

BETTER HERITAGE INFORMATION SUMMARY OF STATE HERITAGE PLACE

COMMENTARY ON THE LISTING

Description and notes with respect to a place entered in the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with either the *South Australian Heritage Act 1978* or the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

The information contained in this document is provided in accordance with s14 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

NAME: Oakbank Racecourse

PLACE NO.: 12883

ADDRESS: Peramangk and Kaurna Country

46 Oakwood Road

Oakbank 5243

CT 6221/661 D120498 A5, CT 6221/664 D120498 Q70, 71

Hundred of Onkaparinga

CONFIRMED IN THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE REGISTER:

20 November 1986

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Oakbank Racecourse is associated with the emergence of horse racing in South Australia in the nineteenth century and the Oakbank Easter race meeting, today known as the Oakbank Easter Carnival, which has been held at the Racecourse most years since 1872. The Oakbank Easter Carnival grew to be the most popular race meeting in South Australia. The picturesque qualities of the racecourse and the open spaces of 'the flat' and 'the hill' contributed to the popularity of the Easter Carnival, while the scale and extent of the Oakbank Racecourse grandstand and totalizator facilities demonstrates this and the popularity of horseracing and its growth during the first half of the twentieth century.

INDICATIVE CRITERIA (under section 16 of the Heritage Places Act 1993)

(a) it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history

Horseracing emerged as an important spectator sport and recreational pastime for South Australians during the second half of the nineteenth century. The popularity of horseracing grew markedly through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and is considered to have peaked during the early post-Second World War period. By the late nineteenth century, two preeminent South Australian horseracing fixtures had emerged, namely the Adelaide Cup, held at Morphettville Racecourse since 1875, and the Oakbank Easter meeting, known today as the Oakbank Easter Carnival, held at Oakbank Racecourse since 1872.

The Oakbank Racecourse, as the venue for one of South Australia's two preeminent horseracing fixtures, demonstrates a clear and strong association with horseracing in South Australia. The scale and extent of the Oakbank Racecourse grandstand and totalizator facilities demonstrate the popularity of horseracing and its growth during the first half of the twentieth century.

(g) it has special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance

The Oakbank Racecourse is associated with the Oakbank Easter race meeting, known today as the Oakbank Easter Carnival, an event of historical importance to South Australia.

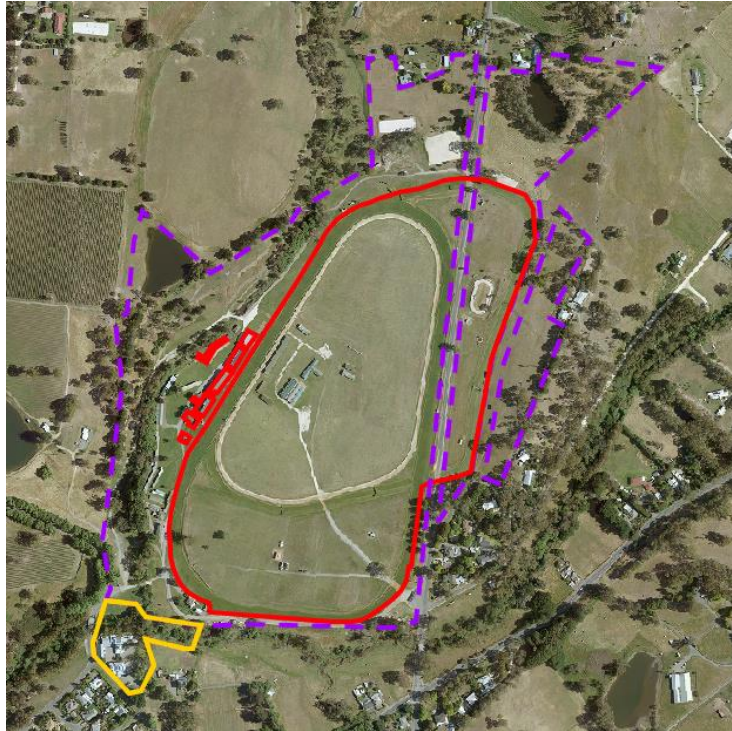
An annual event held most years since 1872, the Oakbank Easter Carnival grew to become the most popular race meeting in South Australia. This was due in part to the picturesque, scenic qualities of the Oakbank racecourse and open spaces known as 'the flat' and 'the hill', which made the meeting attractive to the general public, many of whom attended the event to picnic. As the place where the meeting evolved and has been held most years since 1872, the Oakbank Racecourse has a special and direct association with the Oakbank Easter Carnival.

SITE PLAN

Oakbank Racecourse

PLACE NO.: 12883

94 Oakwood Road Oakbank



Oakbank Racecourse, 94 Oakwood Road, Oakbank CT 6221/661 D120498 A5, CT 6221/664 D120498 Q70, 71 Hundred of Onkaparinga (see following page for detail).*

Elements of heritage significance include (but are not necessarily limited to):


- Six stands namely the Jockey Rooms, Committee Stand, Members' Stand (Shillabeer Stand), Grandstand (John Glatz Stand), Stand and Derby Stand
- Totalizator building
- Flat racing course
- Steeplechase course
- Landscape features known as 'the flat' and 'the hill'

Elements not considered to contribute to significance of place include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- Other structures, fencing and landscaping, including all structures on 'the flat' and the 'the hill'

N ↑

LEGEND

 Parcel boundaries (Indicates extent of Listing)

 Oakbank Brewery SHP 12889

 Outline of Elements of Significance for State Heritage Place

*Red outline is indicative of elements of significance, noting imperfect alignment of aerial imagery with parcel cadastre.

SITE PLAN

Oakbank Racecourse

PLACE NO.: 12883


94 Oakwood Road Oakbank



Oakbank Racecourse, detail showing locations of significant structures (see previous page for overview showing arrangement of flat and steeplechase courses, parcel boundaries and adjacent SHP).*

N ↑

LEGEND

 Parcel boundaries (Indicates extent of Listing)

 Outline of Elements of Significance for State Heritage Place

*Red outline is indicative of elements of significance, noting imperfect alignment of aerial imagery with parcel cadastre.

Physical Description

The Oakbank Racecourse comprises seven significant structures, namely the Jockey Rooms (including a stand); Committee Stand; Members' Stand (known as the Shillabeer Stand); Grandstand (known as the John Glatz Stand); Stand; the Derby Stand; and a totalizator building; and two horseracing courses, namely, a flat racing course; and a steeplechase course.



Significant structures at Oakbank Racecourse

Source: Adapted from ENVMaps

1. Jockey Rooms (1913)
2. Committee Stand (1940)
3. Member's Stand (1898)
4. Grandstand (1923)
5. Stand (1914)
6. Derby Stand (1911)
7. Totalizator Building (c.1937)

The Jockey Rooms (1913) is a timber-framed building comprising rooms at the western end covered by a Dutch gable roof, a viewing stand at the eastern end covered by a skillion roof, and a lean-to structure along the southern side with a sloping roof.

The Committee Stand (1940) is a two-storey building comprising a brick ground floor and a timber-framed first floor comprising a viewing gallery with a Dutch gable roof, surmounted by a viewing tower (tower not significant fabric).

