established in 1891, was the second national park in Australia, and a wonderful nature playground for Glenalta families. Further south (right) along Upper Sturt Road is the entrance to the very popular Belair National Park Holiday Park, which has operated on this site since the early 1980s.

Turn back on Pine Lodge Dr. and return to Bermuda Way. POI is simply an amble through part of the original Laffer property until the cul-de-sac/ entrance to the reserve.

16A. Sun Valley Estate

Geoffrey A Adcock bought the Laffer property in 1955. It had been an extensive and important experimental orchard - see 12A and last page. It stretched from Arizona Tce to Upper Sturt Rd and Laffers Rd to Brolga Ave-Rosella Ave. (Section 879)

AC & CC Adcock developed the land and strategically chose an American theme for their sales promotion which began in 1958. Post war, American cultural influence was strong, so the area name 'Sun Valley' and street names such as Hollywood, Wyoming, Colorado and Bermuda were a popular draw card.



Approximately 300 'picturesque' sites were sold by early 1960.

Modern infrastructure was promised. See advertisement alongside and on the back cover of this booklet.

It was some time before sewerage was properly established, with many stories of failing or overflowing septic tanks leading to the area being known as "stink valley".

Sun Valley Estate sales brochure, MHRC

Walk south to the beginning of Sun Valley & Glenalta Reserve. Continue onto Walking SA path, stray left and right to explore reserve areas. ** Take care when accessing places to view waterway habitat.

17A. Sun Valley & Glenalta Reserves and bridge

This reserve has two names since it is cut by a surveying border. It is recognised by Mitcham City Council (MCC) as a Bushland Reserve. It provides opportunities to appreciate natural untended bushland and biodiversity. Many walkers, cyclists and pooches pass through here. The view from the bridge, over Minno Creek, is worth a look over the side in all directions for watercourse flow, banks, beds and ducks. Look for 'fairy gardens' created by local residents beside paths in the area!

Turn hard right to north and continue around the bend and over the rise on Rosella Ave. Now heading west on Rosella, just past Dunn Ave, take the path into POI, Dunns Res.

18A. Dunns Reserve

This is a more open, less dense bushland reserve than other reserves on this walk, so it is easier to look for flora, fauna and natural waterways. View information boards about restoration efforts and identification of local flora and fauna. Take a walk 'off the beaten track' through the reserve. (Refer to information listed for Item 19A–21A)

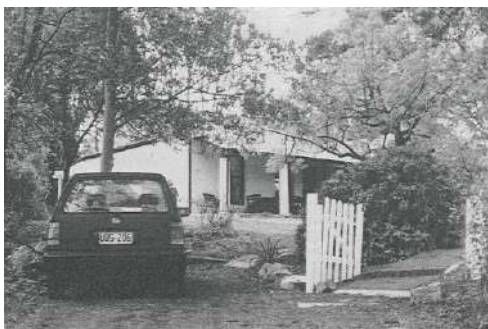
Continue north. POI is on right.

19A. Belair Girl Guides Hall: Dunn Ave

Girl Guides were relocated from Hawthorndene in March 1968 when the new hall was opened. Unfortunately, it was destroyed by fire on 14 September 1977. The rebuilt hall was officially opened on 17 September 1978 by Mrs Jan Forrest, State Commissioner, and is still in use today. With many building improvements, the hall is part of the Mitcham City Council's Green Energy Plan.

Continue north, viewing the bushland and drainage control at junction of Dunn Ave & Glengarry Ave. Where Glengarry meets Byrne St, view laneway / walkway (to Arizona Tee). Turn west, and POI is on right at intersection of Byrne St and Glengarry Lane.

20A. Blackwood Vale Farmhouse: 1 Byrne St



POI is the site of the house built by first settler, Daniel Tregallis, who received Section 878 land grant in c.1847. William Dunn, from WA, owned a 32 acre portion in 1922. In 1924, it was occupied by a tenant farmer. In 1926, Dunn subdivided his portion into 62 allotments. Local realtors Wilkinson, Sando & Wyles promoted it as Blackwood Park. It took 20 years to sell.

Tregallis home built c.1860. Owned by Dunn in 1924 until land subdivision in 1926. MHRC. This photo shows the modernised home. It no longer exists.

