

Hawthorndene Chronology



What's in a name?

The name originally proposed for the 1925 subdivision of the old Hewett Estate was '**Hawthorn**', for the English Hawthorne which grew in the area, but this was rejected because a suburb of the same name already existed north of Lower Mitcham. The name '**Hawthorne Dene***' was also rejected for similar reasons although it was widely used. AC Catt & Company's 1925 brochure (*cover art above*) offering land for sale between East Terrace/Cypress Avenue and Myrtle Road refers to '**Hawthornedene**' and '**Hawthorne-dene**'. The authorities however, had already decided on the rather awkward and unpopular '**Hawthodene**' and this remained the official name of the suburb until 1959 when the Mitcham Council and State Government agreed to the current '**Hawthorndene**'.

*'Dene' is a somewhat archaic word of Anglo-Saxon origin for a valley; particularly a wooded valley.

so we did the usual thing, we went up and threw axes about and chopped down trees like crazy for wood. The blocks were covered with peppermint gums and we got enough for posts to fence the blocks. Then of course we had to get rid of the stumps. The celebrated method was to drill holes with a one-inch bit and stuff them with gun-powder, plug it with clay then, BOOM.'

- Len Wilson on his early days at Sloan Road, Hawthorndene. (2)

1854

Alexander Wardlaw took up the Hawthorndene Sections and before he died in 1894 the area became known as Wardlaw Vale.

Sections 1036 & 1123 to August Schrader.

1855

Gottfied Buchholz farmer Brown Hill Creek for £525 for 60 acres on western side of the section leaving 20 acres on the east side of Section 873.

1855

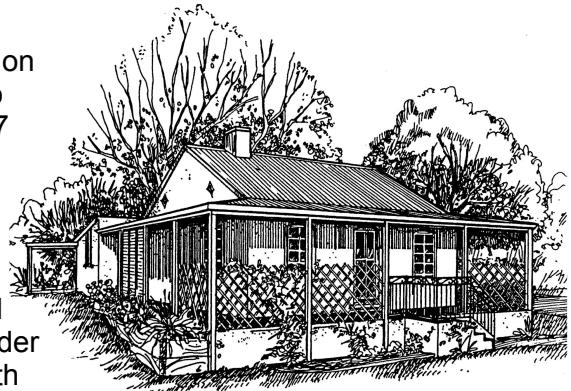
Johann Rienchke bought 20 acres east of present day Rankey's Hill Road (a corruption of his name) which he held until 1858.

1855

Johann C Schober settled on Section 873 and is likely to have built the cottage at 27 Suffolk Road. (1)

1862

Bridge near Renmant's partly destroyed by floods in July, reported to Council by Robert Burfield and tender let to J Prince to repair with new logs for £125.



'Suffolk Farm' 27 Suffolk Road
[most likely bridge over
the creek on Suffolk Road near the School] (*Mitcham Council Minutes
August - December 1862*)

1863

Emanuel Hollard rented in the area.

Right: Maurice Perrott, Len & Keith Wilson on Maurice's block in Sloan Road. 1928.

'The first thing we did was to make some beds with some saplings inside of wheat-sacks, to keep us off the ground. Just as well we did because it rained, it poured hailed and we nearly got washed off the landscape. So as we were going to keep a cow, we decided the next thing we had to do was build a cow-shed. So we got to work and built a little cow-shed and from then on we had bunks in the cow-shed, made the same way with saplings and sacks. ... And



1892

Johann C Schober died aged 66 and is buried at Coromandel Valley Cemetery, he made enough on the Victorian gold-fields to return to Germany, marry and settle at Wardlaw Vale.

1894

Daniel Hewett and his family began leasing 160 acres of Hawthorndene and purchased it several years later.

1908

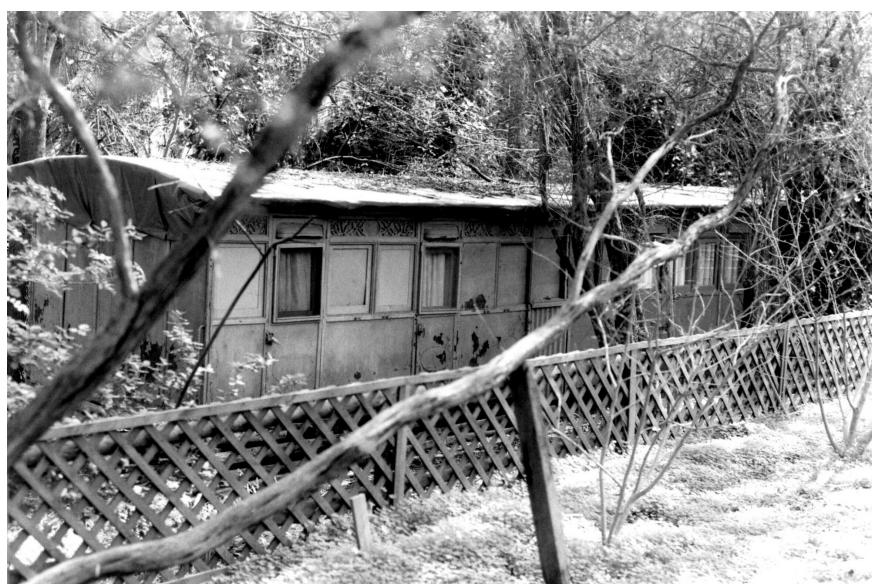
(7) Government Experimental Orchard established.