The Member's Stand (1898) is a two-storey viewing stand with stone walls supporting a timber-framed lower gallery. Cast iron columns and reinforced concrete piers support a steel-framed roof gallery (added 1928), in turn supporting a flat-roofed viewing box (box not significant fabric).

The Grandstand (1923) is a timber-framed viewing stand with a skillion roof sloping towards the east. The roof and walls are clad in corrugated galvanised steel.

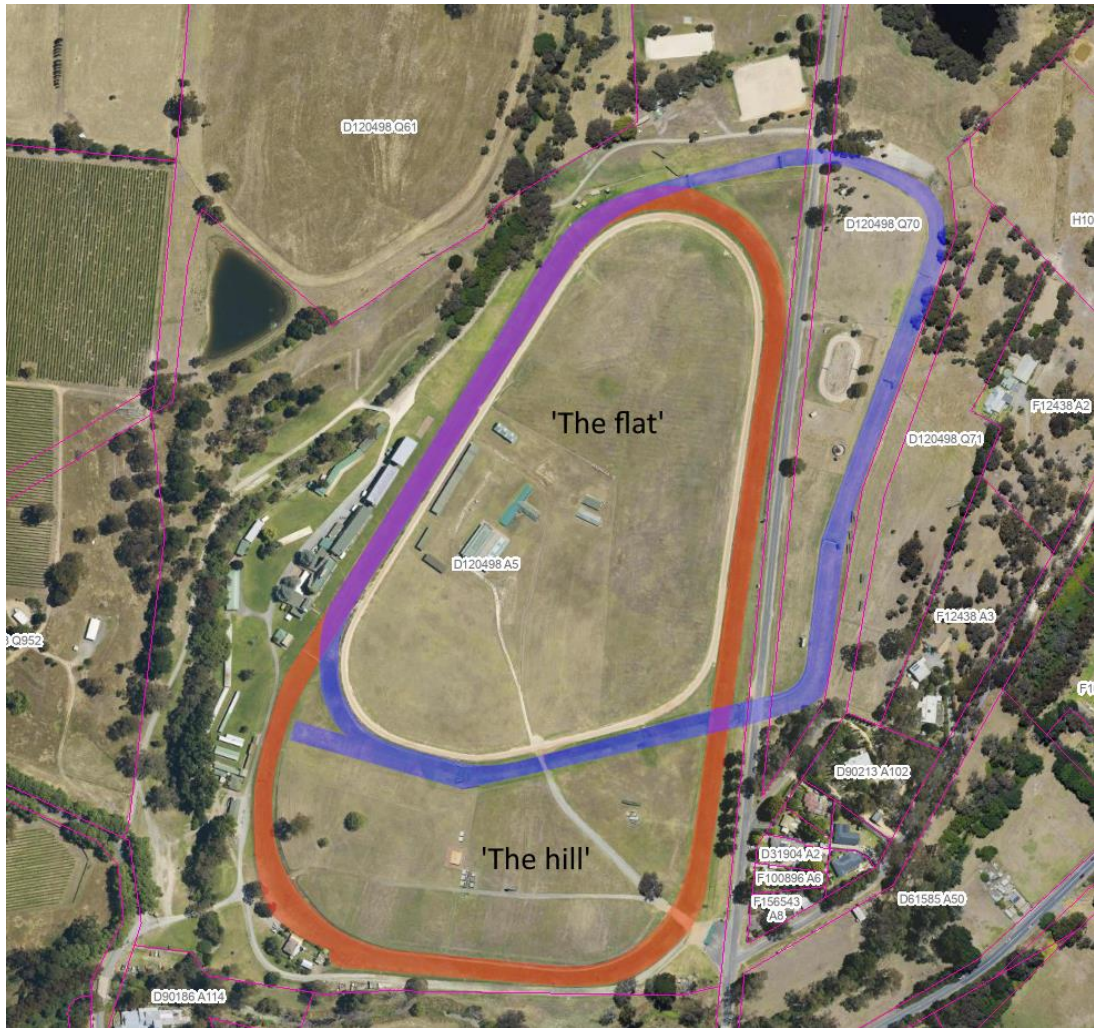
The Stand (1914) is a timber-framed viewing stand with a skillion roof sloping towards the west. The roof and walls are clad in corrugated galvanised steel.

The Derby Stand (1911) is a timber-framed viewing stand with a skillion roof sloping towards the west. The roof and walls are clad in corrugated galvanised steel.

The timber-framed totalizer building (c.1937) comprises two gable-roofed wings in a boomerang configuration, with an adjoining third wing with a sloping roof arranged perpendicular to one end. The walls are clad in weatherboard and the roof is covered in corrugated galvanised steel.

The flat racing course follows a roughly triangular path, with straights along the eastern, western and southern sides and broad curves at the northern, south-eastern and south-western corners. A low hill inside the southern end of the course, known as 'the hill' obscures part of the course when viewed from the stands.

The steeplechase course forms a rough parallelogram, sharing part of the flat racing course along the straight in front of the stands before diverging from the flat course in front of the Jockey's Stand, and cutting across the enclosed area inside the flat racing course, known as 'the flat'. The steeplechase course passes over both the flat course and Shillabeer Road, then runs northwards, roughly parallel to Shillabeer Road, before passing back over Shillabeer Road and rejoining the flat course at its northern end.



Oakbank Racecourse showing flat (orange) and steeplechase (blue) courses, 'the flat' and 'the hill'.

Source: Adapted from ENVMaps

Elements of Significance:

Elements of heritage significance include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- Six stands namely the Jockey Rooms, Committee Stand, Members' Stand (Shillabeer Stand), Grandstand (John Glatz Stand), Stand and Derby Stand
- Totalizator building
- Flat racing course
- Steeplechase course
- Landscape features known as 'the flat' and 'the hill'

Elements not considered to contribute to significance of place include (but are not necessarily limited to):

Other structures, fencing and landscaping, including all structures on 'the flat' and 'the hill'

History of the Place

Horseracing in South Australia¹

Transposed to Australia from Britain, horseracing was a popular diversion in the other colonies by the 1830s, especially in military and convict circles. South Australia's first recognised race meeting occurred at Thebarton on New Year's Day, 1838. Racing occurred in the Adelaide parklands from the 1840s, with the first official race meeting occurring in 1846. Although intended for the recreation of 'gentlemen', the establishment of the first South Australian Turf Club in 1838, supported by individuals such as Colonel William Light and James Hurtle Fisher, gave a legitimacy to horseracing and, in turn, gambling, which later reformers found difficult to undermine.²

From the early 1850s, permanent racecourses were established in Adelaide's outer villages, with most meetings held at Lockleys, west of the city. The inaugural Adelaide Cup, which became South Australia's most prestigious race, was run at Thebarton in 1864. After several failed attempts, the South Australian Jockey Club (SAJC) was established in 1873.³

Morphettville Racecourse opened in 1875 and became the regular venue for the Adelaide Cup in May the following year. The Adelaide Race Club (ARC), established in 1882, was based at Victoria Park in the East Parklands. The Port Adelaide Racing Club, established in 1890, built a racecourse at Cheltenham, which opened in 1895.⁴

Race meetings, often convened by local publicans, provided social outings for South Australians and took place in towns such as Salisbury, Gawler, Kapunda, Burra and Tungkillo. From the 1870s, most small towns in the Mid North established jockey clubs and held races, often on St Patrick's Day. Picnic race meetings were also held throughout the state, most notably at Oakbank (see below),⁵ which grew to be South Australia's most popular race meeting.

