

SA Heritage Register

Place Nomination form

South Australian HERITAGE COUNCIL

A place is eligible for entry in the Heritage Register if it meets one or more of the criteria in Section 16(1) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993* (Act). Using the table below, please explain why you believe the place should or should not be entered into the Register, using the said criteria. The South Australian Heritage Council invites your submission regarding the entry of this place. For help in making a submission, please refer to the Guidelines for Interpreting State Heritage Criteria (**Attachment E**) and also available online: [Guidelines-for-Interpreting-State-Heritage-Criteria-2024.pdf](https://www.sa.gov.au/resource/guidelines-for-interpreting-state-heritage-criteria-2024.pdf)

How to help your nomination be successful:

- Fill out this form with as much information as possible.
- Expand answer fields as required and append information to the form.
- Include images, maps, diagrams, plans and photos where possible.

For assistance, contact:

- Your local historical society or heritage adviser.
- Heritage SA - Assessment Officer on **8372 7521**

Please note:

- Places which have been previously nominated during the past three years will not be reconsidered by the South Australian Heritage Council, unless you can provide significant **new** information.

A. Nominated Place

1. Name	
Name of place:	Australian War Widows (SA) Inc. site (specifically two historic sandstone buildings fronting Fullarton Road + original sandstone wall & memorial rose plantings)
Former name/s:	War Widows Guild of South Australia Inc.
Is the place already on another heritage list?	One of the two prominent sandstone Villa's (Vasey House) on site at 2 Hewitt Avenue / 141 Fullarton Road (road also previously known as Government Road & Victoria Avenue prior to Fullarton Road) is currently listed as a "Local Heritage" Place. The purpose of this State Heritage nomination is to ensure both original sandstone Villa's on "site" + Sandstone Fence + The Memorial Rose Plantings on Fullarton Road are listed for preservation (in a similar fashion to the WWI Plantations on Alexandra Avenue nearby). In so doing, preserving the War Widow's legacy, as attached to the site, both Vasey House and the "second" sandstone Villa - "Jean Rouse" Villa , named after the first SA member and office holder of the War Widow's Guild SA (appendix attached on Jean Rouse).

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2. Location		
Street Address:	141 Fullarton Road	
	Suburb / Town: ROSE PARK	Post Code: 5067
LGA (Council Name):	BURNSIDE	
Subject Land:		
141 FULLARTON RD ROSE PARK SA 5067		
Title ref.: CT 5740/859	Plan Parcel: F140920 AL59	Council: CITY OF BURNSIDE
141 FULLARTON RD ROSE PARK SA 5067		
Title ref.: CT 5838/523	Plan Parcel: D750 AL10	Council: CITY OF BURNSIDE
141 FULLARTON RD ROSE PARK SA 5067		
Title ref.: CT 5740/871	Plan Parcel: F140983 AL22	Council: CITY OF BURNSIDE
141 FULLARTON RD ROSE PARK SA 5067		
Title ref.: CT 5800/898	Plan Parcel: F140919 AL58	Council: CITY OF BURNSIDE
GPS Coordinates (if known):	Longitude 138.6281° E (Longitude)	Latitude -34.9298° S (Latitude)
3. Ownership		
Name of Owner/s:	[REDACTED]	
Contact person:	[REDACTED]	
Postal Address:	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	
Phone Number:	[REDACTED]	
Ownership History:	<p>The War Widows Guild SA "gifted" the entire site to the [REDACTED] (fellow "not-for profit" organisation in 2005), on the understanding it would be preserved for future War Widow retirement living, in line with the shared vision of Sir Keith Wilson as founder of [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Prior to this - the entire site (including the two historic Villa's) was purchased by the SA War Widows Guild, following 15+ years of fund-raising post the association formation in 1946 (current site purchased for 6,000 pounds in 1963).</p>	

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4. Nominator (Your details)

Your Name/s:	[REDACTED]
Organisation / Position:	East Residents Association Inc. [REDACTED]
Phone No:	[REDACTED]
Postal Address:	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Email Address:	[REDACTED]

B. Description

5. Description of nominated place

Description of the nominated place and its current condition:	Both the sandstone Villa's & the ironwork and original sandstone fence on Fullarton Road remain in very good original condition, and warrant saving, <u>and to hopefully be enhanced via "appropriate" future development which complements them.</u>
Are you aware of any modifications or additions to the place and can you provide dates for these changes?	There are several "red brick" apartment blocks which were added to the site in the 1960's, located both <u>between</u> the two historic sandstone residences and the rear. <u>It is likely future development should seek to have these replaced with something more complementary to the two existing historic buildings on site, which both warrant protection.</u>
Do you believe there may be historical items under the ground, and do you think an archaeological investigation should be considered?	N/A
Date you inspected the place:	03/01/2026
Have you had any contact with the Owner?	It has been planned for the coming week.
Current use of the place:	Housing for War Widows
Original or former use/s of the place:	1899-1963 – Residential Properties. From 1963 onwards both Vasey House & Jean Rouse Villa have housed War Widow's and facilitated SA War Widows Guild activities.

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Are there any current or long-term threats to the nominated place?	Yes URGENT – The current owners of the site, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] <u>who were "gifted" the land in 2005 by the War Widow's Guild SA</u> , now plan to demolish Jean Rouse Villa and partially demolish Vasey House , to develop a 12 storey and 7 storey high rise luxury apartment complex in their place (directly alongside Vasey House).
Name of Builder:	Yet to be appointed
Any other information:	DA ID: 25038696

C. History

6. Origins and history	
Years of Construction:	Both Vasey House & Jean Rouse Villa were constructed between 1898-1900 after an auction of land in the new Rose Park subdivision in 1898 (archive details attached below).
History of the nominated place:	1899-1900 – The two original sandstone residences on the current site facing Fullarton Road were constructed, with records indicating Vasey House was built for local land agent (Richard Verco). While Jean Rouse Villa was constructed on land purchased by successful local business owner and philanthropist Thomas (Thom) Rhodes - who lived and worked in nearby Kent Town for much of his life, after emigrating from Birmingham (England) with his family at the age of 10 in 1849. Mr Rhodes later passing away aged 77 in 1916. The original records of the Rose Park Auction of 1898 indicated Mr Rhodes purchased Lots 8,9 and 10 fronting what was then known as "Government Road".

