

# Boorman Ward



**Lawrence Dalby Boorman**  
1886-1955

Laurence Dalby Boorman was employed by Mitcham Council from 1902 at the age of 16, as a junior clerk. Appointed District Clerk in 1913, he became the longest serving person to hold that position (Town Clerk after 1944) until his retirement in 1950. In 1851 his grandparents, John William and Sarah Boorman set up a coachbuilder and wheelwright business in High Street where the Edinburgh Hotel car-park is now. They had arrived in the colony the year before on the "Fatima". Laurence was president and secretary of the Mitcham Institute, member of the St Michael's Church Choir for 20 years and a member of the Torrens Park Masonic Lodge. He was secretary of the Mitcham Branch of the Red Cross and was among the original guarantors of the Kingswood Recreation Ground as well as an enthusiastic member of the Hawthorn Bowling Club.



'Monarch of the Glen' at Brownhill Creek in 1910

## BOORMAN WARD

Cyclists at the East Lodge  
Torrens Park Estate  
1890s



This ward was named after Lawrence Dalby Boorman (1886-1955) when the boundaries of the Council Wards in the City of Mitcham were redrawn in 1977. The names were suggested and researched by Councillor Bruce Miller.

Boorman Ward includes Mitcham Village laid out in 1840, Brownhill Creek, Kingswood, Lynton and the suburbs Netherby, Springfield, Torrens Park and Urrbrae named after old estates. There is a wide variety of places to visit with diverse interest like the Monarch of the Glen in Brownhill Creek caravan park to the heights of McElligott's (ex quarry) Lookout at the end of Carrick Hill Road which leads to that estate now open to the public. From this lookout, or the top of Brownhill, one can see Mitcham Village with its restored Institute and reserve on the creek and large cemeteries overlooking it. To the north of the ward is Waite Research Institute, the largest bequest to the Adelaide University including the Arboretum of living trees from around the world. Turn around on top of the hill and there is a scene, seemingly unchanged by European influence as the scrub covered hills roll away.

It is hard to imagine the area before there were so many houses. Some of Netherby contained a swamp, the hillsides of Urrbrae were terraced and planted with vineyards and the Long paddocks on the

east side of Kingswood grew hay and stock grazed on Torrens Park. A drive along Brownhill Creek is the only area left with rural outlook today.

**Right:** An elaborate late 19<sup>th</sup> century monument belonging to the Haslem family in the Mitcham Cemetery. The Cemetery is divided into three sections. The Anglican section was set aside in 1853. The general section was granted by the Governor to original Trustees Thomas Playford, George Prince and William Finlayson in 1854. Both sections were originally two acres in area. The third section is the burial site for the Sisters of St Joseph and occupies the former site of Convent of St Joseph. The general section was extended on various occasions the last being in 1937.



**Above:** Eynesbury house Kingswood c1883. Built in 1880 by George Wilcox and named after the Manor Eynesbury, Hants, England from where his wife Annie came.

**Right:** An interior view of Eynesbury at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



## FEATURES

### Education

Education at all levels is the feature of this area with three colleges, three high schools & two primary schools. Waite Research Institute including the Arboretum with trees from around the world is, with Urrbrae High School, the beneficiary of the largest bequest to SA. Mitcham School is believed to have been in continuous operation longer than any school in the state.

**Right:** Haymaking at Waite Agricultural Institute, Urrbrae c1930. In 1913 Peter Waite donated his 134 acre Urrbrae Estate to the University of Adelaide for 'agricultural and kindred studies' and an adjoining 114 acres to the government for use as an 'agricultural high school'. He later contributed £100,000 in trust to help subsidise the project. Peter Waite died in 1922 and the Waite Agricultural Research Institute was finally established at the end of 1924.



### Natural Heritage

Three quarters of the Hills Face Zone across Mitcham is in Boorman Ward. Many people in the district are passionate about the trees and open spaces in the district.

In 1890 Council sold a tree on Brownhill Creek Road to Mr Newey for £5 (a common practice at the time) for posts. This action raised a storm of protest.



Mrs Pulleine and a 1911 Nagant Hobson car outside 'Netherby' c1914. 'Netherby' was built in 1848 for Colonel James Henderson and was later the residence of Sir William Morgan (SA Premier 1878-1881) until shortly before his death in 1883. The property was subdivided in 1913 but the house and about 19 acres were retained and bought by prominent doctor RH Pulleine. In 1949 this remaining land was subdivided and 'Netherby' demolished.