Gambling, including gambling associated with horseracing, was opposed mainly by middle-class Protestant Christians, who pressured successive South Australian governments to outlaw the practice.⁶ In October 1879, in an attempt to eliminate illegal bookmakers and betting on credit, South Australia pioneered the manual on-course totalizator system on Australian racecourses, which allowed individuals to bet with each other instead of with bookmakers. Designed to register bets, calculate dividends and indicate odds for all starters in a given race, the totalizator was expensive to operate due to the large number of clerks and accountants required to administer the system. The totalizator failed to remove bookmakers from South Australian racecourses, leading to the enactment of the *Totalizator Repeal Act 1883*. The Act banned both bookmakers and the totalizator from racecourses, leading to the near-collapse of the South Australian racing industry.⁷

In 1887, the Onkaparinga Racing Club (see below) employed the totalizator illegally at Oakbank Racecourse. The Club received a 'token' fine and threatened to appeal the penalty in the Supreme Court.⁸ Lobbying and legal action by the South Australian racing industry resulted in the reintroduction of the totalizator to South Australian racecourses in 1888. Bookmakers, however, remained illegal. In 1921, the SAJC introduced the automatic totalizator machine and licenced bookmakers were again permitted on course in 1933.⁹ While bookmakers reduced totalizator takings, the loss to racing clubs was more than covered by the fees clubs charged.¹⁰

Through most of the twentieth century, betting on horseracing remained the most popular form of gambling.¹¹ In 1933, a Royal Commission into illegal gambling recommended the establishment of a state-government regulated, off-course totalizator network. This was established in 1967 as the Totalizator Agency Board (TAB). By 2001, all South Australian racing took place in the context of a national network, regulated by state parliament.¹²

Origins of the Oakbank Racecourse and the Oakbank Easter meeting

Prior to the arrival of Europeans, the area now known as Oakbank was a summer camping place of the Peramangk people,¹³ who modified the landscape, burning the understorey growth to create a park-like¹⁴ environment suitable for hunting. The Peramangk also deliberately burned the boles of trees to create permanent shelters which were occupied seasonally.¹⁵

The landscape created by the Peramangk proved attractive to pastoralists, such as Captain John Finnis, who began grazing stock in the Mount Barker district from August 1838.¹⁶ The Peramangk people initially welcomed their new neighbours and helped the early German settlers at nearby Hahndorf to survive, teaching them to catch possums for food and skins¹⁷ and introducing them to native root vegetables, which were a vital source of food prior to the first European vegetable harvest. However, tensions emerged when the settlers began clearing the land for farming and restricted Peramangk access to sources of water.¹⁸ The Peramangk were quickly dispossessed and by the 1850s, some surviving families had relocated to and merged with First Nations groups living along the River Murray.¹⁹

In 1839, William Johnston arrived in South Australia with his family aboard the *Buckinghamshire* and settled in the Onkaparinga Valley in 1840. Johnston named the locality Oakbank after the Oakbank foundry in Glasgow, owned by his mother's family. In 1841 Johnston's sons William, James and Andrew commenced brewing and in 1843 they established a successful brewery on Section 4018 of the Hundred of Onkaparinga. By 1854, they had acquired the neighbouring Section 4019 and the following year they subdivided part of Section 4018 as the township of Oakbank.²⁰ The Johnstons became important local landowners and employers, and by 1901 their

brewing firm was registered as J. & A. G. Johnston Limited.²¹ Still family-owned, this business continues in 2024 producing wine and cordial.

During the early 1860s, a group of horseracing enthusiasts sought to establish a racecourse in the area near Oakbank. With the help of Andrew Johnston, these enthusiasts secured the Johnston family's paddock on Sections 4018 and 4019 and permission to 'see what sort of track [they] could make.' With several men and a dray borrowed from the brewery, they 'spent several hours in cutting logs, rolling them away, and in defining the course.'²² One fallen tree was too large to remove, so it was incorporated into the course as one of the jumps, which became known as 'the fallen log.'²³

The earliest known race at what became known as the Oakbank Racecourse, sometimes known as the Onkaparinga Racecourse, occurred in April 1862,²⁴ with brewery vans drawn up beside the course to serve as stands.²⁵ Over the following years, racing was held elsewhere, including at a nearby paddock belonging to J. C. F. Lauterbach located near Woodside, at Inverbrackie, and near Hay Valley. However, none of these locations proved satisfactory,²⁶ leading to an eventual return to the Johnstons' paddock.

The first regular race meeting at the Oakbank Racecourse was held on Easter Monday, 1 April 1872.²⁷ This first meeting comprised five organised races, namely maidens, for horses that had never won public money; the Onkaparinga Plate, a flat race; a hurdle race or steeplechase; the Miners' Purse, another flat race; and the huryskurry, a short race for amusement run by inferior horses. The meeting was concluded with a trotting race organised 'on the spot.'²⁸

Repeated over the following years, the fixture grew in popularity,²⁹ resulting in the establishment of the Onkaparinga Racing Club in 1875, for the purpose of organising annual race meetings at Oakbank. Alfred von Doussa was elected the Club's first secretary, a position he held until his retirement in 1924.³⁰ The first fixture organised by the Onkaparinga Racing Club occurred on Easter Monday, 17 April 1876. By this time the Onkaparinga Plate was known as the Onkaparinga Cup, and a £20 prize was offered for the 'event of the day', the handicap steeplechase.³¹ At the following meeting in 1877, the handicap steeplechase became known as the Great Eastern Steeplechase.³²

Despite the presence of a hill which hid part of the course from spectators and was initially considered 'a grave drawback,'³³ the Oakbank Racecourse proved immediately popular, in part due to the 'delightful' scenic journey through the hills from Adelaide and the 'picnic' atmosphere at the course.³⁴ For most of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, racing occurred only once annually at Oakbank Racecourse, usually on Easter Monday. Besides the Onkaparinga Cup and the Great Eastern Steeplechase, typical events included the Hills Railway Stakes, a flat race

introduced in 1883,³⁵ and an amateur steeplechase, which was named after von Doussa in 1924.³⁶ Besides horseracing, the Oakbank Racecourse was occasionally used for other activities such as sheepdog trials, picnics and fetes.³⁷

A two-day racing program, comprising Easter Saturday and Easter Monday, was introduced in 1939,³⁸ but attendance on the Saturday remained low relative to the Monday. During the Second World War, buildings at the Oakbank Racecourse were requisitioned for military use, however, at Easter 1940 and 1941 the military temporarily vacated, allowing the fixture to proceed. In February 1942, the Playford government announced a temporary ban on all racing and gambling in South Australia,³⁹ which remained in force until the end of the war.