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	<p>From 1963 onwards the entire site encompassing both Vasey House and Jean Rouse Villa has housed War Widows and facilitated SA War Widows Guild activities. This legacy, and the two historic buildings on site, are now at <u>serious risk of demolition</u> as [REDACTED] looks to develop the site into high rise luxury apartments to maximise profits - after being gifted the site by the SA War Widows Guild in 2005 on the understanding it would be enhanced for future War Widow generations.</p>
Historical sources used to support your nomination (please attach copies of pages from publications or newspaper articles as appropriate):	Refer below

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Various heritage details as sourced from the following;

1. **Burnside Historical Society**
2. **Polly Dundon (author - 'Secrets of Rose Park Toorak Gardens Dulwich and Districts Beyond")**
- Detailed background on Jean Rouse attached to this application via (appendix)
3. **Mrs Jan Milham - Australian War Widows (SA) Inc.**
4. **Several other newspaper articles via Trove.**

Jean Rouse Villa to the South of Vasey House – Named in honour of Jean Rouse as the first paid up member of the SA War Widows Guild for the sum of 1 shilling in 1946. Confirmed via the current War Widow's Guild President **Mrs Jan Milham Dec 2025 and as below.**



“Jean rouse”



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Match text 2

notified that her husband, Bdr. Jim Waller, died of illness on Bougainville on August 9. He was educated at the Sturt street school, and worked in his father's business. Mr and Mrs. M. Lewis, of Franklin street, Adelaide, have been advised that their youngest son, Pte. H. (Bill) John Lewis, was killed in action on Bougainville on August 11. He formerly worked for Stokes and Curtis, Adelaide.

Mrs Jean Rouse, of Ettrick street, Medindie, has received an uncorroborated report of the death of her husband Cpl. M. H. Rouse, in February last while a prisoner of war in Borneo.

Bdr. J. Waller Pte. H. J. Lewis
Mr and Mrs. M. Lewis, of Franklin street, Adelaide, have been advised that their youngest son, Pte. H. (Bill) John Lewis, was killed in action on Bougainville on August 11. He formerly worked for Stokes and Curtis, Adelaide.

Mrs. Jean Rouse, of Ettrick street, Medindie, has received an uncorroborated report of the death of her husband Cpl. M. H. Rouse, in February last while a prisoner of war in Borneo.

Mrs. W. E. Ekins, of Edward street, Norwood, has received advice that her husband, Cpl. W. E. Ekins, was wounded in action on August 9 at Balik Papan, and was placed on the seriously ill list.

Jean's HUSBAND - Maxwell Hainsworth ROUSE was born on 2nd January 1913 in Port Pirie, South Australia. His parents were Hainsworth Frederick John ROUSE & Sarah Elizabeth FIELD who married in South Australia in 1909. He married "Jeanie" Scriven BLYTH (Jean ROUSE) on 17th Oct 1940. Mr Rouse sadly died in 1945 during his time as a POW in Borneo (WWII).

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Jean (Jeanie) Rouse, nee Blyth at the Unitarian Shady Grove Cemetery in the Adelaide Hills 1970's (source – War Widow's Guild (SA) President [REDACTED] Dec 2025).

Below - The National War Widows Guild Founder (**Mrs Jessie Vasey OBE CBE (1897-1966) with Vasey House named in her honour.** (source – War Widow's Guild (SA) President [REDACTED] Dec 2025)



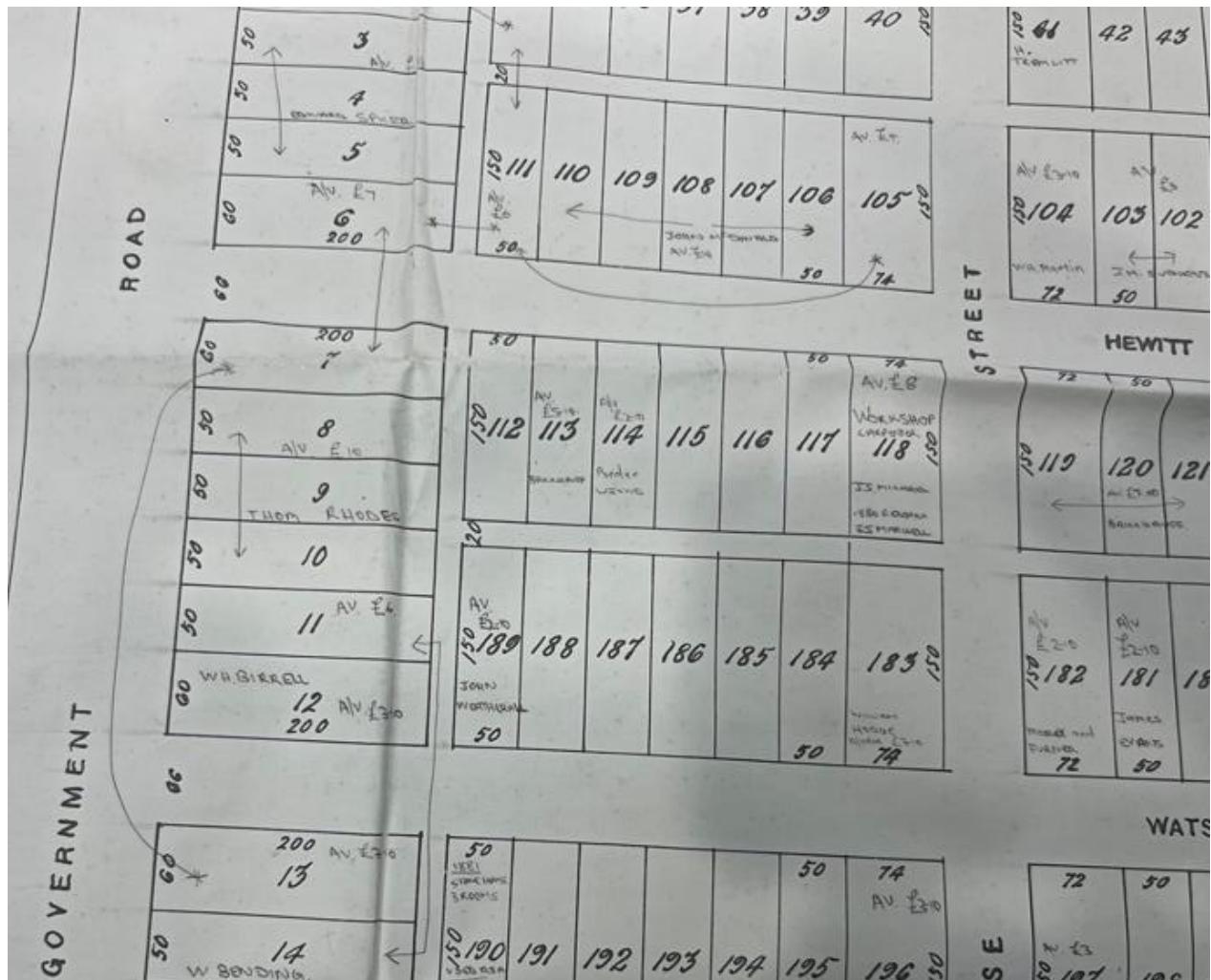
<https://warwidows.org.au/about-us/founder/>