*"At a large and enthusiastic public meeting a motion to request the council to cancel the sale. However the Chairman explained that the council considered the tree dangerous, and as it was intended to widen the road they had sold the tree."*

Botanical artist Rosa Fiveash painted a picture of the tree and someone wrote:

*To Be Sold, The Giant of the Glen,  
to be sold, for a five pound note,  
by five philistines of men.  
To be sold! Pray When?  
Not for a hundred years,  
Say we - and perhaps not then!*

At the meeting the motion to request that the council cancel the sale was moved by Colonel Fiveash and seconded by James Page. The motion was lost and the tree sold.

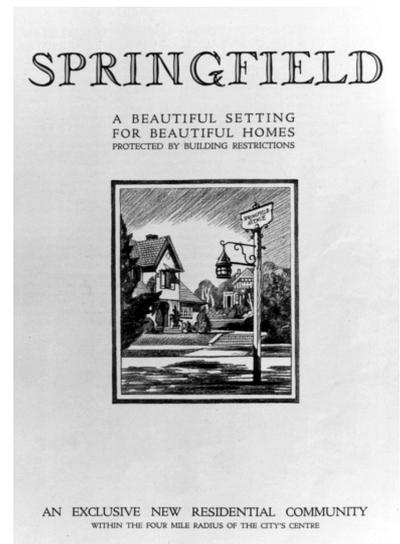
### HERITAGE WALKS

Self guided walk brochures are available from the Mitcham Council Civic Centre, Mitcham Heritage Research Centre and the Mitcham and Blackwood Libraries.

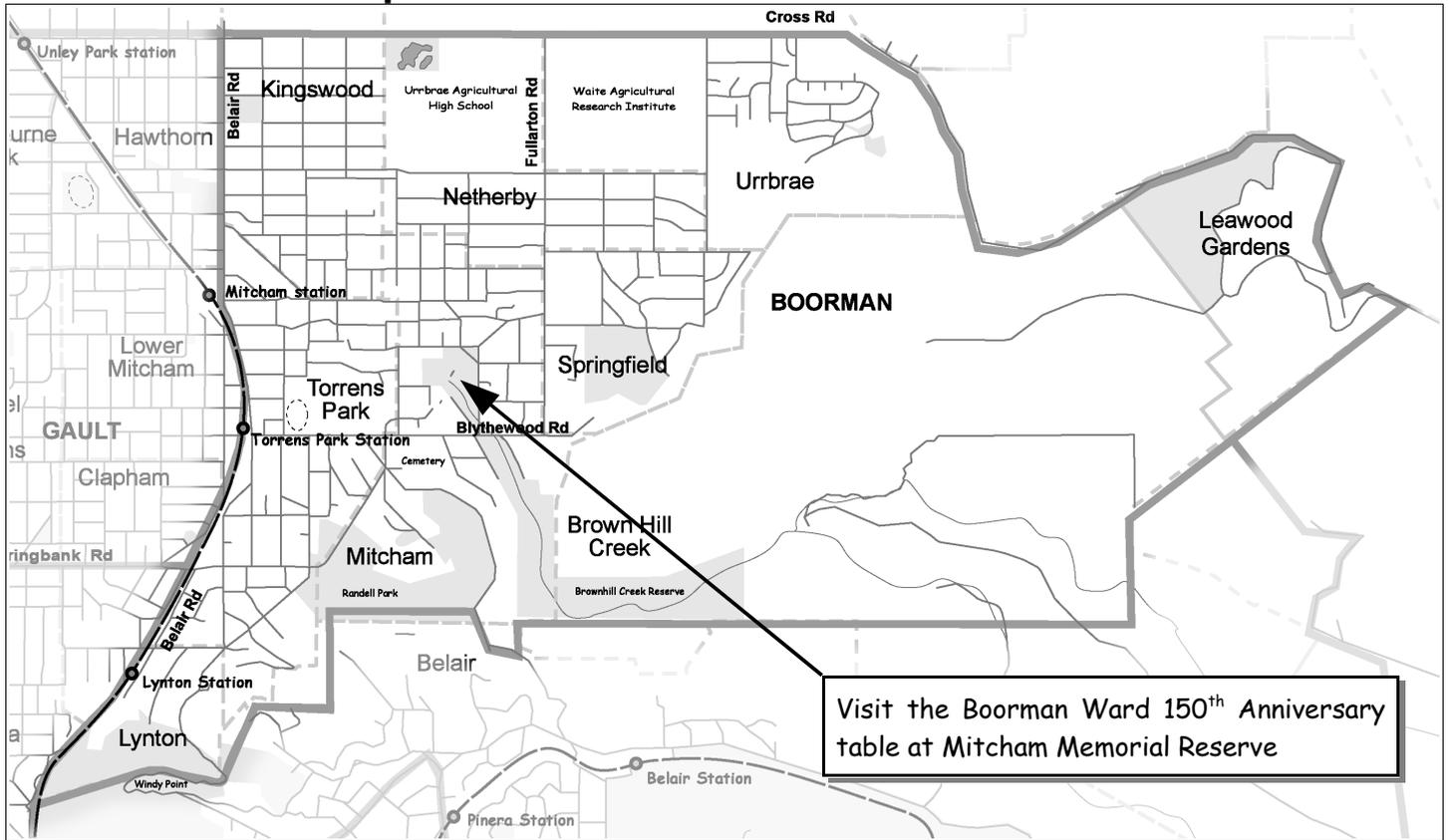
**Brownhill Creek** - A walk along Brownhill Creek from Belair to Goodwood passing many natural and cultural heritage sites along the way.