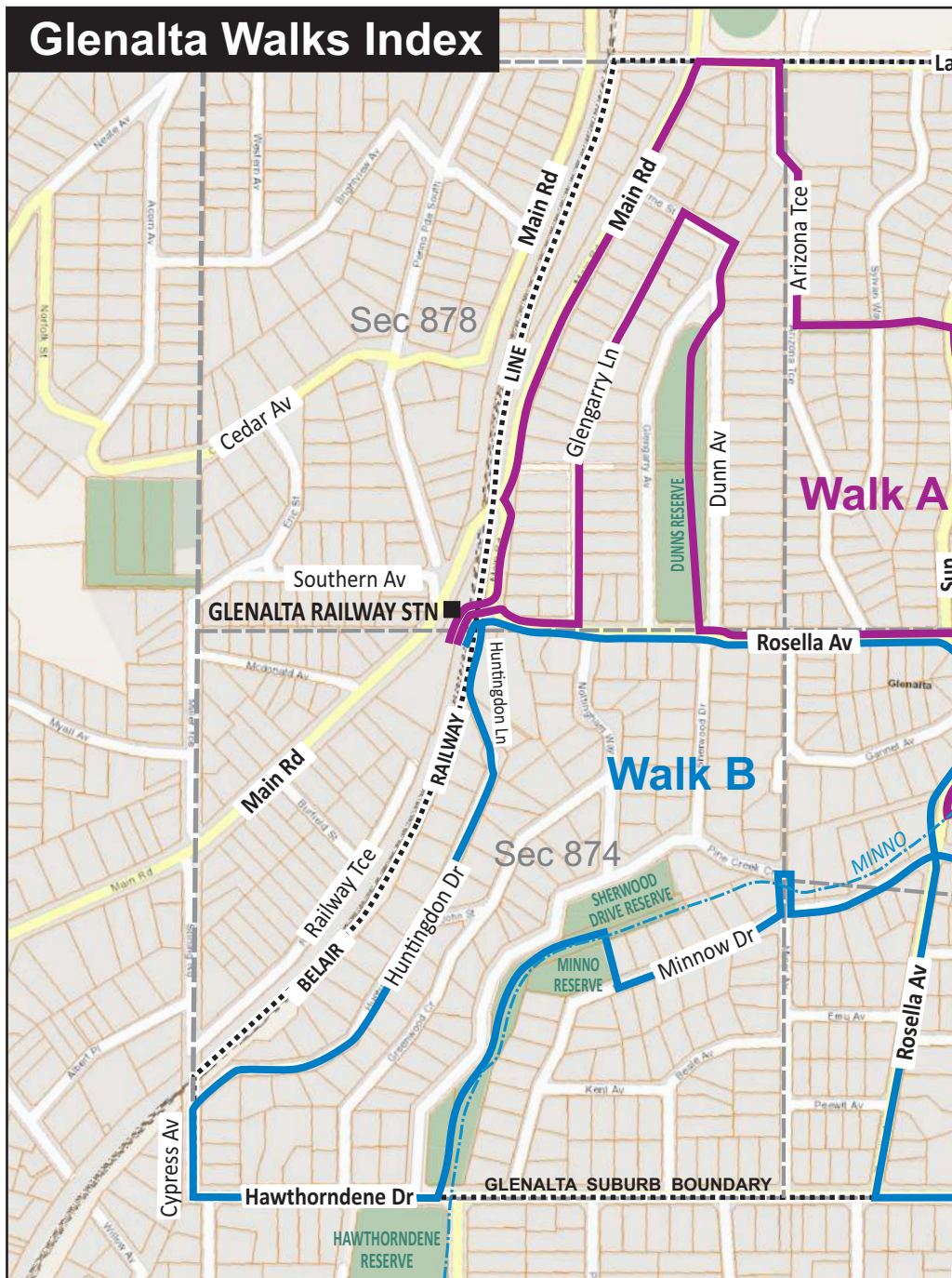
At the corner of Byrne St and Glengarry Ln, head west until Main Rd.