Growth of the Oakbank Easter meeting 1876 – 1941

Attendance at Oakbank fixtures trended upwards through the nineteenth and into the early twentieth centuries, facilitated especially by improvements in transport between Adelaide and the Onkaparinga Valley. Around 7,000 people attended the Oakbank Racecourse in 1882, travelling predominantly by horse-drawn road vehicles.⁴⁰ In March 1883, a railway line opened between Adelaide and Aldgate, and the following year a record crowd of around 10,000 travelled to Oakbank on Easter Monday.⁴¹ Later, the opening of intercolonial railway lines to Melbourne (1887) and Broken Hill via Cockburn (1888) attracted visitors, entries and bookmakers from the eastern colonies.⁴² Attendance increased to around 25,000 by 1904 and 30,000 by 1910.⁴³ Around this time, visitors began travelling to Oakbank Racecourse by private motor vehicles.

In 1918, a branch railway line opened between Balhannah and Mount Pleasant, including a station at Oakbank. In the years that followed, special trains from places such as Semaphore, Taillem Bend, Victor Harbor, Melbourne and Adelaide brought most visitors to the Easter Monday meeting.⁴⁴

By Easter 1927, the road between Adelaide and Bridgewater was surfaced and that year around 8,000 cars made the journey to Oakbank, reflecting the rise in private motor vehicle ownership which occurred during the 1920s. Some motorists parked inside the flat racing course, in an area known as the 'flat' and others in the paddocks around the racecourse track, in rows laid out by the Automobile Association.⁴⁵ The completion of a bituminised road between Adelaide and Oakbank in 1932 encouraged more visitors to make the journey by road as the decade progressed.⁴⁶

As attendance grew, the rising profitability of the fixture allowed the Oakbank Racing Club to offer larger prizes, increasing the prestige of the meeting and in turn feeding the popularity of the event. Prize money awarded for the Great Eastern Steeplechase increased over time, reaching £100 in 1878, £500 in 1889 and £1,000 in 1896. In 1927,

the prize money reached £3,000, making the Great Eastern Steeplechase the richest jumping race in Australasia and the second-richest in the world.⁴⁷

Oakbank Racecourse structures and amenities

The rising profitability of meetings also allowed facilities at the Oakbank Racecourse to be gradually improved to accommodate growing attendance. No permanent structures existed at the Oakbank Racecourse prior to April 1879. The first stand, for Onkaparinga Racing Club members only and seating 450, was completed early in 1880.⁴⁸ A public stand seating 400 and located north of the members' stand, was opened in 1885.⁴⁹ Around this time, the saddling paddock was enlarged and the hill behind the stands was cleared of trees, making it a popular vantage point for picnickers.⁵⁰

Considerable growth in the Racecourse's facilities occurred during the 1890s. In 1891, the public stand was enlarged, allowing it to seat 1,400.⁵¹ By 1892, the stands at Oakbank Racecourse reportedly accommodated 3,500.⁵² Horseboxes were built in 1893 and the 'birdcage' area was enlarged.⁵³ In early 1894, the totalizator was 'enlarged and streamlined' and a new shed was built for jockeys to weigh in and out.⁵⁴ In 1895, totalizator facilities were expanded again and the first Derby Stand was completed north of the public stand. The following year, 1896, a new stand was built for stewards,⁵⁵ and a small stand was built north of the Derby Stand with its own totalizator, making a total of five stands. A new Members' Stand replacing the old, designed by English and Soward and built by A. W. Seagrim, was completed in 1898.⁵⁶ Besides the Members' Stand, all the nineteenth-century stands have since been demolished.



Oakbank Racecourse, c.1896, showing (left to right) first Stewards' Stand (1890, demolished), first Members' Stand (1880, demolished), first Public Stand or Grandstand (1885, extended 1891, demolished), and the first Derby Stand (1895, tiered seating without a roof, demolished).

Source: SLSA B 8818 (<https://collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/resource/B+8818>)

In 1901, the Onkaparinga River behind the stands was diverted to the west, allowing the saddling paddock to be expanded.⁵⁷ In 1910, a wood and iron building comprising press box, stewards' enquiry room and telegraph office, designed by Adelaide architects English & Soward, was built by G. & D. Milne of Mount Barker, at a cost of £200.⁵⁸ This building probably replaced the 1896 stewards' stand. Another stand was built in 1911, seating 3,000.⁵⁹

In 1913, an overflow members' stand was built beneath the stewards' stand, and a building was provided for riders next to the weighing enclosure, resulting from new rules requiring the isolation of jockeys.⁶⁰ The old 1895 Derby Stand was demolished and replaced with a new stand, seating 4,000 people, which was completed by April 1914.⁶¹ At this point, the 1911 stand is understood to have become known as the Derby Stand.



Oakbank Racecourse c.1922, showing (background buildings left to right) second Steward's Stand (1910, demolished or considerably altered), second Members' Stand (1898, extant, now known as the Shillabeer Stand), Grandstand (1885, extended 1891, demolished c.1923), Stand (1914, extant, now known as the John Glatz Stand), second Derby Stand (1911, extant), note gable-roofed totalizator buildings in front of the stands on the flat.

Source: SLSA B 62588 (<https://collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/resource/B+62588>)

During 1923 the Onkaparinga Racing Club spent £4,713 on new structures and maintenance of the Racecourse. This work included a new Grandstand, designed by English & Soward and built by J. Templer & Son,⁶² as well as increased totalizator accommodation in the Grandstand and Derby Stand enclosures, and on the flat.⁶³ An upper floor, seating 953, was added to the Members' Stand and completed in time for the 1928 meeting.⁶⁴ Relatively few improvements occurred at Oakbank during the early 1930s owing to the Depression, besides loudspeakers installed in 1931.⁶⁵

In 1937, a 'Duplex Automatic' win-and-place totalizator was installed, including a pair of two-storey-tall odds indicators, one located behind the stands and one on the flat. Concrete steps were also laid in front of the members' stand and grandstand.⁶⁶ In May 1938, the Oakbank Racing Club purchased the Johnston family paddock for £10,000, becoming freehold owners of the Oakbank Racecourse.⁶⁷

In 1940, the Committee Stand, built sometime prior, was replaced with a new brick building with a Dutch gable roof similar to the earlier building. The jockey's quarters were enlarged, and structures such as the steward's quarters, press box, weighing rooms, and the telegraph office were all relocated.⁶⁸

The flat and steeplechase courses themselves were also altered and improved over time. In 1879, the flat course was altered to reduce some of the visual disruption

caused by 'the hill'.⁶⁹ Nevertheless, both the topographical feature and the temporary disappearance of riders behind it during races remain defining characteristics of the Oakbank Racecourse. The steeplechase course was 'improved' in 1889 and altered in 1895.⁷⁰ In 1937, panel-hurdles were replaced with brush fences.⁷¹

At some point between 1893 and 1937, some of the curves in both the flat and steeplechase courses were turned into straights.⁷² Since c.1937, the layout of the Oakbank Racecourse flat and steeplechase courses has changed very little.⁷³