**Mitcham Village** - Three walks including the Mitcham Village (Conservation) Zone, Upper Mitcham and the Cemeteries.

**Right:** The cover of a booklet produced in 1828 by Springfield Limited to promote the new subdivision. Originally, restrictions were placed on buyers as to what could be built including a limit of one dwelling per block, no galvanised iron and a minimum building contract price of £2000.



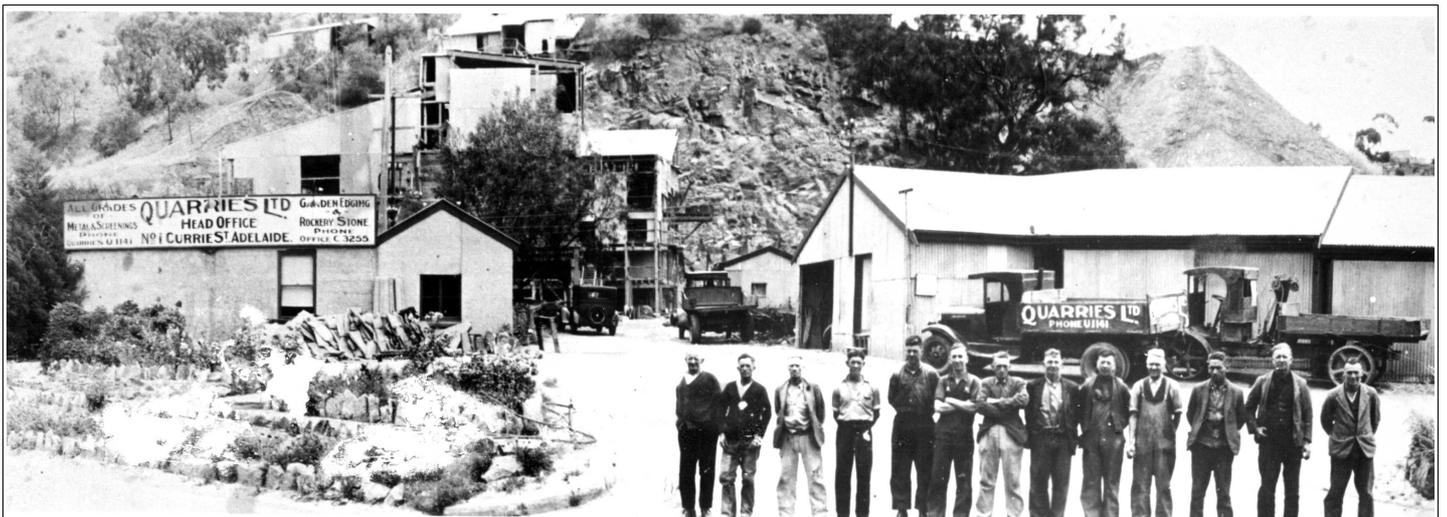
# Boorman Ward Map



Boorman Ward includes the suburbs: Lynton, Mitcham, Kingswood, Brownhill Creek, Torrens Park, Springfield, Netherby, Leawood Gardens and Urrbrae.

Until the introduction of postcodes in the 1960s parts of the area had many different names:

- Torrens Park:** West Mitcham, Blythwood, Blythwoodville, Panchito Park, Glenburnie
- Kingswood:** North Mitcham, Brenchley, Kingswood Estate, Kingswood Park, Mitchamville
- Netherby:** Galway
- Urrbrae:** Urrbrae Park



**Above:** Quarries Limited, Mt Barker Road, Urrbrae - c1920  
 Quarrying was one of the most important early industries in the Mitcham district continuing until the 1930s.



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