

Brig 'Rapid'

Woodvale ... supplier of fresh and dried fruits for the district, plus export



Alexander Wood (c.1821-1906) arrived in Port Adelaide on 20 June 1849 on the ship *Posthumous* (Captain Robert Davidson) from London 13 March 1849 via Plymouth. Born in Jedburgh, Roxburghshire, Scotland, in 1852 Alexander was listed as formerly a mason in Adelaide but by 1868 was listed as a farmer at Yankalilla.

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On 28 January 1853, he married Augusta Elise Weylandt (born 1836 in Hamburg, Germany) at St John's Church, Adelaide. Augusta had arrived in Adelaide on 12 January 1849 from Hamburg with her parents – Wilhelm August Weyland Snr (c.1798-13/1/1868) and Sophia Friederike Elisabeth/Eliza Weylandt (c.1799-29/10/1885) – and six siblings, on the barque *Steinwaerder*, under command of Captain CS Kramer.

By 1856, Alexander and Augusta Wood were living at 'Woodvale', Bald Hills, near Yankalilla, where Alexander had purchased section 390, part-section 393, and part-section 395, totalling 177 acres. Later that year, he bought section 394 (40 acres with a house) from Frederick William Dodd, land which had been granted to his father Thomas Dodd on 17 July 1851. It is believed that this section 394 is

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where Alexander built the current stone homestead 'Woodvale' as by 1857 his property holdings listed two houses. Woodvale is situated near Eaglehawk Gully, the source of the River Bungala.

Alexander and Augusta had 10 children:

Alexander William, born 24 September 1853, but died 7 February 1854;

Katrena Elise, born 4 April 1856, remained a spinster, of Millswood, where she died on 10 November 1933. She is buried in Yankalilla Public Cemetery (plot X27);

Emma Alexandria, born at Bald Hills on 19 January 1858, also remained a spinster, of Smith Street, Perth, WA, when she died on 5 October 1923;

Augusta Cecilia (born 16 August 1861) married her cousin William Gustav Weylandt (born c.1864) on 30 December 1891 at the residence of her brother-in-law, George Quick, West Marden, by the Rev. SF Prior;

Agnes Frances (born 23 November 1862) married George Quick of Marden. She died on 13 September 1951, at Kingswood, Mitcham, and is buried in Payneham Cemetery. According to Williams (1991, p. 249) she had resided in WA;

Alexander James Gustave (born 6 May 1866) died on 31 January 1879, aged 12, from a gunshot wound. He was buried by Septimane Herbert (Williams, 1991, p. 249), in Christ Church Anglican Cemetery;

Frederick William (born 14 June 1868 at Bald Hills) died on 2 May 1869, aged 10 months, of convulsions), and is buried in Yankalilla Public Cemetery;

Ame Arrura (born 20 October 1869) became Mrs Michelle (her husband was a police officer at Normanville);

Lile Alice Annie (born 16 May 1871);

Edith Maud or Edith Charlotte Matilda (born on 16 April 1872) married in Christ Church, Yankalilla, on 8 July 1896, Frederick William Clayton, of Esperance, WA, second son of JW Clayton.

The main house Alexander built at Woodvale comprised two large rooms and a hall in the front which led into a living room at the back, with small rooms on either side, one being used as the family's private dining room. Underneath the two front rooms was a large cellar which had drying racks along two sides for their fruit. At the rear of the main house was a large tin room which served as a kitchen and dining

area for the workers. Further to the rear was a small stone building used as sleeping and living quarters by the servants.

A dam was constructed to hold three million gallons of water. Alexander Wood planted many fruit trees as well as vines (for currants and sultanas and also wine grapes). His orchard comprised apples, pears, plums, apricots, walnuts, oranges and lemons. There was also a mulberry tree at the front of the house and a large kitchen garden containing many types of vegetables and herbs, which was later completely enclosed with netting, on which passion fruit was grown.

The garden around the house was planted with camelia bushes, believed to be the first in the district.

A prefabricated house was built just west of the main house for their workmen.