After the Second World War

In 1946, following the repeal of bans in place during the Second World War, the first Oakbank meeting in five years attracted a crowd of around 75,000 on Easter Sunday,⁷⁴ believed to be an unbroken record. Large areas of the Oakbank Racecourse flat and surrounds served as parking space for as many as 15,000 motor cars over two days.⁷⁵ By this time, Oakbank was considered to be the world's largest 'picnic' meeting.⁷⁶

Postwar building restrictions meant that new structures at Oakbank built between 1946 and early 1953 used timber and corrugated steel rather than brick and/or concrete.⁷⁷ In 1949, among other changes, a second row of horse stalls was built, an additional double totalizator was built adjacent to the Grandstand area bookmaker's ring and the afternoon tea room under the Derby Stand was converted into a buffet.⁷⁸ The original 'fallen log' reportedly remained part of the steeplechase course in 1949 but was replaced due to natural decay by 1960.⁷⁹ In the early 1950s, Oakbank Racing Club improved catering facilities and by 1956 the Racecourse boasted three cafeterias and three dining rooms, with total dining seating for 500.⁸⁰

Attendance remained stable at around 25,000 on Easter Saturday and 65,000 on Easter Sunday through the 1950s. However, attendance on Easter Sunday began to fall to between 40,000 and 56,000 during the early 1960s. In 1963, the railway line between Balhannah and Oakbank closed and afterwards, most visitors travelled to Oakbank by car and parked in or around the course.⁸¹

The televising of race meetings from 1962,⁸² and the emergence of the off-course TAB network from 1967 meant it was no longer necessary to attend race meetings in person. Meanwhile, rising private vehicle ownership and improved regional roads led to the emergence of tourism, which drew visitors away from the Oakbank Easter meeting. By the late 1960s, attendance had fallen to around 20,000 on Easter Saturday and around 40,000 on Easter Monday.⁸³

Jumps racing declined in popularity over time and by the 1970s the metropolitan racing clubs, such as the SAJC, did not support the code. A shortage of jumps-trained horses in South Australia led to the first-ever cancellation of the von Doussa Steeplechase and the near-cancellation of the Great Eastern Steeplechase in 1975.⁸⁴

Through most of the 1970s, attendance on Easter Saturday gradually increased, peaking at 35,000 in 1978, while attendance on Easter Monday fluctuated between 40,000 and 53,000.⁸⁵

In 1974, a new totalizator was installed, replacing the 1937 system. The two-storey display board structures from the earlier system were demolished by 1979.⁸⁶

By the early twenty-first century, the annual Oakbank Easter meeting was officially advertised as the Oakbank Easter Racing Carnival, and Easter Saturday, rather than Easter Monday, had grown to possess the largest attendance of any race meeting held in South Australia. Attracting up to 80,000 spectators over two days, the Oakbank Easter Carnival had also grown into the largest professional sporting fixture in South Australia.⁸⁷ However, over the following twenty years, the event declined in popularity due to concerns surrounding the welfare of jumps racing horses. In 2019, prior to restrictions introduced resulting from the COVID pandemic, the Oakbank Easter Carnival attracted around 20,000 visitors on Easter Saturday and around 5,000 on Easter Monday.⁸⁸

In October 2021, Racing SA, the controlling body for horseracing in South Australia, announced that jumps racing would not form part of the racing calendar in South Australia in future years, considering the sport to be unsustainable due to declining participation.⁸⁹ Following consultation with members, Onkaparinga Racing Club elected to 'retire' the Great Eastern and von Doussa names, rather than repurposing them for new, flat races.⁹⁰

Chronology

Year Event

- 1838 New Year's Day, South Australia's first recognised race meeting occurs at Thebarton.
- 1840 William Johnston settles in the Onkaparinga Valley.
Horseracing commences in the Adelaide parklands.
- 1843 James and Andrew Johnston establish a brewery on Section 4018 of the Hundred of Onkaparinga.
- 1846 The first official race meeting occurs in the Adelaide parklands.
- 1850s Permanent racecourses are established in Adelaide's outer villages.
- 1855 William and Andrew Johnston subdivide part of Section 4018 as the Township of Oakbank.
- 1860s A group of horseracing enthusiasts seek to establish a racecourse near Oakbank. They secure the Johnston family's paddock on Sections 4018 and 4019 and permission to create a course.**
- 1862 April, the earliest known race is held at what becomes known as the Oakbank Racecourse.**
- 1864 The Adelaide Cup is raced for the first time at Thebarton.
- 1872 Easter Monday, 1 April, the first regular race meeting is held at the Oakbank Racecourse. Alfred von Doussa is elected the Club's first secretary.**
- 1873 The South Australian Jockey Club (SAJC) is established.
- 1875 The Onkaparinga Racing Club is established to organise race meetings at the Oakbank Racecourse.
Morphettville Racecourse opens.
- 1876 17 April, the Onkaparinga Racing Club holds its first fixture at the Oakbank Racecourse.**
- 1877 The Oakbank Racing Club's handicap steeplechase becomes known as the Great Eastern Steeplechase.
- 1878 Prize money awarded for the Great Eastern Steeplechase rises to £100.
- 1879 April, no permanent structures exist on Oakbank Racecourse. The flat course at Oakbank is altered to reduce visual disruption from 'the hill'.
October, South Australia pioneers the manual on-course totalizator system on Australian racecourses.
- 1880 The first Members' Stand at Oakbank Racecourse is completed, seating 450.**

1882 Approximately 7,000 people attend the annual Easter race meeting at Oakbank Racecourse.

1883 The *Totalizator Repeal Act* 1883 bans both bookmakers and the totalizator from South Australian racecourses.

A steam-hauled railway line opens between Adelaide and Aldgate.

The Hills Railway Stakes, a flat race, is introduced to Oakbank race meetings.

1884 Easter Monday, a record crowd of 10,000 travels to Oakbank Racecourse.

1885 A public stand, seating 400, is opened at Oakbank Racecourse.

1887 19 January, an intercolonial railway line opens between Adelaide and Melbourne.

Easter Monday, the Onkaparinga Racing Club employs the totalizator illegally at Oakbank Racecourse.

1888 The totalizator returns to South Australian racecourses following legislative changes.

The Crystal Brook to Cockburn railway line opens.

1889 Prize money awarded for the Great Eastern Steeplechase rises to £500.

The steeplechase course at Oakbank Racecourse is 'improved'.

1891 The Public Stand at Oakbank Racecourse is enlarged, allowing it to seat 1,400.

1892 Stands at Oakbank Racecourse reportedly accommodate 3,500.

1893 Horseboxes are built at Oakbank Racecourse and the 'birdcage' area is enlarged.

1894 The totalizator system at Oakbank Racecourse is enlarged and streamlined.

1895 The first Derby Stand opens at Oakbank Racecourse and totalizator facilities are again expanded.

A 'new' steeplechase course is reportedly introduced at Oakbank Racecourse.

1896 A small stand, with its own totalizator, is built north of the first Derby stand, and the first Stewards' Stand is built.

Prize money awarded for the Great Eastern Steeplechase rises to £1000.

1898 The extant Members' Stand, now known as the Shillabeer Stand, designed by English & Soward, is completed by A. W. Seagrim, replacing the earlier 1880 stand.