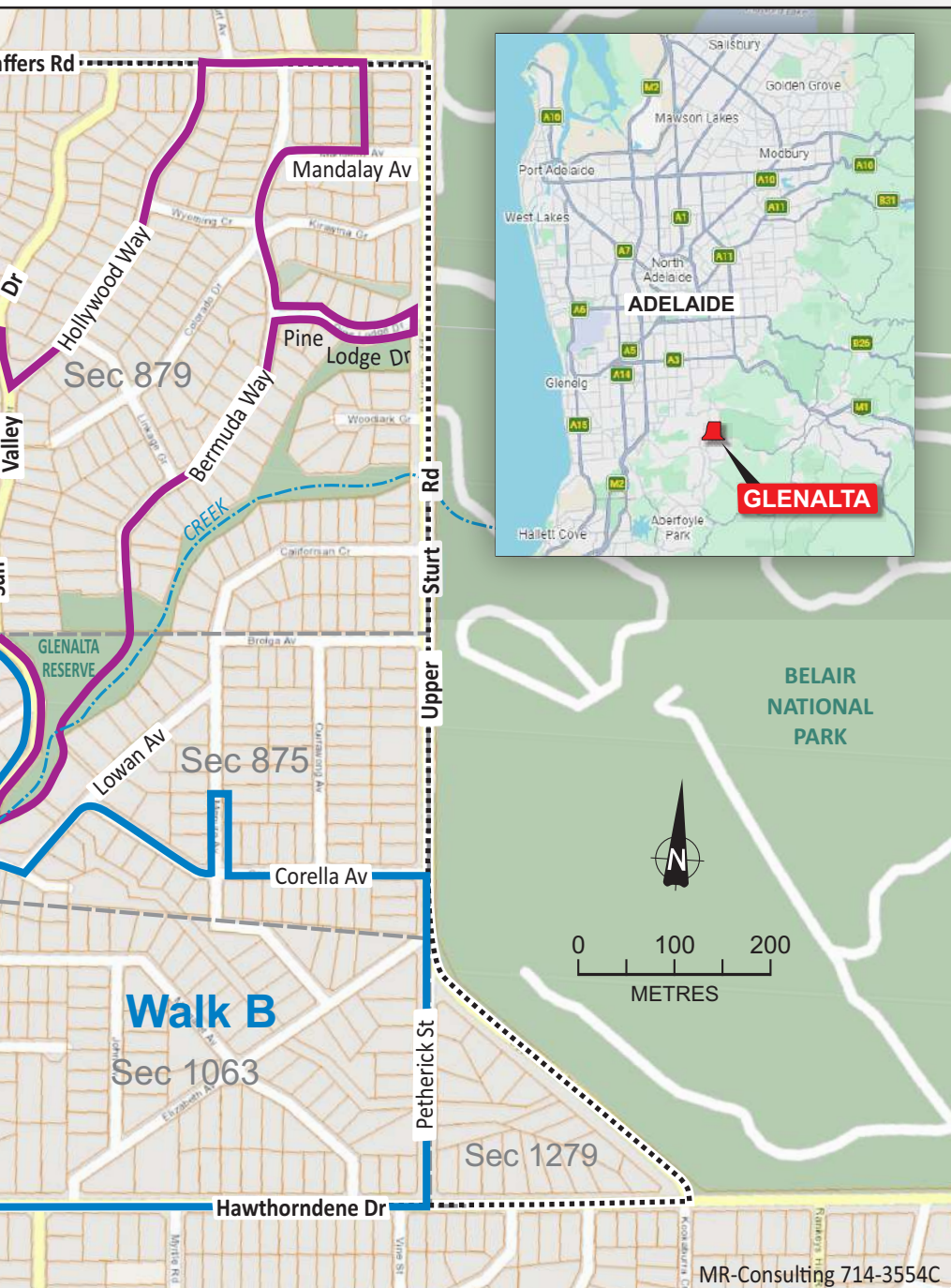
21A. House, part of Dunn's Estate: 99 Main Rd

POI is the house on the corner of Main Road and Byrne Street, which was built on land subdivided by William Dunn in 1926.

Turn into Glengarry Lane and continue south to end. Cross over Rosella Ave to view POI, which is on the corner of Nottingham Way.

Glenalta Walks Index





22A. Burfield / Winser house and property: 2 Nottingham Way

The original owner of the extensive Blackwood Farm property on which this large home still stands was Robert Burfield from 1850. (See 1A) The farm was over 100 acres of fertile soil and yielded fruit all year round. The orchard was established with oranges, lemons, peaches, pears, almonds, walnuts, cape gooseberries, strawberries and grapes. Permanent water came from the Minno Creek which ran through the property.

The house was probably built between 1855–1869 as his daughter was married on the property in 1861 and it was put up for sale in 1869. The 1869 advertisement for the sale of the property confirms the property ownership, the presence of the large homestead and farm details above.