In March 1856, Alexander Wood was on the Yankalilla and Myponga Council and, at a meeting on 3 March 1856, he and John Dodd were elected auditors for the ensuing year.

Alexander obviously had the financial means to make investments as on 13 May 1859 he purchased Allotments 15 and 16 (part-Town Acre 962) which was on Mackinnon Parade, North Adelaide. The town allotments were shortly after, on 27 May 1859, transferred to a William Wood. William Wood, a stonemason in Yankalilla at the time, was possibly Alexander's brother.

Then, on 21 June 1864, Alexander Wood bought, for £132 5s, sections 149 and 156 Yankalilla (totalling 131 acres), adjoining his other sections – 390, 393, 394 and 395. The following year, on 14 February 1865 he bought section 151 of 104 acres (which adjoined section 149) for £104.

During the early days of the development of Woodvale, Cyril and Ern Keiszling worked on the property for a number of years.

On the death of Alexander Wood, at his residence Woodvale on 11 September 1906, his widow Augusta Elise Wood was sole executor of his will and beneficiary to his estate. She continued to run their orchard business and, according to the cargo book for Port Normanville, Mrs A Wood of Woodvale consigned a shipment of three tons of currants in one year, and two tons the following year (Williams, 1991, p. 146).

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According to a report in the *Chronicle* (Saturday 23 February 1929, p. 18), when the River Bungala was in flood, oranges from Mr Wood's garden at Woodvale were swept away, and came bobbing down the stream. The children attending Christ Church Day School used to fish for the fruit with crooked sticks.

When Augusta Wood's sister-in-law Mrs Weylandt died, her two younger boys came to live at Woodvale. August Weylandt was educated and became head gardener and sold produce in Yankalilla. Jack Weylandt cared for about 500 turkeys. (Williams, 1991, p. 249).

Augusta Wood died on 4 May 1929, aged 93, at Unley Park, and is buried in Yankalilla Public Cemetery. Following Augusta's death, Woodvale was subsequently sold, leased, and/or occupied by:

1931 – Gilbert 'Hartley' Weylandt, mortgaged to Katrena Elise Wood, Emma Alexandria Wood and Augusta Cecilia Weylandt (nee Wood). In 1932, Hartley was no longer an orchardist but had taken up as a fisherman, and was living in Northgate Street, Millwood.

1933 – Transferred to Sydney Lawrence 'Laurie' Cakebread (married Annie Rosa Weymouth in 1904).



Woodvale in April 1990 during a YDHS tour.

1936 – Transferred to Leslie Charles Mills, farmer of Balaklava.

1941 – Clarence Thomas 'Tom' Silas Wickham and Elizabeth Wickham, dairyman, Wattle Flat.

1954 – Guy Godolphin Bonython.

1963 – Leith Murray Davies and Elizabeth May Davies.

1967 – Ardath Pastoral (Doug Crawford).

Followed by – Bob and Peter Watson (Watson Springs).

Unearthing historic objects ... and rediscovering Colonel Light's campsite at Rapid Bay

More than 60 people attended Yankalilla Library to hear Taylor Lupp's talk about her interesting finds at Rapid Bay.

A keen hobby metal detectorist with a passion for history, Taylor has unearthed some items at Rapid Bay which, when researched, are believed to be linked to Colonel William Light's survey party which camped there in September 1836. Her theory is that tents on the far right-hand side of JM Skipper's watercolour of Rapid Bay are the site of her discoveries.

Taylor's project which began in 2019, has unearthed two Georgian Royal Naval buttons dating 1780s-1820s, an 1807 George III penny, a small copper/brass button, and a small brass buckle, a brass pulley, a broken piece from possibly a harmonica, and a bottletop. Other discoveries show the survey party cast lead musket balls for hunting.



Above: Taylor Lupp and, right, JM Skipper's painting of Rapid Bay, and some of Taylor's interesting finds while metal detecting on the Fleurieu Peninsula.