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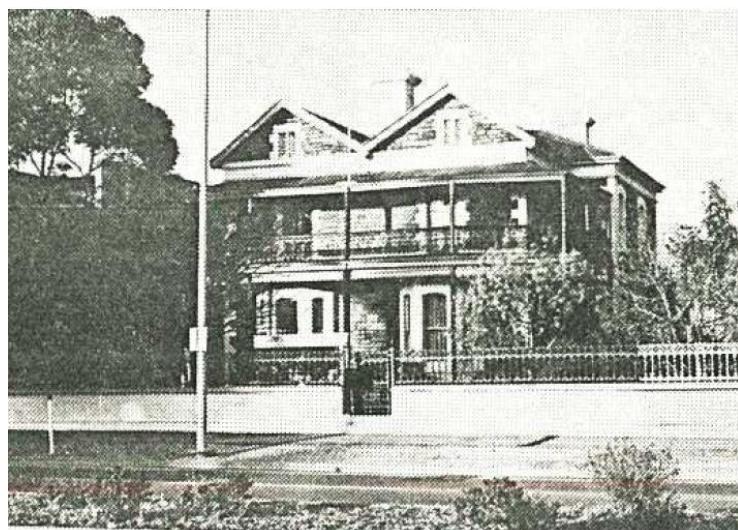
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Details of the 1898 Rose Park subdivision Land Auction (**source Burnside Council Records**). Indicating Thomas (Thom) Rhodes as the original purchaser of land on which Jean Rouse Villa now sits. Also noting Edward Spicer's purchases of Lots 3, 4 & 5 to the North where his grand home was later constructed.



Edward Spicer's residence at 137 Fullarton Road (Lots 3,4 & 5) – unfortunately since demolished



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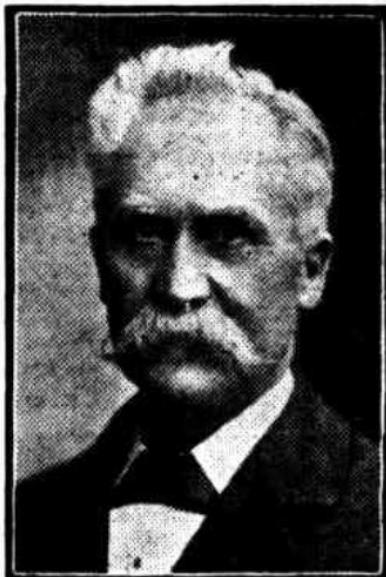
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MR. THOMAS RHODES.

A FINE CITIZEN DEAD.

General regret will be felt at the death of Mr. Thomas Rhodes, which occurred at his residence in Payneham road on Tuesday evening. For some time he had been ill, rheumatism and heart trouble having afflicted him sorely. He was taken ill on Christmas Day, and appeared to be recovering, when he was seized with another bad attack on Monday, from which he did not rally.

The deceased occupied a niche which will be hard to fill. Philanthropic work claimed much of his time, yet he was always closely associated with the widely known business which bears his name. The Adelaide business house of W. and T. Rhodes is a firm known to old and young. Mr. Thomas Rhodes was born at Birmingham, England, in 1839, and attained his 77th birthday on October 16 last.



THE LATE MR. THOMAS RHODES.

[Observer \(Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931\) Sat 15 Jan 1916 Page 36 MR. THOMAS RHODES.](#)



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[Australian Christian Commonwealth \(SA : 1901 - 1940\) / Fri 11 Feb 1916 / Page 5 / THE LATE MR. THOMAS RHODES.](#)

THE LATE MR. THOMAS RHODES.

Mr. Thomas Rhodes was born seventy-seven years ago, at Fillingley, near Birmingham, and came to South Australia with his parents when ten years of age. Most of the time since then he lived and worked amongst the people of Kent Town. Following the steps of his father (Mr. Geo. Rhodes) and his elder brother (Mr. Wm. Rhodes), he built up a great business from small beginnings, and secured the confidence and esteem of his employés and a good name amongst the mercantile members of the community. He held many a public position, fulfilling all the duties he undertook with conscientious thoroughness, combined with tact and courtesy. He was a member of the School Board of Adelaide, member and then chairman of the Norwood School Board, member of Prince Alfred College Committee, and most assiduous in his attention to all the interests of that great school. From its inception he was a member of the Y.M.C.A., and for many years president of the State Children's Council.

loved so well. "Lord, I have loved the habitation of Thine house and the place where Thine honour dwelleth" was as true of Thomas Rhodes as it was of the singer of old. How he loved the Kent Town church!—loved the building, the appointments, the orderly worship, and above all, "the inward and spiritual grace" of which they are but the "outward and visible sign." He was "a great hearer," and great hearers help to make good preachers, and while he enjoyed a good sermon, the spiritual was the first requirement with him. The prayer meeting, week-night service, and class meeting were all prized and honoured.

For many years he led the Sunday morning class, preparing for it carefully, and making it just what such a meeting should be. There are many men in different parts of this State and in many parts of the Commonwealth who owe much to the influence of that meeting and the kindly counsel of the man who led it so long.

Thomas Rhodes was at once tender, strong, and true. Such men are the salt of the earth, and have been the making of Methodism.