After Burfield's death in 1878, the trustees sold the property to A.G. Downer in 1886. After AGD's death in 1916, it was passed on to Downer's son, James, who sold it to Cyril Legh Winser (c.1920). (See last page to learn more about Burfield and Downer.)



Cyril Legh Winser 1884–1983

A distinguished Glenalta resident!

He was a significant landowner in the southern half of Glenalta and an orchardist - see map 4B.

Legh was also private secretary to three governors of SA, a champion Australian amateur golfer and SA cricketer.



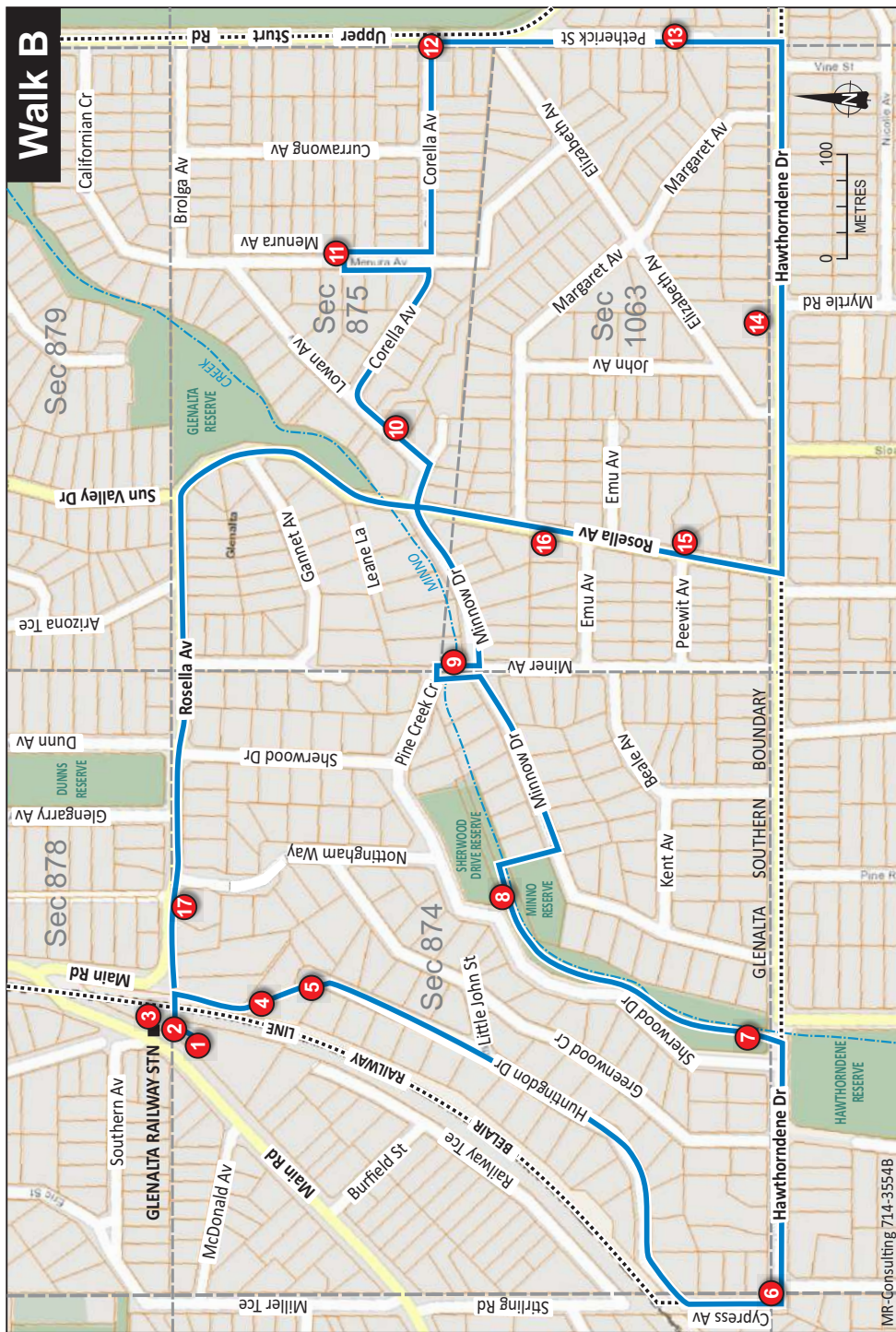
Nottingham way was the name given to the street after subdivision of the large property in 1962, when creating Sherwood Estate in which street names were based on themes around Robin Hood/Sherwood Forest. The house has served as a four-star Bed & Breakfast in recent times. (Refer to information listed for Item 9B).