154 years ago

(Illustrated Australian News for Home Readers, Melbourne, Saturday 20 May 1871, pp. 97, 106)

ENTRANCE TO THE LITTLE GORGE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

This picturesque spot is situated about fifty-four miles south from Adelaide. Our engraving shows the entrance to the Gorge, which after a short windabout, opens into a pleasant valley between well wooded hills, the road taking the traveller to Finnis Vale, Rapid Bay, Glenburn, and the Talisker Silver-lead Mine, fronting the Backstairs' Passage. The old road leads through the 'Big Gorge,' but the almost impassable nature of this entrance to the hilly country was such that it was abandoned as soon as possible, and the far more preferable one through the 'Little Gorge' adopted. In our sketch looking north, the Port of Normanville for the district of Yankalilla is visible with its jetty, and the Yankalilla hills, famed for the growth of fine wheat, which is the chief product of this district. From the surge southwards it is a mineral country, but up to the present time only one – the Talisker Silver and Lead Mine is at work.



*Entrance to the Little Gorge, looking north towards Normanville
(Illustrated Australian News, 20 May 1871, p. 97).*

[This article is reprinted from an original newspaper. Accuracy of information therein is not guaranteed to be correct, and is not authenticated by the Yankalilla and District Historical Society Inc.]

Delamere Community Hub art exhibition

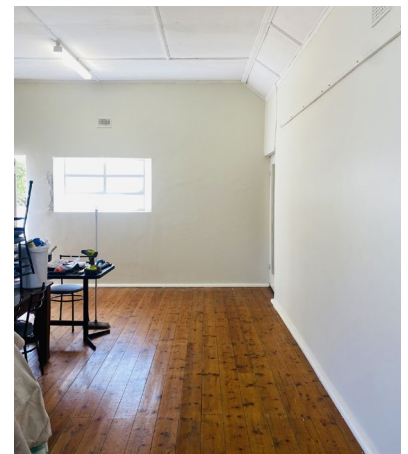
Local artists and artisans will be exhibiting their creations as part of the 2025 Festival Fleurieu, with an art exhibition at the Delamere Uniting Church, 38 Yoho Road, Delamere.

In the meantime, many volunteers from the Delamere Community Hub Project have been busy spruicing up the hall in preparation for the exhibition. Among the volunteers were Bill Page, Cassie and Ash Edwards, Jenny Olsson and Ali McFadyen, who rolled up their sleeves (and probably getting more paint on themselves than the walls).

Exhibits will include paintings, sculpture, photography, crafts, and pottery. There will be an official opening on Wednesday 23 April, from 2 pm to 4 pm. Artists and friends and the community are encouraged to attend. The exhibition will run until 27 April, from 11 am to 4 pm. Entry is free.



Right: Bill Page and Ash Edwards, who, with other dedicated volunteers, have been busy spruicing up the church hall's interior in readiness for the art exhibition.





The Vets of the Valley: Vietnam A special tribute – ‘Let us honour them’

Inman Valley resident Jo Lush has been inspired to write about five former Inman Valley residents who served in Vietnam – Regular Army soldiers Corporal Dennis Pomeroy, Sergeant Christopher Cannin and Craftsman Peter Millard, and National Service soldiers Private Graham S Hutchinson and Sapper Roger F Osborn.

After looking at the memorial board in Inman Valley Memorial Hall, Jo was curious about what these heroes did in Inman Valley and during the Vietnam war (1962-1975).

While veterans' service in Vietnam is a sensitive topic due to negative responses at home to the war, and to failure by government and RSL to fully support the veterans, it is only in recent times that some of the four surviving veterans have joined in commemorations.

The men's stories are quite different as Peter and Roger were soldiers who cleared the jungle using earth moving equipment, Dennis was in the Military Police, Graham was in the catering corps and Chris was a machine gunner. Sales of the book are available from Jo Lush, Inman

Valley Store, and shortly the Fleurieu Coast Visitor Centre.



Graham Hutchinson



L-R: Guest speaker Anne Wills, Kate Furler (President IVC&MH), and author Jo Lush.

Time travel to meet the Mitchells

Join a bus tour of historic Yankalilla, Hay Flat and Bald Hills' sites relating to the Mitchell and Hoskin families.

Start with a burial and end with a wake. The tour stops at the Murch/Hoskin house, Mitchell Cottage, and then view the renovation of Gully House.