1904 Easter Monday, 25,000 attend the annual Oakbank race meeting.

- c.1910 Visitors begin travelling to the Oakbank Racecourse by private motor vehicle.
- 1910 A wood-and-iron building designed by English & Soward comprising press box, stewards' enquiry room and telegraph office is completed by G. & D. Milne of Mount Barker, probably replacing the 1896 Stewards' Stand.**
Easter Monday, 30,000 attend the annual Oakbank race meeting.
- 1911 A new, extant stand, now known as the Derby Stand, is built north of the existing stands, seating 3,000.**
- 1913 Old (1895) Derby stand is demolished.**
Jockeys' quarters, now known as the Jockey Rooms, are built.
- 1914 The old Derby Stand is replaced by a new, extant stand, seating 4,000.**
- 1918 A branch railway line opens between Balhannah and Mount Pleasant, with a station at Oakbank.
- 1921 SAJC introduces the automatic totalizator machine.
- 1923 The extant public Grandstand, now known as the John Glatz Stand, designed by English & Soward, is completed by J. Templer & Son.**
The Onkaparinga Racing Club spent £4,713 on new structures at and maintenance of the Racecourse.
- 1924 The Onkaparinga Racing Club's amateur steeplechase is named after Alfred von Doussa to mark his retirement as Club secretary.
- 1927 The road between Adelaide and Bridgewater is surfaced. 8,000 cars make the journey to Oakbank on Easter Monday.
Prize money awarded for the Great Eastern Steeplechase rises to £3,000, making it the richest jumping race in Australasia and the second-richest in the world.
- 1928 An upper floor gallery seating 953 is added to the Members' Stand.**
- 1932 A bituminised road is completed between Adelaide and Oakbank, encouraging more visitors to make the journey by road.
- 1933 Licenced bookmakers return to South Australian racecourses.
A Royal Commission into illegal gambling recommended the establishment of a state-government regulated, off-course totalizator network.
- 1937 A 'Duplex Automatic' win-and-place totalizator was installed, including a pair of two-storey-tall odds indicators, one located behind the stands and one on the 'flat' inside the course.**
Panel-hurdles at Oakbank Racecourse are replaced with brush fences.

A new Steward's Stand is built or the 1910 Steward's Stand is extended sometime prior to this date. This structure is now known as the Committee Stand.

1938 May, the Oakbank Racing Club purchases the Johnston family paddock for £10,000, becoming freehold owners of the Oakbank Racecourse.

1939 The Onkaparinga Racing Club introduces a two-day racing program comprising Easter Sunday and Easter Monday.

1940 The Committee Stand, built sometime prior, is replaced with an extant brick building, the jockey's quarters are enlarged, and structures such as the steward's quarters, press box, weighing rooms, and the telegraph office are relocated.

Buildings at the Oakbank Racecourse are requisitioned for military use; however, the military temporarily vacates the course allowing the annual Easter race meeting to proceed.

1942 February, the Playford Government announces a ban on all racing and gambling in South Australia. The ban remains in force until the end of the Second World War.

1946 The first Oakbank race meeting in five years attracts a record crowd of 75,000 on Easter Sunday. The flat and surrounds serve as parking space for as many as 15,000 motor vehicles over the two-day meeting.

Oakbank is considered the world's largest 'picnic' meeting.

1949 A second row of horse stalls is built, an additional doubles totalizator is built adjacent to the Grandstand area bookmaker's ring, the afternoon tea room under the Derby Stand was converted into a buffet, and guard rails are added to the hurdle jumps. Additional parking is provided on the hill behind the grandstands, with steps built into the hillside and a bridge built at the far end of the Derby Stand, allowing members to park their cars on reclaimed ground.

The original 'fallen log' reportedly remains part of the steeplechase course.

1950s Attendance at Oakbank race meetings remains stable at around 25,000 on Easter Saturday and 65,000 on Easter Sunday.

1956 Oakbank Racecourse boasts three cafeterias and three dining rooms, with total dining seating for 500.

1957 The Oakbank Racing Club spends £16,000 improving facilities on the flat, including a long bar counter measuring 465 feet long.

1960 The 'fallen long' has been replaced due to decay by this time.

1962 Easter Monday, the Great Eastern Steeplechase is televised for the first time.

- 1963 The railway line between Balhannah and Oakbank is closed. Afterwards, most visitors to Oakbank race meetings travel there by car.
- Late Attendance at Oakbank race meetings falls to around 20,000 on Easter
1960s Saturday and around 40,000 on Easter Monday.
- 1967 The Totalizator Agency Board (TAB) is established.
- 1970s Jumps racing declines in popularity.
- 1970 Adelaide Cup Day is declared a public holiday.
- 1974 A new totalizator is installed, replacing the 1937 system. The two-storey display board structures are later demolished.**
- 1975 A shortage of jumps-trained horses in South Australia led to the first-ever cancellation of the von Doussa Steeplechase and the near-cancellation of the Great Eastern Steeplechase.
- 1986 The Oakbank Racecourse is confirmed in the South Australian Heritage Register.**
- c.2001 The annual Oakbank Easter meeting is known as the Oakbank Easter Racing Carnival, and Easter Saturday has grown to possess the largest attendance of any race meeting held in South Australia, attracting up to 80,000 spectators over two days. The Oakbank Easter Carnival also grows into the largest professional sporting fixture in South Australia.
- 2002 March, installation of additional antennas (DA 473/295/02).
- 2004 February, alterations and additions to members' bar (DA 473/1247/04)
- 2005 January, New gate and canopy to Shillabeer Road entrance (DA 473/33/2005)
- 2010s Concerns surrounding the welfare of jumps racing horses causes jumps racing to decline in popularity.
- 2019 The Oakbank Easter Carnival attracts around 20,000 visitors on Easter Saturday and around 5,000 on Easter Monday.
- 2020 January, deck outside members' stand, painting grandstands, removal of old TAB building, air conditioner in kitchen, fire safety upgrade (DA 473/1039/19).
- 2021 August, upgrade to fire services and essential safety provisions, installation of 1x 100,000 litre water storage tank (DA 21011760).
October, Racing SA, announces that jumps racing will not form part of the racing calendar in South Australia in future years. The Onkaparinga Racing Club elects to 'retire' the Great Eastern and von Doussa names.
- 2022 January, fire and safety upgrades to grandstands (DA 21037820).
- 2024 January, construction of new viewing stand (DA 23038064).