An "In Memoriam" service was held

or his family life, the business life, the dev religious life, he wou think I did well, go th wise.' I dare not poi mere beautiful exhibit gallery of Kent Town v bring him before you My portraiture, how sympathetic, would be were not an appeal. tragedy when the spec filled with gracious de in completeness, stirr us nothing but a cho We murmur, 'He had 'His place will be hal then life's secularities claim and absorb us a a brief moment the dun shadow we drudg are cleft and through a glimpse of the faire the saints aspire; but closes and the vision f moving a hand bread So often our aesthetic moral sense is touched to look on a beautiful varied excellencies se master center without

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/214060063?searchTerm=thomas%20rhodes>

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D. Heritage Significance

7. Statement of State significance - Why is this place important to the State of South Australia?

This place is of State Heritage significance, with the Fullarton Road site far more than two beautiful Sandstone Villas + Sandstone Wall + Memorial Rose Plantings—it is a living testament to South Australia's social history, and the enduring legacy of the War Widows Guild (SA) Inc. **Vasey House**, already recognized as a Local Heritage Place, which stands alongside the equally significant **Jean Rouse Villa**, named in honour of the Guild's first South Australian member. Together, the site and these two villas represent a unique chapter in our state's story—one of resilience, community, and service of these amazing women.

For over 60 years, this site has been a sanctuary for South Australian war widows and their families, a place where lives were rebuilt and support networks flourished. The two main buildings architectural integrity, and historical association make it irreplaceable. Protecting the site (primarily these two buildings, the stone wall, and memorial rose plantings) under **State Heritage listing** would ensure that both sandstone villas—and the profound social contribution they symbolise—remain safeguarded for future generations.

This is not just about preserving buildings / structures; it is about honouring the women who carried the weight of war's aftermath and created a legacy of care and solidarity on this site for six decades. By elevating this site to State Heritage status, we affirm its cultural significance and secure its place in South Australia's heritage landscape, together with honouring the strength and resilience of these amazing women.

8. Significance criteria

The South Australian *Heritage Places Act 1993* lists seven criteria by which a place is assessed. Please tick the criteria you feel the place demonstrates and explain your reasons.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history.	The site and the two historic buildings on it reflect lengthy /strong association with the War Widows Guild SA Inc. , an organisation that played a significant role in supporting war widows post-WWII from 1946 onwards. This connection reflects an important social and cultural phase in South Australia's history. The site and both Vasey House and Jean Rouse Villa also illustrate the development of Rose Park as an affluent suburb during the Victorian era.
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance.	The two historic villas' on the site together with the stone wall, retain original architectural features such as ironwork fencing, sandstone walls, brick quoins, and decorative iron lattice work, which are increasingly rare in modern developments along Fullarton Road.
<input type="checkbox"/> It may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history, including its natural history.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance.	The sites association with the War Widows Guild SA Inc. gives it strong cultural significance for a group that contributed greatly to South Australian society post WWII.
<input type="checkbox"/> It demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it.	The site and its two historic sandstone villas', share a long-standing relationship / association with the War Widow's Guild (SA) after they raised the funds required (6,000 pounds over a 15 year period) to purchase the current site. With the guild representing a crucially important group in South Australian society in the aftermath of WWII.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance.	Jean Rouse Villa as pictured below (not currently protected) was named in honour of the SA War Widow Guild's first paid up member (Jean Rouse) - paying 1 Shilling in 1946 for that privilege after her husband Cpl Maxwell Hainsworth ROUSE died while a POW in Borneo in WWII.

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Jean Rouse went on to undertake significant work for the Guild in its early years, holding several office roles within the Guild in forming this key part of SA's post WWII community. Jean Rouse passed away in 1983 while living at what is now Jean Rouse House.

Importantly **Vasey House** (already listed for "Local Heritage status) was named in honour of the founding member of the War Widow's Guild movement nationally **Mrs Jessie Vasey OBE CBE (1897-1966)**.

E. Additional Information

9. Images, maps, diagrams, plans and photos

A full range of images, maps, diagrams, plans and photos will help your nomination.

Please provide:

- a clear outline of the place being nominated within a map or plan
- high quality images of the place
- a list and description of the images being provided (including file name, subject, date created, author and copyright holder (if known)

Outline of places on the site deserving of protection (**picture from Fullarton Road taken from Victoria Park Grandstand**)



Source Google Maps 2025

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Vasey House – corner Fullarton Road and Hewitt Avenue Rose Park - taken from Google Maps -thankfully already with “limited” protections in place.



Current Local Heritage Place Signage for Vasey House (source personal photo 3 Jan 2025)

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A "Rose Garden" in front of Vasey House which contains roses planned in honour of former War Widows and their fallen husbands. It should also be noted it was confirmed with the War Widow's Guild (SA) President [REDACTED] **Dec 2025 that ashes of both Veterans and War Widows have been scattered around some of the roses in front of these historic homes on site.**



Rose plantings in front of Jean Rouse Villa (below) (source personal photos 3 Jan 2025)