Wednesday 23 April - 12 noon to 4 pm - \$35
Bookings essential, Fleurieu Coast Visitor Centre

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What is a Native Vegetation Heritage Agreement?

On 14 April, 7 pm at Yankalilla Library Meeting Room, Rob Malone will discuss what he and Pamela Wright are undertaking for the future protection of their property at Anacotilla Gorge.

Home to magnificent ancient red gums, many nesting species of birds, and a haven for other fauna, they are in the process of applying for a Native Vegetation Heritage Agreement which, if successful, will ensure the ongoing rejuvenation and protection of the gorge.

Rob will discuss what the Heritage Agreement is, the ongoing requirements it places on the owner, and opportunities for grants. **Bookings not required.**



George and Sarah Mitchell and family, on the occasion of their golden wedding, at Bald Hills, 1925.



Festival Fleurieu – 20 years of history inspired by the Leafy Sea Dragon

Co-founder of the Leafy Sea Dragon Festival in 2005, Lorraine McLoughlin, last month gave an interesting talk about the history of the festival which has been a long-standing interest of the local resident.

Lorraine said the District Council of Yankalilla provided initial funding to the enthusiastic committee. She then played a video of how the festival's vibrancy has continued.

There have now been 10 festivals and the 2025 Festival Fleurieu starts on Saturday, 19 April, celebrating the region's artists and artisans, with events organised by many individuals and community groups.

The original leafy sea dragon emblem was painted by George Tetlow in oils, and then a graphic artist created the logo for the 2007 festival, which is still in use today despite the name change.



Lorraine McLoughlin (right) with the original festival poster; and Joy Whellum (Festival Fleurieu Board) with the current poster.

YDHS members' tour – Cornhill, Botanic House, Sweetman Cottage, and Crossman Bridge

More than 20 members enjoyed a fascinating tour last month of some historic homes in the Bald Hills and Inman Valley regions.

After meeting at the Torrens Vale lookout, the group travelled in convoy to the first stop, Cornhill, the original home of Robert and Mary Anne Kelly. Robert Kelly arrived in South Australia in 1849 and on 30 March 1849, purchased section 352, Hundred of Yankalilla, comprising 80 acres. Garry and Nathan, the current owners, described the history of ownership and displayed artefacts from remnants of the original cottage.

The second stop was Botanic House, built about 1878 by James Mayfield, whose father Thomas had settled in the region in the 1850s. James was interested in horticulture and established beautiful gardens, hence the name Botanic.

Sweetman Cottage, also known as Enfin, at Inman Valley, was the next stop. This stands on land bought by Isaac Hurrell in 1870. William Sweetman built this cottage for his bride, Eva Pitkin, in 1903.