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<https://www.sahrc.com.au/history>

Archival

BRG 238/1/132 Grandstand at Oakbank for Onkaparinga Racing Club. Architect, English & Soward. Contractor A.W Seagrim, 1897 SLSA

BRG 238/1/132B Grandstand at Oakbank for Onkaparinga Racing Club. Architect, English & Soward. Contractor J. Templer & Son, 1922 SLSA

SLSA BRG 397/2/71/5

SITE DETAILS

Oakbank Racecourse

PLACE NO.: 12883

46 Oakwood Road, Oakbank

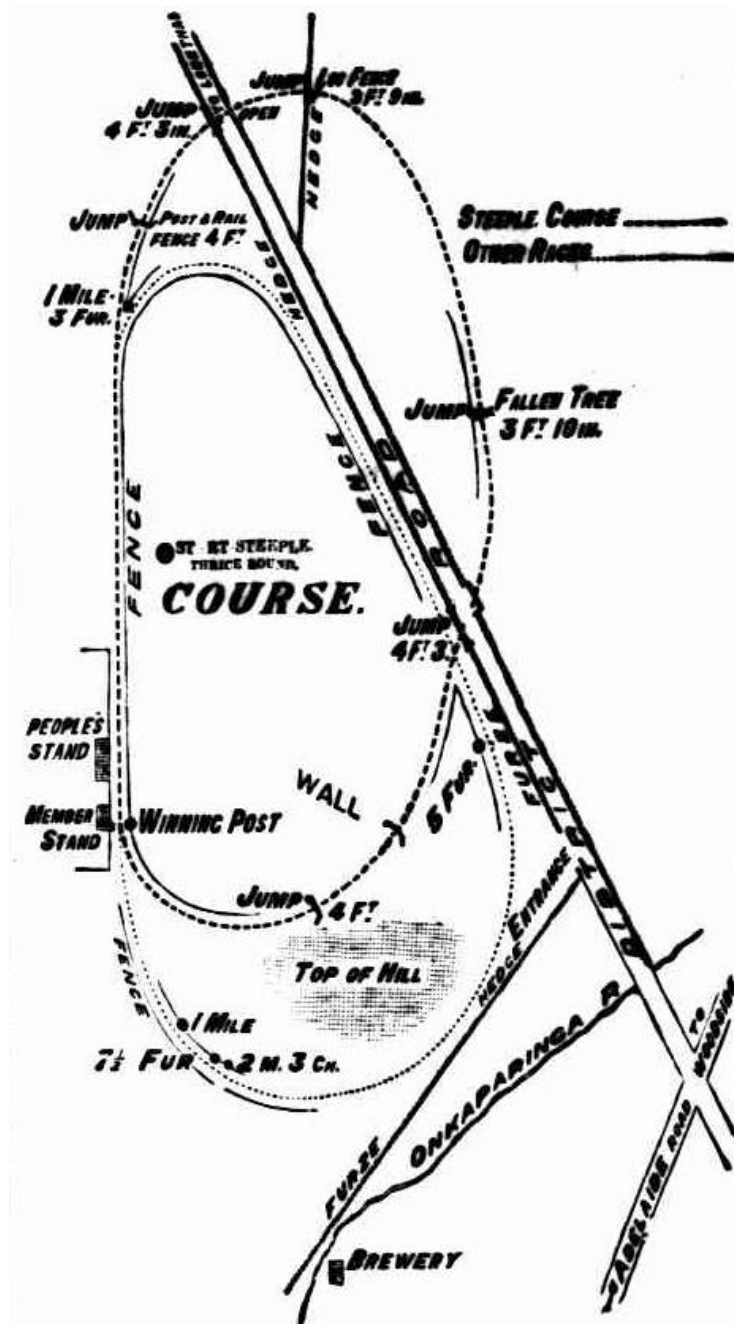
FORMER NAME:	Onkaparinga Racecourse
DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:	Racecourse including alignments of flat and steeplechase courses, six stands, and totalizator.
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	In stages from 1862 onward
REGISTER STATUS:	Nominated: 28 November 1984 Provisionally: entered 7 November 1985 Confirmed: 20 November 1986
CURRENT USE:	Racecourse 1862; 1872 – present
PREVIOUS USE(S):	Paddock 1840 – 1862; 1862 – 1872
ARCHITECT:	English & Soward (Members' Stand, Stewards' Stand, Grand and Overflow Stands), 1898, 1910, 1922
BUILDER:	A. W. Seagrim (Members' Stand), 1898 G. & D. Milne, Mount Barker (Stewards' Stand), 1910 J. Templer & Son (Grand and Overflow Stands), 1922-1923
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:	Adelaide Hills Council
LOCATION:	Street No.: 46 Street Name: Oakwood Road Town/Suburb: Oakbank Post Code: 5243
LAND DESCRIPTION:	Title CT 6221/661 D120498 A5, CT 6221/664 Reference: D120498 Q70, 71 Hundred: Onkaparinga

PHOTOS

Oakbank Racecourse

PLACE NO.: 12883

46 Oakwood Road, Oakbank



Plan of Oakbank Racecourse by Evans & Evans, architects and surveyors, 1893

Source: "'The Sport of Kings.'" in *Register* 31 March 1902 p. 6 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article55662408>

Oakbank Racecourse

PLACE NO.: 12883

46 Oakwood Road, Oakbank



Aerial view of Oakbank Racecourse, c.1937

Source: SLSA BRG 397/2/71/5 (<https://collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/resource/BRG+397/2/71/5>)



Jockey Rooms (1913), 28 August 2024

Source: DEW Files

Oakbank Racecourse

PLACE NO.: 12883

46 Oakwood Road, Oakbank



Committee Stand (1940), 12 October 2023

Source: DEW Files



Members' Stand (1898, extended 1928), 12 October 2023

Source: DEW Files

Oakbank Racecourse

PLACE NO.: 12883

46 Oakwood Road, Oakbank



Grandstand (1923), with Stand (1914) in background, 28 August 2024

Source: DEW Files



Stand (1914) with Derby Stand (1911) in background, 28 August 2024

Source: DEW Files

Oakbank Racecourse

PLACE NO.: 12883

46 Oakwood Road, Oakbank



Derby Stand (1911), 28 August 2024

Source: DEW Files



Totalizator Building (1937), a two-storey tall odds indicator structure on the roof was demolished c.1980, 28 August 2024

