



NATIONAL TRUST  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
TEA TREE GULLY BRANCH

# TEA TREE GULLY HERITAGE MUSEUM



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## CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

November 2020

Dear Volunteers, Members and Supporters

Well what a year 2020 has been! We would learn social distancing, engage a COVID Marshall, discover what vertical consumption is and sometimes be confused by isolation regulations. We were unable to hold our Annual General Meeting in August, but current Committee members have continued in their roles.

Yet through this bizarre year the Museum has still managed to achieve some major milestones. Naturally visitor numbers are well down as we closed the doors from March to October.

Spring in the Garden was our first come back event and visitors were a tremendous support with over 500 coming through the gate, just great to see the Museum come to life. This event also included the opening of a new display 'Pioneers to Producers' and was opened by Richard Harvey MP with Amanda James (History Trust SA) and Richard Browning (Exhibition Designer) in attendance. Visitors enjoyed reading new text panels, updated images, milking Molly the Moo Cow and sorting apples. Many hours of volunteer work went into this display from research, to painting, to installation and making of props, so well done to all involved. Our final event for 2020 is Twilight Christmas.

Garden maintenance also continued with new and current areas receiving revitalisation; bench seats were restored; picket fence painted and a screen placed around the deluge tank. A picture frame was installed to highlight Ellis Cottage and give visitors some history on our neighbour. Drainage issues have also been addressed.

The main building has also had an internal face lift with volunteers repairing and painting rooms on the ground floor. This would not have been possible if we were open to the public. Watermark Painters have now commenced work on the conservation of all windows. This has come about by a State Government Grant via NTSA and we are excited this much needed project is underway.

A Preservation Survey Assessment was conducted by Artlab which guides volunteers on Collection Management. From UV light, humidity, pests and correct storage of objects this is a valuable document for the Museum to have and conduct best practice in this area. Collection Management continued and extra time meant updating our Mosaic database, focusing on objects and their provenance and stock taking. After receiving a grant from History Trust SA we have been able to send the portraits of Mr and Mrs Newman into Artlab for restoration.

A grant from the City of Tea Tree Gully Council allowed the purchase of updated brochures and new signage which will be a bonus at the start of next year.

A sincere thank you to everyone who has maintained faith in our wonderful Museum. Your support, time and effort are greatly appreciated. We look forward to holding events with renewed enthusiasm and hope. On behalf of the Management Committee we wish everyone a lovely Christmas and a very safe and happy 2021.

All the best,  
Gill Starks, Chair