Robert Burfield's house was built c.1860 on Blackwood Farm, then owned by his Trustees from 1878, sold to Downer 1886 and then Cyril Legh Winser c.1920. Courtesy Brock Real Estate Pty Ltd Dec 2001

Walk west up Rosella Ave, towards the rail pedestrian crossing, over the tracks-and back to your start location.

Walk B



Walk B: Starts at the car park on the south side of the Glenalta railway station.

Walk towards Belair Hotel, stop near the pedestrian crossing over the tracks and view three POIs ahead and to the east.

1B. Belair Hotel: Main Rd, Blackwood

Refer to information listed for Walk A, Item 1A.



Belair Hotel c.1899 and original house (left) MHRC



Belair Hotel c.1936, MHRC

2B. Mural of Belair Hotel

Refer to information listed for Walk A, Item 2A.

3B. Glenalta Station

The single rail line from Adelaide to Nairne went through Glenalta in 1883, but the station did not exist until much later. Double track went through in 1928, and a stopping place was established in 1932. A stopping place had wooden step-down platforms and a 'train indicator'. This was a circular target which intending passengers turned to face oncoming trains to get them to stop. Much later, probably around the 1940s, the step-down platforms were replaced with the concrete platforms that are there now. In 1934 the station was timetabled as 'Belair Road'. In 1948 the name was changed to 'Glenalta', the name of the developing suburb.



This 1955 photo of an Oakbank Race Train racing through Glenalta shows the step-down platforms, the ground level shelter and the tall black train indicator at the end of the platform. Wig-wag warning gongs came in the 1930s. They were replaced by flashing lights in 1973.

Source: Doug Colquhoun, Cliff Olds Collection.



By the time of diesel locomotives, in this c.1960s photo, the station had acquired full height concrete platforms, new platform shelters and electric light. Train indicators, now painted white, on both platforms are still in use. Source: Hugh Williams.



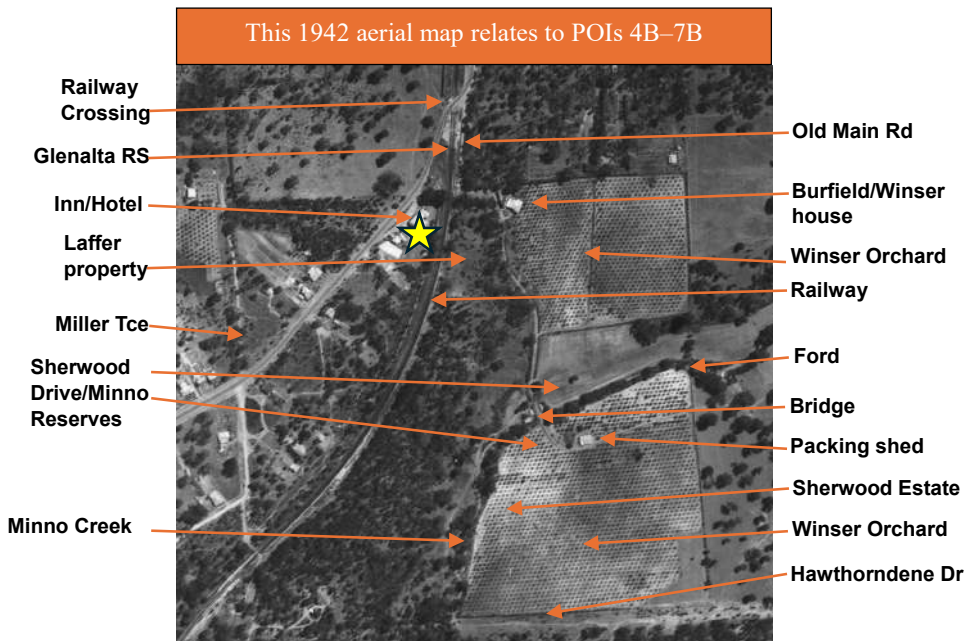
In this c.1910 photo “Look out for Train” signs were used to ensure the safety of horse-drawn vehicles and pedestrians crossing the line. Source: CA Petts photo, courtesy MHRC

Cross over the railway line to Rosella Ave, immediately turn right and take Huntingdon Lane alongside the railway track.

