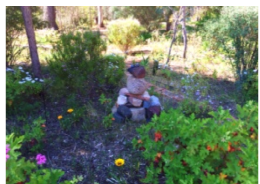


cost of £2,000 and in 1940 visitors note in the House Visitor's book (still in use today) how wise and useful the additions are proving.



Bishop White began the planting of trees and many more were planted by Bishop Thomas, who often preached in the Diocese during the dry nineteen-thirties about our need to care for God's creation and plant trees to save erosion. He was one of the first to plant Australian native trees—you can see good examples not only of the Sugar Gum, but also the SA Blue Gum, the WA Coral Gum and the WA Silver Mallee.

Much of the furniture in the House was bequeathed for the use of future Bishops by Bishop Thomas and in recent years the house has been well cared for and maintained by successive Standing Committees and Diocesan Councils.



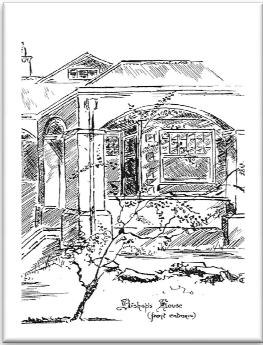
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DIOCESE OF WILLOCHRA

Bishop's House



Gladstone
South Australia



The Diocese of Willochra was formed from the Diocese of Adelaide and inaugurated on 28th July, 1915 when Bishop Gilbert White was enthroned in St. Paul's Church, Port Pirie. At that stage it had not been decided where the Bishop should live and he rented the Rectory at Petersburg. Then the Bishop rented a house in Gladstone for three years from 1st March, 1917 (the house opposite the Uniting Church and the NW corner of Cross and High Streets). The 1917 Synod initiated the "Bishop's House Fund", with the aim of raising £2,000 ready for building a suitable house after the war. In 1918 Synod recommended that Gladstone be the place of residence of the Bishop, and slowly gifts were received towards the cost of the house.



Two acres of the Boyoolie Estate were bought in late 1918 for £50 and a further half acre in 1923 for £10. Then in October 1922 the Synod decided to go ahead with the building of the house for £2,500 and the February 1923 Synod increased this to £3,000.

The house was designed by Mr J Firman Jenkin, architect of Port Pirie and Mrs Nutter Thomas, wife of the Bishop of Adelaide, set the Foundation Stone in place in the east wall on Lady Day, 10th April, 1923. A bottle was placed beneath the stone containing copes of the Areas Express and the Willochran, pictures of the First Synod of the Diocese of Willochra in 1915, of the Bishop of Adelaide and of



Willochra and of Bishop Wilson. Also included was a portrait of Bishop White, a map of the Diocese, a copy of the Diocesan Seal, a list of the clergy, an Easter card of the Gladstone Parish, Red Cross buttons and silver coins.



The contractors were Mr J Oliver of Port Pirie, with Mr F E Delsar of Gladstone doing the masonry work. Then on Tuesday 30th October, 1923 the house was opened by Lady Bridges, wife of the Governor of SA (The silver key she used on the occasion is now at Bishop's House.) In describing the occasion The Willochran (January 1924) goes on:

"Loud admiration was expressed both for the House and the site on a low hill overlooking the town, with a view of many miles in every direction, to the Caltowie Hills on the East, Mount Remarkable, forty miles to the North, to the ranges over Crystal Brook to the West, and Mount Herbert to the South. On the opening day the whole country, including the House paddock was covered with the purple blossoms of the bugloss flower, which combined with golden blossoms of the wild mustard carpet the country with sheets of blue and gold."

The second stage of the House, to include a Chapel, Library and Study and extra bed-rooms to allow for hospitality to visitors began when £400 was given in 1928 for the Chapel, and in 1934 Synod approved the additions and authorised the Standing Committee to go ahead with 3/4 of the money needed was in hand. This work took place in 1939, the Gale Brothers of Gladstone being the contractors, at a