1925

Subdivision of 160 acres from the Hewett Estate for Hawthorndene after the death of Daniel Hewett in 1924.



(3) Hewett family with their home 'Watahuna' in the background. 1910s



(4) This carriage is one of three built in 1871 by the Adelaide Locomotive Works. It may be the oldest surviving rail carriage in SA. In 1938 author Nancy Cato and Norma Finlayson bought the carriage and moved it to Gorse Avenue for use as a 'Weekender'. They called it 'Puffinhaven'.



A GALA DAY
will be held on the
Hawthorne Dene Oval
on the Holiday
Monday, January 28, 1946
at 11 a.m.
Entries are solicited for a Full
Programme.
Horses-in-Action Events
Tug-of-War Teams
(eight a side)
A Handicap Trot
for local horses
A Sheep Dog Demonstration
will be under the control of Con-
stable S. S. Sanderson.
Dance
to follow in the evening.
—
Further particulars from Messrs.
A. G. Penno, Robt. Parkin, or the
Secretary (Mr. H. W. Moulden),
'phone Blackwood 202.

Above: Advertisement from
The Coromandel 1945.

(5)

Left: Charity football match at the Hawthorndene Oval - 1947.

Sheltered spots along the creek had long been favourite picnic spots with the Hewetts and others and were set aside in the 1925 subdivision as an oval and recreation reserves. The oval has been used for a variety of sports and social events over the years and has formed a focus for the local community.

1938

Nancy Cato & Norma Finlayson placed an 1870s railway carriage on a block on Gorse Road.



(6) Quarry east of Turners Road c1925

1966

Six factories or businesses established since 1953, only two existed previously.

Myrtle Road and Rankeys Hill Roads are two of the steepest roads in the Metropolitan area.

Primary School and Kindergarten opened.

1972

Government Experimental Orchard closed.

1988

Eastern boundary of Hawthorndene formalised.



Central portion of the Government Experimental Orchard c1934

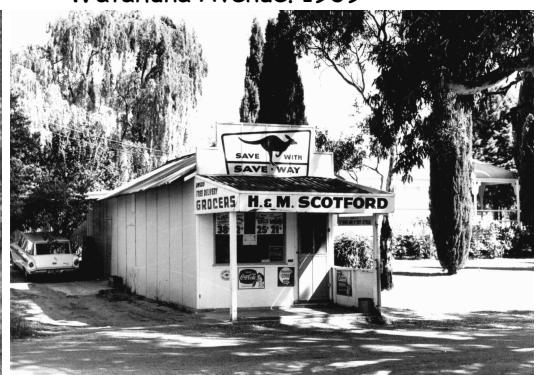
Established in 1908 by the South Australian State Government, the 'State Experiment Orchard' was used for the development and testing of fruit varieties and cultural techniques. In 1934 the orchard was estimated to be growing about 4100 fruit varieties.

1960

Henstridge bus company commenced its service from the city to Blackwood Estate, Hawthorndene. The adult fare was two shillings.



Looking south along the pathway on the west side of Watahuna Avenue, 1939



(8) Scotfords Store, Sturt Road c1970

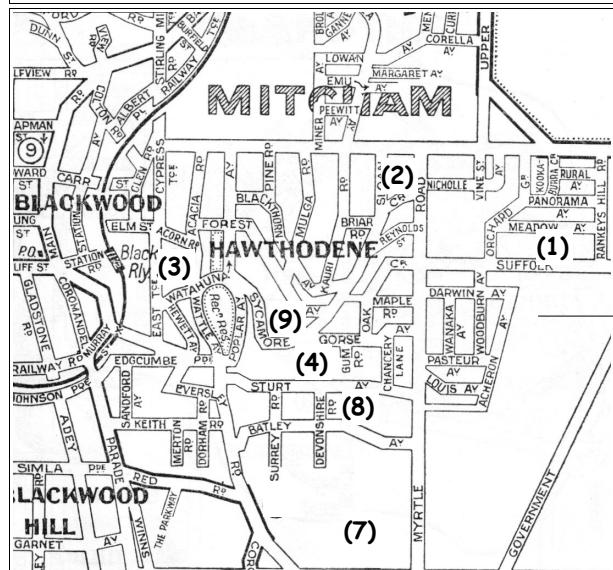


(9) Joan's Pantry, Watahuna Ave 1980

BLACKWOOD HAWTHORNE DENE BLACKWOOD



Another view of Oval.



Top: Subdivision map of 'Hawthornedene', the estate of Daniel Hewett as it was offered for sale in the late 1920s. **Above:** 'Hawthodene' from the 1958 Gregory's Street Directory. **Right:** In the late 1920s, proximity to Blackwood Station was promoted as an advantage of the new subdivision and free passes were offered to those who built substantial dwellings.

Free Railway Passes

The whole of this Estate is situated within what is known as the "Building Area" in a special clause of By-law 127 of July 20th, 1910, according to which a FREE FIRST-CLASS RAILWAY PASS FOR THREE YEARS

is granted by the Railways Authorities where a house of a certain value is erected.

Following are brief details of these privileges as copied from the said by-law:—

Value of Dwelling-house	Class of Free Pass	Period for which to be Granted
£200 but under £400	Second	One year
£400 but under £600	Second, or at owner's option	Two years
£600 but under £900	First	One year
£900 or over	Second, or at owner's option	Three years
	First	Two years
	First	Three years



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