4B. Original Main Rd: Huntingdon Laneway

Huntingdon Lane/ Drive follows the approximate path of the original Main Rd (refer to POI 4A) which bends around to join the current intersection with Miller Tce.

In the photo above, the road to the left shows the original Main Rd heading towards a gate. The gate gave access to the property formerly owned by Burfield, which was owned in 1910 by A.G. Downer. Today, the gate would have been near the beginning of the laneway. Look at the map below, see old Main Rd at the top. Refer to the text of the pointers on the map as they relate to POIs 4B–7B.



1942 aerial map of western Blackwood Farm and of Sherwood Estate east of railway line

NB Belair Hotel can be seen at ★ It is in the narrow angle between the railway track and Main Rd. Notice the orchards to the east and southeast.

[Continue into the cul-de-sac. \(See star location on aerial map above.\)](#)

5B. Burfield/Laffer enclave property: laneway and cul-de-sac

In 1850, Burfield bought much of Section 874. While there had been some transfers of land ownership over time, in 1878 a parcel of eight acres of land, which included the Blackwood Inn and area for guests, their wagons and animals, was sold to Philip Frederick Laffer just before Burfield met with a fatal accident. The land parcel extended east from this laneway and cul-de-sac, and to the west beyond Glenalta. [It would become split from the rest of his property when the railway line was built in 1880s]. The Belair Hotel was built on this land in 1880. The hotel and surrounding land were leased by Laffer's son, Philip James, to various hoteliers until 1935. This 'enclave' property was subdivided and developed in 1970s or later. (See back page re Laffers).

[Continue along Huntingdon Drive. Enjoy the view. The hard bend, east in the road, is the border of southern Glenalta \(section 874-refer to central map\). Continue to tall trees.](#)

6B. Row of Cypress Pines: Corner of Cypress Ave & Hawthorndene Dr

Fast-growing, dense conical Cypress pines were ideal as a windbreak, screen or trimmed hedge around the Blackwood hills. Some of these can still be seen in the front yards of houses along this street.

[Continue along Hawthorndene Dr, until POI which is start of Walking SA pathway.](#)

7B. Sherwood Estate: Land bordering Sherwood Dr to Miner Ave to east



8 MILES BY ROAD FROM CITY—8 MILES RADIUS FROM G.P.O.

Abounding in large areas of Reserves with stately gums, willows, pine and fruit trees, SHERWOOD offers many elevated allotments with sweeping views. Other sites have quiet, peaceful creek frontages. You will note that special emphasis has been given to large size allotments averaging 100 ft. frontages, definitely not to be compared with normal small residential sites. Many double frontages allowing for easy planning from front or rear.—All quality bitumen roads.

Within walking distance of the Estate is the splendid Community Playground of National Park, now greatly improved with a new large freshwater lake.

Prime housing lots offered by Adcock realtors in 1961

This area, once part of Blackwood Farm, was subdivided in 1961 and sold as the 'Sherwood Estate', with many street names following a Robin Hood theme.

It was advertised as 'surrounded by established quality homes, near Glenalta Railway Station, shopping centre, Belair School, hotel, and all community facilities ... one of the district's oldest and most delightful properties.'

Continue along Walking SA pathway until the playground in Sherwood Reserve. POI are lawned areas either side of the bridge.

8B. Sherwood Drive & Minno Reserves

Sherwood Drive Reserve, which follows the line of Minno Creek, includes a playground, seating, and a Mitcham Council Park Ward Heritage Table. The bridge crossing the creek to Minno Reserve has historic significance. In his attempt to collect water from the creek for his home up the hill, Robert Burfield suffered a fatal accident. The horse and cart which he was driving fell over the side of the bridge. He was trapped in water under the cart and killed. On 26 October 1878, an inquest was conducted at the Belair Inn (which he owned), as often was the practice in those days.



Sherwood Drive Reserve

Cross the bridge linking Sherwood Drive and Minno Reserves, then turn left on Minnow Drive and walk to intersection with Miner Ave. Turn left and POI ford is ahead.

9B. Minno Creek and Ford



Minno Creek and bridge to Minno Res.



