**Fences in Suburban Gardens**

**Aim:** to conduct background research for a proposed exhibition to be held at the Unley Museum. The topic of the exhibition is a historical look at suburban gardens in South Australia. Due to the scale of the topic, the research conducted focused mainly on front garden fences and in particular a quick look at the chronological changes in fence styles. The curator of the museum also required past fence designs, past advertisements for fences and other garden products as well as historical photos of gardens and fences taken within the City of Unley council area.

**Period #1: 1840s to 1860s:**
Fences during this period were very simple stone or timber balustrades. Towards the end very simple picket fences were used on most houses and the more distinct houses were fenced with a masonry base topped with wrought iron railings.

**Period #2: 1870s to WW1:**
Continued use of picket fences on small cottages however a variety of picket sizes and designs emerge. Other fences from this period included ones constructed from timber posts and corrugated iron panels with decorative post capping as well as fences of wrought and cast iron on masonry bases became more popular.

**Period #3: WW1 to WW2:**
Cast iron fences lost their popularity after the First World War. A change in timber fences saw the ornate pickets replaced with squared off palings caped with solid timber sections. Government house projects and the establishment of the Cyclone Company wire factory gave way to cheaper woven wire fences. Also the opening of the Hume Brother factory in 1905 resulted in the rise of steel ribbon as material of choice.

**Period #4: Post WW2:**
Post World War Two saw rise in the use of wrought iron with masonry bases again. However continuing the trend of economical and practical fences saw the emergence of wire mesh fences supported by a metal pipe frame as well as a increased use of brush fences.

**Photos Sources:** South Australian Homes and Gardens magazine, The Garden and the Field journal & Fences in South Australia study