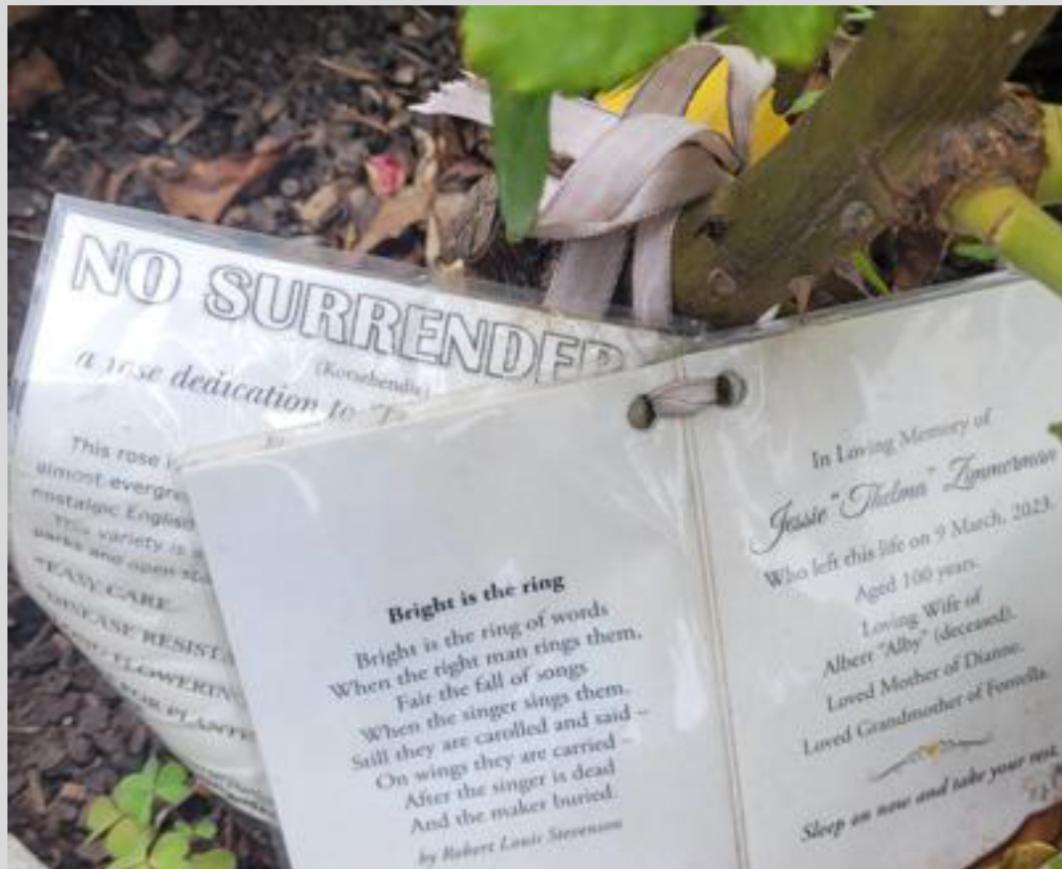


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Memorials placed alongside Rose Plantings in front of the two Villa's (source personal photos 3 Jan 2025)



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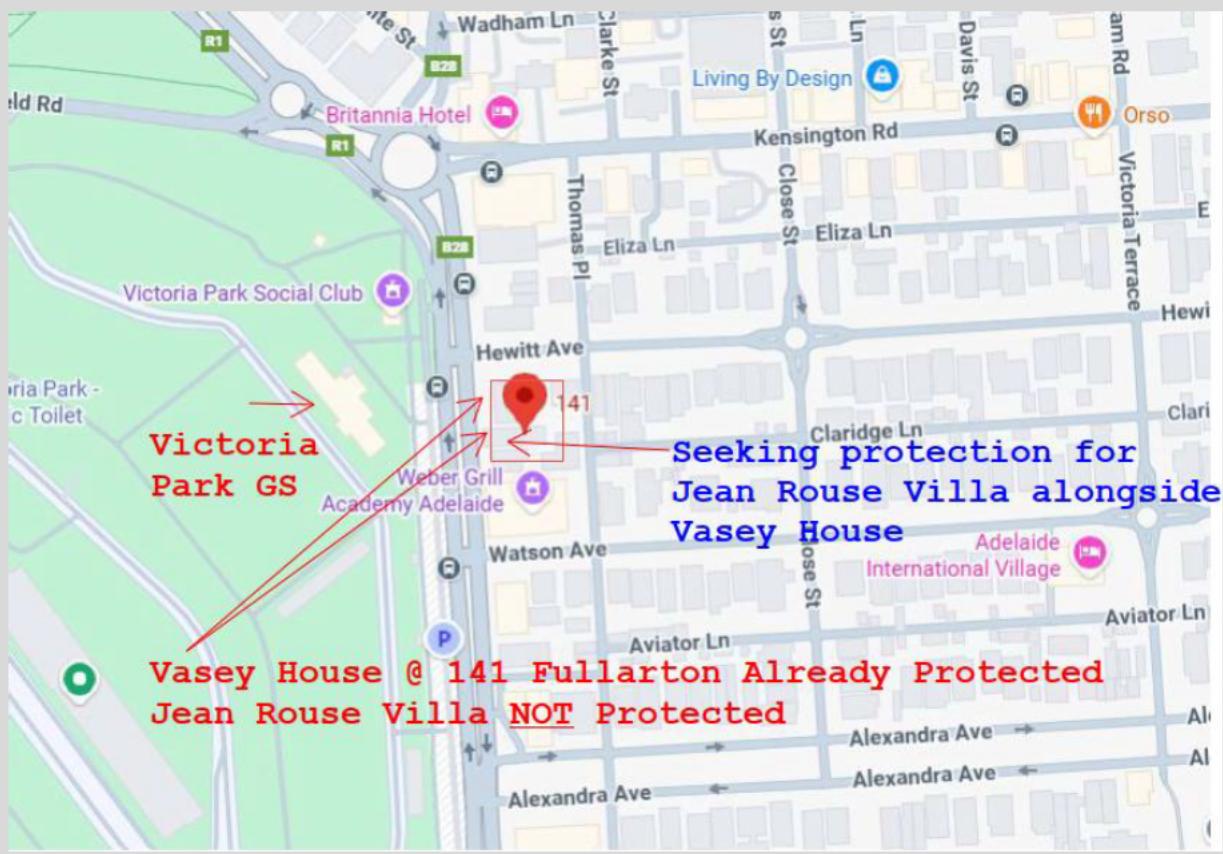
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Jean Rouse Villa (below) to the immediate South of Vasey House as elevated from Fullarton Road (both also adjacent State Heritage Listed Victoria Park Grandstand) on the opposite side of Fullarton Road;



Site Map (source Google Maps – below)



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Photo of site sign on site at the War Widow's Guild (SA) Inc. (source personal photo 3 Jan 2025)

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Above - Front of Jean Rouse Villa (141 Fullarton Road) (source personal photo 3 Jan 2025)



Jean Rouse Villa – highlighting the classic return verandah – From the East looking to Fullarton Road.
(source personal photo 3 Jan 2025).

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Jean Rouse Villa – From the north-west (source personal photo 3 Jan 2025)



Jean Rouse Villa – From south-west highlighting the classic return verandas featured with rose plantings in front and alongside. (source personal photo 3 Jan 2025).

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Decorative iron lattice work around the Return Verandah of Jean Rouse Villa facing Fullarton Road

(source personal photo 3 Jan 2025).



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It is our sincere hope that via recognition of the War Widow's Guild (SA) association with this site, and the preservation of the two Sandstone Residences + Stone Fence + the Rose Plantings, as currently situated on the site at 141 Fullarton, that a similar memorial can also be established / erected as per the Fallen Soldiers' Memorial Precinct on Alexandra Avenue (not more than 200 meters from the site at 141 Fullarton).