Ford crossing Minno Creek extends Miner Ave to north

Minno Creek is a small stream that rises from a catchment area in Long Gully, Belair National Park, and flows in a westerly direction to Glenalta, and southerly through Hawthorndene and Coromandel Valley to join the Sturt River.

Pre-colonial Kurna people sourced freshwater crayfish and possibly spotted minnow, and terrestrial foods including bulrush roots and forest mammals from this area.

Minno Creek was essential to the success of early settlers' orchards and farm stock. To maintain access within, Glenalta has bridges, a ford and established stormwater drainage systems around houses and roadways.

View 4B map - it shows the ford being on the eastern border of orchard.

The ford was possibly used as an alternative route by Burfield orchard employees with horse and cart, to access the rest of the orchard property further south, across the Minno Creek, and to the fruit packing shed.

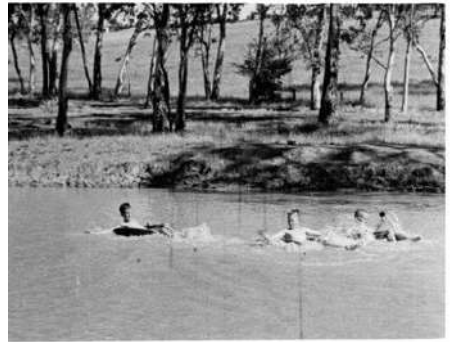
Walk back across the ford, along Lowan Ave, and turn north (left) at corner (still Lowan Ave). POI is location of two new houses on east side where a dam used to be. Walkers who want to begin or end their walk here can take one of the local buses from this location.

10B. Quinlan-Watson's Dam & Land

In 1939–40 Timothy 'Frank' and Margaret Quinlan-Watson bought significant property across what was then known as 'Lower' Glenalta. The family raised sheep and produced wool in the area. To water the sheep, he built a dam by excavating land near Lowan Ave, trapping water flowing seasonally from eastern hills. The locals used the dam for swimming. See if you can spot ducks still 'hanging around' the northern end of Lowan Ave waiting for the dam to appear again!



Quinlan-Watson's Dam, Google Earth Map c.2014



Children swimming in a dam on Quinlan-Watson's Estate c.1956. Wilson / MHRC

Walk east along Corella Ave. Turn left into Menura Ave and POI, 11 Menura Ave, is on the right.

11B. First house built in National Park Estate 1959: 11 Menura Ave



National Park Estate sales poster ADC b.1954

Roly and Beth Eyre built the first house in National Park Estate in 1959, although infrastructure was lacking.

They purchased the land, previously owned by Quinlan Watson family, from the Roche family's Adelaide Development Company. (ADC was established in 1922 and still exists in 2026.) Borders of the National Park Estate were Corella, Menura and Brolga Avenues and Upper Sturt Road.

Return to Corella Ave. Turn left to go past National Park Estate. POI is ahead.

12B. Belair National Park & former golf course

View Belair National Park (BNP) and site of former public golf course. Currently various recreational activities are conducted in the immediate area. The genesis of BNP was the 1840 establishment of a Government Farm for the pasture and agistment of Government horses and bullocks, especially for the Gold Escort service in the gold rush period during the 1850s. Belair National Park is well worth a visit at your leisure.

Turn right (south) on Upper Sturt Rd, into Petherick St, POI is both sides of the bridge.

13B. Petherick Street Drainage Reserve

The drainage of water stemming from high land to the east (including Belair National Park) was vital to original orchards and stock. Local land users are currently regulated to maintain environmental standards such as litter, pollutants and blockages that would

cause flooding. On left is a small, lovely park for public access. Opposite the park, steep watercourse banks can be viewed.

Follow the pathway ahead to Hawthorndene Dr., turn right (west) and walk approx. 200m down to POI which is behind a fence on the right, opposite Myrtle Rd.

14B. Petherick House: behind the green fence at 61 Hawthorndene Dr. (Opposite Myrtle Rd intersection)

Thomas Petherick, took up 25 acres here (land section 1063 - see middle map) in 1922, established an orchard and built a house behind the green fence on Hawthorndene Dr. In Dec 1954, after Thomas had retired, he subdivided his property into about 70 allotments. (See more information about Petherick on last page.)

Continue west along Hawthorndene Dr for a further 200m. Turn right (north) into Rosella Ave. POI is on right.