*The
members'
group
inspect the
renovations
under way at
Cornhill.*

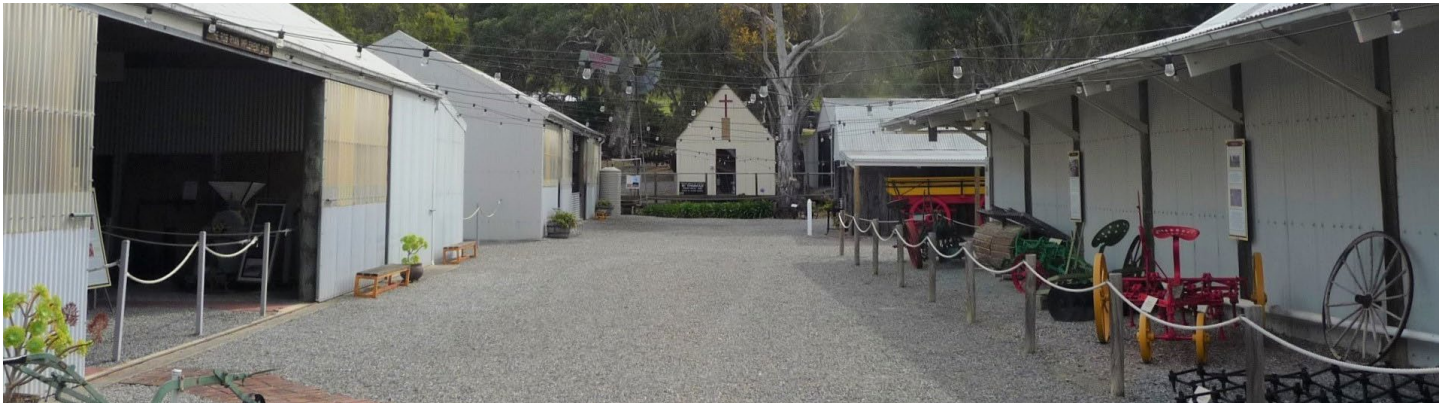


Left: Botanic House.

Crossman Bridge, near Belicious Café, was built in the 1860s but suffered damage several times due to floods and heavy traffic. It was last rebuilt in 1913 and named Crossman Bridge after the Crossman sisters who ran the Crossman Tea Rooms, reopened in 1959 as Glacier Rock Café, now the popular Belicious Café, where the group rounded off the morning's activities with lunch.



MUSEUM MUSINGS



'Toto' the Diprotodon has arrived!



There was a good turnout at the Fleurieu Coast Visitor Centre early this month for the unveiling of the life-size replica *Diprotodon* by Dr Aaron Camens, Senior Paleontology Lecturer at Flinders University.

The *Diprotodon* replica, named 'Toto' by local schoolchildren, will be the drawcard for the Yankalilla Historical Museum's new megafauna display.

The new display features a beautiful mural painted by Gay Robertson depicting other megafauna that roamed the local area 50,000 to 100,000 years ago. The museum's display, featuring various other fossilised bones and replicas, has been assisted by the Palaeontology Department of Flinders University, and the museum's consultant and retired geologist Rob Kirk.

The Yankalilla and District Council provided the site foundation for the *Diprotodon*.

Diprotodon optatum was the largest known marsupial to have ever lived. The South Australian Museum excavated a full skeleton in 1907 which now forms part of its megafauna display.



Above: The museum's new megafauna display featuring Gay Robertson's beautiful mural, and including a fossilised *Diprotodon* thigh bone, found in the 1890s in a swamp on the Robertson's property at Hay Flat near Normanville.

Below: L-R – Rob Ryan (Museum Committee Chairman), Gay Robertson and Dr Aaron Camens.





*Please welcome our
new members since
1 March 2025:*

**Melanie Booij
Trevor Chilman
Jill Hutt
Renie & Gavin Lloyd-Jones
Linda Longin & Doug Strain
Garry Morrison
Nathan Murton
Georgina Tape**

**YDHS local history sessions at
the library - Wednesdays
10 am to 12 noon**

Next YDHS general meeting

7 pm Monday, 14 April 2025

**Yankalilla Library Meeting Room,
181 Main South Road**

Guest speaker: Rob Malone

***'The Anacotilla Heritage Agreement'*
(See YDHS website for further information)**

followed by meeting and supper

All welcome!

Check out the YDHS website ... more than just old things!
www.yankalilladistricthistory.org.au

An evening with Colonel Light ...



An Evening with Colonel Light in the garden pavilion at Bungala House, Yankalilla, is set to be a sumptuous celebration of Colonel William Light's decision for Adelaide's location, and his visionary plan for the new colony.

The focus for this evening is in keeping with the 2025 SA History Festival theme 'Decisions'.

The event will start **6 pm on Thursday, 15 May**, and combine theatre, music, a choir of voices, a raffle, a silent art auction, as well as food and drink, with some tantalising history and a bit of historical fiction.

Two artworks are on offer via a silent auction and a raffle. One is a portrait of Colonel Light, the other a pencil (replica) drawing of the settlement in Adelaide. Proceeds from the raffle and auction will support refugee causes.

Colonel William Light, who arrived on the brig *Rapid* in 1836, and fulfilled the role of the state's first Surveyor-General, was himself an artist (and writer).



Venue:

**Bungala House
34 Main Street
Yankalilla**

Cost: \$25 per person

Bookings:

<https://www.trybooking.com/CZCBF>