Source: DEW Files

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- ¹ This section is adapted predominantly from John Mannion, 'Horseracing' in *SA History Hub*, History Trust of South Australia <https://sahistoryhub.history.sa.gov.au/subjects/horseracing>
- ² John O'Hara, 'Gambling' in Wilfred Prest (ed), *Wakefield Companion to South Australian History* (2001) Kent Town SA: Wakefield Press pp. 219-220
- ³ John Mannion, 'Horseracing'
- ⁴ John Mannion, 'Horseracing'
- ⁵ John Mannion, 'Horseracing'
- ⁶ John O'Hara, 'Gambling'
- ⁷ John Mannion, 'Horseracing'
- ⁸ Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank: over the fallen log* (1983) Kent Town SA: Peacock Publications for the Onkaparinga Racing Club p. 10
- ⁹ John Mannion, 'Horseracing'
- ¹⁰ Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 60
- ¹¹ John O'Hara, 'Gambling'
- ¹² John Mannion, 'Horseracing'
- ¹³ Ivan-Tiwu Copley (June 2019), *Indigenous Heritage – Hahndorf: Sites of Aboriginal Cultural Significance In and Around Hahndorf, South Australia* (June 2019) <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/16251441de5e48feb4c3dd55be82bce7> accessed 28 May 2019
- ¹⁴ Gordon Young, Ian Harmstorf, Lothar Brasse and Alexandra Marsden, 'Hahndorf Volume 1: A survey carried out for the Australian Heritage Commission' (1981) Techsearch Inc. p. 56
- ¹⁵ Ivan-Tiwu Copley, *Indigenous Heritage – Hahndorf*
- ¹⁶ Young et al 'Hahndorf Volume 1' p. 56
- ¹⁷ Young et al 'Hahndorf Volume 1' p. 123
- ¹⁸ Bernard Arnold, 'German settlers' accounts of the Australian Aborigines' in *Torrens Valley History Journal* No. 33 (1988) p. 50
- ¹⁹ Philip A. Clarke for Terramin Australia Limited, *Report on the Bird-in-Hand Heritage Assessment for a mining lease application* (2016) p. 26
- ²⁰ Anna Pope and Bechervaise & Associates, 'Onkaparinga Valley Heritage Survey (Revised Edition, 2003) Part 1' (2003) p. 19; Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 1
- ²¹ Anna Pope and Bechervaise & Associates, 'Onkaparinga Valley Heritage Survey (Revised Edition, 2003) Part 1' p. 51
- ²² "'The Sport of Kings.' Racing Memories. Old Onkaparinga Recollections." in *Adelaide Observer* 5 April 1902 pp. 17-18 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article162352088>
- ²³ Onkaparinga Racing Club, *The Story of Oakbank* (1960) Oakbank SA: Onkaparinga Racing Club p. 3; John Mannion, 'Horseracing'
- ²³ Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 3
- ²⁴ "Woodside. [From our own Correspondent.] April 9." in *South Australian Weekly Chronicle* 12 April 1862 p. 2 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article90254343>; "Woodside. [From our own Correspondent] Woodside, May 8." in *South Australian Register* 12 May 1862 p. 3 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article50175838>; the second article confirms the race took place on the Johnston land.
- ²⁵ "'The Sport of Kings.' Racing Memories. in *Adelaide Observer*
- ²⁶ Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 1
- ²⁷ "Onkaparinga Races." in *South Australian Register* 6 April 1872 p. 6 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article39260680>; newspaper reports indicate an Easter fixture was held at Oakbank each year from 1872 onwards, but not earlier.
- ²⁸ "Onkaparinga Races." in *South Australian Register* 6 April 1872 p. 6
- ²⁹ "'The Sport of Kings.' Racing Memories.
- ³⁰ Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* pp. 1, 50

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- 31 "Onkaparinga Races." in *South Australian Register* 18 April 1876 p. 6 <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/43003411>; in a handicap race, horses carry different weights, allocated by a handicapper, with faster horses carrying heavier weights, thus giving them a disadvantage when racing against slower horses.
- 32 Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 2
- 33 "Onkaparinga Races." in *South Australian Register* 18 April 1876 p. 6
- 34 "Onkaparinga Races." in *South Australian Register* 18 April 1876 p. 6; Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 74
- 35 Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 7
- 36 Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 50
- 37 "Oakbank." in *Daily Herald* 10 December 1913 p. 6 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article105607967>; "Oakbank Sheepdog Trials." in *Chronicle* 10 May 1919 p. 10 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article87483902>
- 38 Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 68
- 39 "Ban on Racing in S.A." in *News* 25 February 1942 p. 1 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article131958745>
- 40 Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* pp. 3, 6
- 41 Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 7
- 42 Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* pp. 9, 11-12
- 43 Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* pp. 29, 35
- 44 Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 55
- 45 "To Oakbank. A Popular Picnic. Eight Thousand Motor Cars." in *Chronicle* 14 April 1928 p. 50 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article90418188>
- 46 Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 58
- 47 Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* pp. 3, 12, 20-21, 53
- 48 "Onkaparinga Racing Club." in *South Australian Advertiser* 7 April 1879 p. 5 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article29369876>; Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 4
- 49 Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* pp. 12-13
- 50 Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 9
- 51 Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 13-14
- 52 Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 14
- 53 Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 15
- 54 Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* pp. 15-17
- 55 Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* pp. 20-21
- 56 Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 22; BRG 238/1/132 Grandstand at Oakbank for Onkaparinga Racing Club. Architect, English & Soward. Contractor A.W Seagrim, 1897 SLA
- 57 Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 25
- 58 "Onkaparinga. The Course and its Surroundings." in *Observer* 19 March 1910 p. 20 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article164693967>
- 59 "Oakbank." in *Daily Herald* 10 December 1913 p. 6 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article105607967>; seating numbers inferred from "Onkaparinga." in *Sport* 3 April 1914 p. 3 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article215850627>
- 60 Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 38
- 61 "Onkaparinga." in *Sport* 3 April 1914 p. 3
- 62 BRG 238/1/132B Grandstand at Oakbank for Onkaparinga Racing Club. Architect, English & Soward. Contractor J. Templer & Son, 1922 SLA
- 63 "Oakbank Report." in *Observer* 16 February 1924 p. 23 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article170491105>
- 64 Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 55
- 65 Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 58
- 66 Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 64
- 67 Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 64

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- ⁶⁸ Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 69
- ⁶⁹ Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 3
- ⁷⁰ Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* pp. 18-19
- ⁷¹ Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 64
- ⁷² Compare a surveyed plan of the course made in 1892 and aerial photography from c.1937 and 1949; see "Sketch of the Onkaparinga Racecourse" in *Evening Journal* 4 April 1893 p. 4 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article197864740>; SLSA BRG 397/2/71/5
- ⁷³ A news report published in 1960 claimed the Oakbank Racecourse track had recently been realigned at a cost of £6,000, with some sections deviating as far as sixty feet from their previous alignment (cited in Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 94). However, a comparison of aerial photography between 1949, 1979 and the present reveals only a minor realignment of the curve at the northern end of the course made after 1949. Aerial photography taken in c.1938 further indicates the course changed very little between then and 1949.
- ⁷⁴ Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 73
- ⁷⁵ Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 75
- ⁷⁶ Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 78
- ⁷⁷ Building controls meant that proposed masonry towers to support a photo-finish 'camera eye' could not be installed until 1953; Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 75
- ⁷⁸ Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 78
- ⁷⁹ Matt Hynes, *Souvenir of Oakbank 1876 – 1949: review of 73yrs racing* (1949) Oakbank SA: Onkaparinga Racing Club; Onkaparinga Racing Club, *The Story of Oakbank* p. 3
- ⁸⁰ Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 85
- ⁸¹ Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 100
- ⁸² Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 99
- ⁸³ Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* pp. 107-113
- ⁸⁴ Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p.120
- ⁸⁵ Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* pp. 120-128
- ⁸⁶ Stewart Bessant, *Oakbank* p. 119
- ⁸⁷ John Mannion, 'Horseracing'
- ⁸⁸ Ben Nielsen and Eugene Boisvert, "Oakbank Easter Racing Carnival numbers dropping as protesters target jumps racing" ABC News 23 April 2019 <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-04-23/oakbank-jumps-race-carnival-numbers-down/11037458>
- ⁸⁹ "Jumps racing to be removed from South Australia's racing calendar from next year" ABC News 1 October 2021 <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-10-01/sa-racing-industry-scraps-jumps-racing/100507744>
- ⁹⁰ "Change of heart as Oakbank retires names of iconic jumps races" *Racenet* 3 March 2022 <https://www.racenet.com.au/news/change-of-heart-as-oakbank-retires-names-of-iconic-jumps-races-20211114>