15B. Quinlan-Watson's house: 31 Rosella Ave

Refer to information listed for Walk B, Item 10B, 11B and 16B.



Quinlan-Watson's house built in c.1940s

After arriving in the hills from Coonalpyn in 1937, the Quinlan-Watson family bought up a large amount of land in SA. Timothy QW owned a portion of land in Section 875 which he sold to the Adelaide Development Company to develop National Park Estate in 1959. (refer to 11B) He also owned land between Miner and Rosella Avenues, north to Gannet as parts of sections 875 and 1063 which were subdivided as the Roche Estate. (16B)

Continue along Rosella Ave to intersection with Margaret Ave. POI is all the land / residences passed and ahead to the west.

16B. Roche Estate: Land between Rosella Ave and Miner Ave / Gannet Ave, east of the ford

Quinlan-Watson sold a considerable amount of land east of Sherwood Estate to John Justin Roche, who subdivided it in 1955 into nearly 250 allotments.

Continue along Rosella Ave for approx. 1 km to POI at corner of Nottingham Way.

17B. Burfield / Winsor house: 2 Nottingham Way (Map A focus)

Refer to information listed for Walk A, Item 22A.



Walk west towards pedestrian crossing ahead, over the tracks back to your start location.

Meet more distinguished Glenalta residents:



1872 : SLSA [B 47769/13A]
SA Pioneers Collection

Robert Burfield (1815–1878)

Robert, an entrepreneur, bought Blackwood Farm in Glenalta in 1850 and transformed it from virgin scrub into a thriving orchard business. It was over 100 acres of fertile soil and yielded a wide range of fruit all year round. Permanent water came from the Minno Creek which ran through the property.

He became a pillar of the community. He was elected to the Mitcham Council in 1861, helped establish St John's Church at Coromandel Valley and joined the management committee of Retreat House built 'for the protection and treatment and care of habitual inebriates.' Sensing a conflict of interest with his Blackwood Inn, for which he became the registered licensee in 1869, he forwent his hotelier business six months later.

Philip Frederick Laffer (1833–1908)

Philip was an early settler and pioneering horticulturist in the Glenalta and Mitcham areas, along with his brothers and sons. He established an early property in Glenalta (near present-day Hollywood Way) and gained note as South Australia's largest strawberry grower by 1874. His family legacy is commemorated by the naming of Laffers Road in Glenalta.



c.1925 : SLSA [B 4540]

George Richards Laffer (1866 - 1933)

Fruit-grower and politician. In 1883, Laffer followed his father as a fruit grower at Belair. Although he later was an elected member of Mitcham Council (and Chair) and elected to the South Australian Parliament, his main interest was agriculture. He was prominent in the South Australian Fruitgrowers' Association, a life member of the Agricultural Bureau, chairman of the Advisory Board of Agriculture and a member of the Royal Agricultural Society.

The family heavily influenced South Australia's early public policy regarding its vital primary production sectors.

Thomas Petherick (1887–1966)

In 1925 Thomas took up 25 acres of Glenalta land bordering on Hawthorndene Drive. The farm had a dairy, orchard and pigs. Produce went to the Blackwood station for transport to market. Thomas Petherick was a trustee of Methodist Church at Belair and member of Blackwood Methodist Church and Alberta, his wife, being a teacher, taught Sunday School. In the 1960s, when his land was subdivided the end block on the corner of Elizabeth St and Hawthorndene Drive was given to the Methodists for a church. This was never built. Elizabeth St, Margaret St, John Ave and Petherick St are named after Petherick family members.

Alexander George Downer (1839–1916)

Also known as AG, Downer bought the Burfield land from the trustees and sold it to Wisner. He is better known for his "Monalta" property north of Laffers Road. The Monalta mansion became the Blackwood District Community Hospital in 1954.

Image: c.1925 : SLSA [B47769/5I] SA Pioneers Collection



Individual Home Settings

*Amongst magnificent gums, conifers, fruits
and many other varieties of trees.*

Charming creek frontages.

*Elevated sites with extensive views over
National Park • Spacious allotments*

A peaceful suburban estate within 5
miles of Adelaide with a park-like
atmosphere. Within a stone's throw
of all the amenities that go with the
near-hills suburb of Belair.

★ **ON THE ESTATE**
Water
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Bitumen roads
Reserves

Get away from the flat plains and live in picturesque **Sun Valley**



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