Current State Heritage Listed Site on Alexandra Avenue via the Burnside District Fallen Soldiers' Memorial Precinct.

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The South Australian Heritage Council is committed to transparency in relation to the listing process and wishes to enhance public confidence in the nomination, listing and decision-making process. The Council's policy is to make nominations for State heritage listing and submissions on provisional entries publicly available via webpage or to interested parties. The Council will adhere to the Privacy Principles, and your name and personal details will not be released, unless authorised or required under the privacy principles.

I do want my personal details to be released when this nomination / submission is published on the Department for Environment and Water's webpage, noting the above requirements.

I/We, [REDACTED] East Residents Association Inc nominate the following place 141 Fullarton Road (Site of the SA War Widow's Guild) including 2 historic buildings (Vasey House & Jean Rouse Villa) both facing Fullarton Road, as owned and utilised by the (SA) War Widow's Guild for guild activities and living from **1963- 2026**, for listing on the South Australian Heritage Register.

The information I have provided is correct to my knowledge.

Signature: [REDACTED]

Date: 13 January 2026

Nomination Form Checklist

Please check that your nomination includes:

- a clear indication of the place's location and significant elements within it, by marking points and boundary lines on a map;
- a history of the place explaining important aspects relevant to the nomination (which help supports arguments of cultural significance);
- a clear description of the nominated place;
- a Statement of Heritage Significance, explaining why the associated State Heritage Place is important to the State of South Australia;
- photograph/s of the object;
- Have you discussed your nomination with a heritage assessment officer before submitting?

We have called the heritage assessment officer on numerous occasions and received the same message each time "due to unforeseen circumstances they are currently unable to attend to our call".

Please forward your nomination form to the

Board and Policy Officer, South Australian Heritage Council

Via email: DEWHeritage@sa.gov.au

Or via post: **GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001**

JEAN ROUSE VILLA – 141 FULLARTON ROAD, ROSE PARK

THE STORY OF JEAN (JEANIE) ROUSE (nee BLYTH)

When on a daily walk, I have often admired an architecturally attractive old building at 141 Fullarton Road that is part of the Australian War Widows Guild in South Australia.

Along Fullarton Road, the past residents who have lived in houses along this road, and who have contributed to the foundation of the early history of Adelaide, spring to mind. Rev George Davidson, Robert Charlck, Richard Verco, John Vincent, Hermann Homburg, Heinrich Krawindel and Edward Spicer. Some of their homes are still standing, while others like Edward Spicer's have sadly been demolished – considered of no significant heritage value!



**The former home of Edward Spicer, 137
Fullarton Road – since demolished**

War Widows Guild SA Inc

On the corner of Hewitt Avenue and Fullarton Road is the property, Vasey House, which was purchased by the War Widows Guild.

The War Widows Guild was founded by Mrs Jessie Vasey in 1945 to give much needed support for women married to soldiers who lost their lives while serving overseas during WWII, giving them the opportunity of each other's company, and to supplement their unfair pensions through activities such as weaving and handcrafts.

Jeanie Rouse was a Foundation Member of the Guild in South Australia.



**House in Wilkinson Road, Parkside where
Jeanie Rouse was born in 1910**

Photo by Author 2026

She was born Jean Scriven Blyth on the 7th of October 1910, to Daisy Scriven (nee Wight) and David Blyth at Wilkinson Road, Parkside South.

During those times midwives would have attended many home births, so this may possibly have been the situation when Daisy Blyth was giving birth to her children.

We know that Jeanie Blyth married a very adventurous groom called Maxwell (Mack) Hainsworth Rouse, originally from Port Pirie.

His father (Hainsworth Frederick Rouse) had put a call out, via the newspaper, in 1928 when Mack was 15 years of age, because his son had gone missing from their home in Brougham Place at Alberton.

The description given of Maxwell included that he was a native of South Australia, (which would rightfully be challenged these days!!!) and that he had an 'ordinary' nose among other items given for a description of the young man. It was apparently not unusual for young men to venture from their homes early in life – history tells us that George Hubert Wilkins and Sidney Kidman ventured off from their homes very early in life to start their amazing adventures.

He must have eventually returned, because Jeannie and Mack, he was called, were married in the Office of the Principal Registrar, Adelaide on the 17th of October 1940, approximately 13 months after WWII had started.

Jean's new husband had already enlisted in the Australian Army in July of 1940. Although this article is Jean Rouse's story, it is important to know something of her life being married to a soldier, who never returned.

Corporal Maxwell Rouse became a Prisoner of War within the Singapore Changi camp before being transferred to the Sandakan camp in north Borneo, where he died as a POW of the

Japanese in March of 1945. He has no known grave, but his name is commemorated in a Memorial in Malaysia.

We can now go into snippets of Jeanie's life after she married.

She and Mack are said to have had 'children' – indicating more than one child.

A record of a boy called William Charlesworth has been found – born in 1942. But no records of further children have been sighted at this time. If any relatives do come forward with information about other children, it would be appreciated.

At the time of her husband's death, Jean was living with her parents on Ettrick Street, Medindie. This attractive bungalow, in need of some TLC, has recently been demolished.



Home of Jeanie's parents on Ettrick Street, Medindie

Photo from Realestate.com

Jeanie apparently was not sitting at home fretting about the future (well, we don't really know that!!) but she was, in fact, actively involved with helping others.

Newspaper items in 1941 tell of Jeanie's involvement in the TOC H League of women helpers, and the Mothers' and Babies' Health Association.



Helen Mary Mayo OBE
*Photo from University of
Adelaide (Adelaide Connect
website)*

This latter organisation had its beginnings, when another South Australian, Helen Mayo OBE co-founded the support association in 1927, because she could see the need for mothers needing assistance with their families, so the tradition of women volunteering to assist others was being carried on.

In the year of 1941, Jean Rouse, as Secretary of the Mothers and Babies Health Association, had worked in the Stow Building, Flinders Street, Adelaide.

Jean Rouse was a foundation member of the South Australian War Widows Guild and was also the first war widow in SA to pay her one shilling to become a member.

Music was a much-loved hobby of Jeanie's, as well as being one of the South Australian Guild's very early weavers. At one stage had been an instructress for a course of night classes.

She was so efficient at the craft that the Governor of SA, Sir Mark Oliphant, asked the Guild to weave a length of fabric to reupholster two small chairs in the Royal Suite of Government House, in anticipation of a visit by Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip. Jean was given the task. Sir Mark chose the pattern and colours, and S A woollen mills supplied the wool.

Jeanie would probably have seen the original stables that were on the property of Vasey House, originally the home of Richard Verco, and this was what the Guild used as a shop to store and sell their craft items.

In another news item, it was reported that Mrs Jean Rouse was installed as Chairman for 1954 of the TOC H organisations, whose activities of which helped several other support groups, including the "Women's Association". Functions organised included a camp for girls at Victor Harbor, a report on the Australian Festival held in Perth, planning a sweet stall for the Spastic Children's Fete, and various other events.

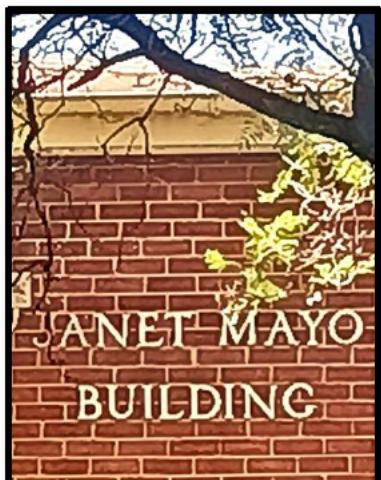
The Adelaide branch of TOC H held some of their meetings at the home of Olive Hookings, of Close Street, Rose Park – within walking distance of Vasey House in Hewitt Avenue.

In 1954, members of TOC H at that time were asked to go along to help clear up after repairs following the Adelaide earthquake – in particular Mitcham Branch of TOC H, and in the city office at Selborne Chambers, Pirie Street Adelaide.

Jeanie had returned to work when her children went to school but used time from her annual leave to be the Minutes Secretary during Janet Mayo's term of office as President of the War Widows Guild. She took the minutes of the first State Conference under Janet Mayo's leadership also in October 1967, in Adelaide.

Edith Janet Mayo was the South Australian President of the War Widows Guild at the time of Jessie Vasey's death in 1966 and was promptly elected the new National President.

She became a War Widow in 1941, at 26 years, receiving the telegram of her husband's death while he was serving on the HMAS Sydney, which was attacked by the German raider war ship called Kormoran off the coast of Western Australian with the loss of all on board.



Janet Mayo Building Rose Park
Photo by Author

Janet, like many war wives was living with her parents, Janet Doris (nee Hubbe) and Alfred Allen Simpson at "Undelcarra" a well-known historical house in Burnside. The telegram simply said, 'Missing in action, believed killed.'



Janet Mayo (nee Simpson) CBE
SA President War Widows Guild
for eleven years. National
President 1966-7
Photo from "No Mean Destiny" by
Mavis Thorpe Clark
(on loan from [redacted] – Former
President War Widows Guild, SA)

The Janet Mayo Building – of the War Widows Guild – in Hewitt Avenue, stands on the corner of Close Street and bears her name.

With all of these women, we can clearly see that when a social problem occurred, they actively stepped up to help and be involved.

Jeanie Rouse passed away at 141 Fullarton Road in 1983, in the Heritage house that now bears her name, “Jean Rouse Villa”. She was aged 72 years.



Rouse Villa
141 Fullarton Road, Rose Park
Photo by Author 2026



Jean Rouse collecting firewood at the Balhannah Shady Grove Unitarian Cemetery and Chapel
Photo from “No Mean Destiny” by Mavis Thorpe Clark
(on loan from [REDACTED] – Former President Member War Widows Guild, SA)

Jeanie is buried at the Balhannah Shady Grove Unitarian Cemetery in the Adelaide Hills.



Balhannah Shady Grove School House, Cemetery and Unitarian Chapel
Photo by Author 2023

This is a beautiful resting place for many people including Dr John Dowie AM, the famous sculptor and artist, who was a resident of Dulwich, which, like Rose Park, is a suburb of the City of Burnside.

The Fullarton Road Villas of the War Widows Guild – “Jean Rouse Villa” (141 Fullarton Road) and “Vasey House” (2 Hewitt Avenue)

Between 1965 and 1966, what was Victoria Avenue had its name changed to Fullarton Road. Before that, it had had several different names, initially with Kent Road, beginning where the Maid and Magpie Hotel now stands; Brownhill Creek Road; Government Road; etc.

These two houses stand side by side, one on Hewitt Avenue and the other on Fullarton Road.

Despite very important people who may have built and lived in these homes, their importance seems secondary to the story of the brave women of the War Widows Guild who have had to fight difficult battles for justice and fairness in receiving pensions and support – and who, it appears still have to keep fighting to avoid unceremonious eviction.

In 1965, number 7 Victoria Avenue, as it was the name and number used at the time (now known as 141, Fullarton Road), had Mrs E Pierson and Mrs B McLeod as residing there – most likely War Widows. The following year, 1966, the records show it as Number 141 and as simply the War Widows Guild in 1967.

This following is an extract from a letter from a young girl, coming from overseas to visit her father's parents on Grant Avenue, Rose Park, and who had read her grandmother's copy of the book "Secrets of Rose Park, Toorak Gardens, Dulwich, and Districts Beyond" and kindly wrote a review.

I found this Book fasinating
particularly the Diagrams and
Descriptions of the Houses first
built there.

I wonder what life will be like
in a hundred years time!

—Emilia

9

The 'wisdom of youth'! Was she telling us to be careful with our heritage homes.

Unfortunately, I have been told that the records of the War Widows Guild have been kept in the original office of Vasey House, at Number 2 Hewitt Avenue, Rose Park, which has been locked and therefore not available now to any of the present residents as at the 7th of January 2026.

These ladies have applied to another interstate War Veterans Association in New South Wales to be accepted under their organisation, but after 4 months have had no reply.

After visiting two residents at Vasey House, I came away with the realisation that it seems that nothing at all has changed as far as assistance to help War Widows and as a society we should be ashamed.

Compiled by

Author and Resident of the City of Burnside.
11th of January, 2026.

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Additional Material Post Initial Application on 14th Jan 2026 – Provided 20 Jan 2026



Looking South along what is now **Fullarton Road -1915 (Source: State Library Archives)**.

Noting at 141 Fullarton, Vasey House (Local Heritage: 8278) and Jean Rouse Villa, both to the East, and the entrance to the Victoria Park "Members Gate" on the West (the Victoria Park grandstand also being a "significant" State Heritage place (ID: 13661).

These remaining buildings also provide one of the last Fullarton road entrances / gateways / corridors into the recognised "Heritage Precinct" of Rose Park (itself one of the last remaining intact precincts of its kind in greater Adelaide).

Put simply, there are three distinct layers of critical heritage importance at play with this location.

First, Jessie Vasey House, Jean Rouse Villa, and the broader legacy of the SA War Widows, which forms a unique and irreplaceable cultural asset on this site, and the state broadly.

Second, directly opposite sits Victoria Park grandstand, its historic gates, and the surrounding parklands (picture below).

Third, the suburb of Rose Park itself—one of Adelaide's most intact heritage precincts—contains significant streetscapes, **including the State Heritage listed WWI memorial plantings along Alexandra Avenue (ID: 13987)**.

The current proposed development at 141 Fullarton, would completely erase the first of these heritage layers, should Vasey House be partially demolished, and Jean Rouse Villa demolished.

SA Heritage Register

Place Nomination form

South Australian HERITAGE COUNCIL

In doing so, this would also diminish the value of the other two layers.

The result would also be an intrusive, visually jarring backdrop, that overwhelms and undermines the remaining heritage assets, rather than respecting and complementing them appropriately.



Victoria Park Grandstand 1920's (Source: State Library Archives).

Of further note – it has been highlighted to us that the “stone terrace wall” between Jean Rouse Villa and the Fullarton Road entrance – is likely original and worthy of protection / preservation.



A stone terrace wall between Jean Rouse Villa and the Fullarton Road entrance to Jean Rouse Villa (source personal photo 19 Jan 2026 on site).

SA Heritage Register

Place Nomination form

**South Australian
HERITAGE COUNCIL**

Additional Material Post Initial Application on 14th Jan 2026 – Provided 27 Jan 2026

APPENDIX 1

Details of National War Widows Day as declared by the premier of South Australia following strong advocacy from the Australian War Widow (SA) Inc in 2024.

The inspiring story behind War Widows Day 18th Oct 2023 (Veterans SA)

South Australia commemorates inaugural War Widows Day

War Widows Day will be commemorated for the first time today in South Australia to recognise the resilience and enduring sacrifice of Australian war widows.

This important day of observance is an opportunity for the South Australian community to pay tribute to the strength, courage, and unwavering commitment of those who have lost a spouse or partner through service for the Australian Defence Force.

The day of commemoration was officially declared by the Malinauskas Labor Government in March this year, following strong advocacy from the Australian War Widows (SA) Inc.

The Australian War Widows Inc. (previously the War Widows' Guild of Australia) has a long history of supporting the families of the fallen. It was established in 1945 by Mrs Jessie Vasey, whose birthday has been chosen as the commemoration date. In recognition of the occasion, Parliament House will be lit up in royal blue tonight – the official colour of Australian War Widows Inc.

War Widows Day will be formally recognised in South Australia on 19 October each year.

Quotes

Attributable to Geoff Brock

Today we come together for the first time to formally honour the families of the fallen. Establishing a dedicated day to recognise and honour our war widows and widowers is a simple yet significant gesture to acknowledge all who have been touched and bereaved by the death of a spouse resulting from Defence service.

We also recognise the tireless work of Australian War Widows (SA) Inc as they continue to support the wellbeing of Defence families affected by a loss across the state.

On behalf of all South Australians, I thank the war widows and widowers in our community for their service and acknowledge the unthinkable sacrifices they have made.



Premier of South Australia

<https://www.premier.sa.gov.au/media-releases/news-archive/south-australia-commemorates-inaugural-war-widows-day>

Jan 24, 2026 9:58 am

The inspiring story behind War Widows Day

News: Wednesday, 18th October 2023



October 19 has been officially enshrined as War Widows Day in South Australia, recognising the sacrifices and contributions of generations of war widows and widowers.

Australian war widows and widowers were formally recognised for the first time in South Australia, when the inaugural War Widows Day was held on 19 October 2023.

The day of commemoration was officially declared by the South Australian Government in March 2023, following strong advocacy from the Australian War Widows (SA) Inc and similar declarations in New South Wales and Queensland.

At the time, then Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Geoff Brock, recognised the work of Australian War Widows (SA) Inc. (now part of the Families of Veterans Guild) whose members support the wellbeing of Defence families.

"Establishing a dedicated day to recognise and honour our war widows and widowers is a simple yet significant gesture to acknowledge all who have been touched and bereaved by the death of a spouse resulting from Defence service," he said. "We also recognise the tireless work of Australian War Widows (SA) Inc as they continue to support the wellbeing of Defence families affected by a loss across the state."

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Founded as the War Widows' Craft Guild by **Mrs Jessie Vasey OBE CBE** in November 1945, the organisation has continued to evolve to meet the needs of its ever-changing community for more than 75 years. It was established in response to a lack of support and recognition of war widows and families following World War I and World War II.

Mrs Vasey was the wife of Major General George Vasey CB CBE DSO, one of the most renowned Australian generals of the Second World War.

During a visit home in 1945, Major General Vasey visited the widow of one of his fallen men, where he was shocked by the poor conditions they were living in and the absence of government support. He decided that after peace was declared it would be his mission to fight for better compensation and support for war widows.

In a sad twist of fate, Mrs Vasey herself became a war widow when her husband was killed in an aircraft crash on 5 March 1945. It was then that she decided to follow through with her husband's pledge to ensure that war widows and their families would be cared for, just as the government had promised to the men who enlisted.



Mrs Jessie Vasey CBE OBE
Source: [Australian War Widows](#)

When the organisation started advocating for the national declaration of War Widows Day, 19 October – Mrs Vasey's birthdate – was chosen in her honour as the commemoration date.

In 2024, the day was marked nationally for the first time, with 19 October recognised across the country as National War Widows Day, to honour the sacrifice war widows have endured and the legacy they carry on.

This day may be difficult for some members of the veteran community. If you require support or access to resources, please visit [ADF Members & Families](#) or call the 24/7 helpline on 1800 624 608.

[Learn more about War Widows Day.](#)

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We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and acknowledge their continuing connection to land, water, sky and community.

We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the elders past, present and emerging.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should be aware that this website contains images or names of people who have passed away.