

From 1897, the family permanently lived at Adare.

The Cudmore boys spent the first school term at the Victor Harbor Public School as Mrs Cudmore felt it was too hot in the city at St Peters. For many years the Cudmore's played an important role in the life of the town. The family worshipped at St Augustine's Church, and gave many years of dedicated service to the church. Mrs Cudmore, a popular lady, each Empire Day (Queen Victoria's Birthday) gave skipping ropes and footballs to the school children. She continued to live in the house until her death in 1938 (extracted from "Settlers Around The Bay" by Anthony Laube—Aug 1985).

### MR & MRS E J HUMPHRIS

Adare was sold in 1942 to Mr & Mrs EJ Humphris, complete with furniture. They lived in the original cottage section and their son Colin lived in the main house when he returned after the war. (see his book "Trapped on Timor"). After farming the land for a few years, Colin and his wife moved to the southeast of the state.

### THE METHODIST CHURCH

In 1954 the Methodist Church appointed Rev Alex Wright to the South East Circuit with a view to establishing a church in Victor Harbor. The young people's Department were also seeking an additional campsite in the area.

"With commendable zeal and expedition the new minister approached Mr & Mrs EJ Humphris, owners of the 'Adare Park', with the purchase of the house in mind. Although the house was not on the market, the owners were so impressed with the claims advanced that they graciously consented to sell."  
(“SA Methodist” 22 Oct 1954).

The Ballroom and Drawing Room were set up to seat 150 people for worship. With the outside cottages, the site was renovated and equipped to provide for 100 guests.

In 1982 Bethany Hall was built by the Uniting Church to further accommodate people using the campsite.

### WARDENS, CARETAKERS & MANAGERS

Managers of the site over the years have been:

|                |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| 1954-1956      | Mrs Coventry             |
| 1956-1962      | Mr & Mrs Clarke          |
| 1962-1966      | (Ted) & Dorothy Rattley  |
| 1966-1973      | George & Rae Glover      |
| 1973-1983      | Ross & Bev Butler        |
| 1983-1988      | Don & Shirley Richardson |
| 1988-1996      | Paul & Julianne Thomas   |
| 1996 (Jan-Apr) | Alan & Enid Nannes       |
| 1996-2004      | Bruce & Helen Lindquist  |
| 2004-2009      | Christopher Wright       |
| 2009—7/2011    | Hilary James             |
| 7/2011—        | Jim Staude               |

# THE HISTORY OF ADARE



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*Brochure created by the Victor Harbor Visitor Centre 2022.*

*Contents is correct to the best of our knowledge, but may be subject to change without notice.*

# VICTOR HARBOR

FEEL IT CALLING

## ABORIGINAL HERITAGE

According to the local Raminjeri Aboriginal group's dreaming, the hill where Adare stands represents an ancestral being, who became turned into a whale. A big hole in the top of the hill represented the 'blow hole' of the whale. In the dreaming story, a shark stole the flint and pyrites fire-making implements belonging to the whale. In anger, the whale chased him by way of Brown's Hill into the sea. The area was referred to as "Mutbaringa" - sacred magic doctor's place. (Information collected by Dr NB Tindale, SA Museum).

Other sources suggest that this area was referred to as "mootaparinga" or "murky water", being the aboriginal name for that part of the river.

## GOVERNOR HINDMARSH

In 1837 Governor Hindmarsh, the first Governor of South Australia, bought several sections of land at Encounter Bay, including Section 1 (The Bluff), Sections 17 and 19 and a section at Hindmarsh Valley. He built a cottage on Section 19, on the side of the hill above the Hindmarsh River, which was named 'Mootaparinga Farm'. The Governor was recalled to England in 1838, but his wife Susannah and children (Mary, Anne, Susan and John) spent summers in the cottage. In 1841 the Hindmarsh family returned to England.

## JOHN HINDMARSH JUNIOR

In the late 1850's, John Hindmarsh Jnr, a barrister and surveyor, was back on the South Coast, living at Port Elliot. As Victor Harbor was growing as a township, he moved back to 'Mootaparinga Farm' with his family. He later enlarged the cottage into what is now the Manager's residence at Adare and built the coach house now facing Modra Street. In 1877 he moved to New Zealand.

## WILLIAM & THERESA EVANS

Mrs Hindmarsh's sister Theresa and her husband, William Evans, lived in 'Mootaparinga House' until 1881. William was the head teacher at the Victor Harbor Public School in 'Alexandra'.

## JOHN & CATHERINE HART

From 1881 to 1891 John and Catherine Hart lived at 'Mootaparinga House' and farmed the 129 acres. John Hart was the first in the area as the mail coach driver from Adelaide to Willunga and Port Elliot, a two-day journey. He was the driver of the mail coach when the terrible accident occurred which resulted in the death of the Reverend RW Newland, and also injuries to himself. Some years later, he gave up driving the mail coach and they became hosts of the Railway Hotel and Port Elliot, then of the Crown Hotel before moving to the farm.

## DANIEL & MARTHA CUDMORE

In 1891 the property was bought by Mr Daniel H Cudmore and his wife Martha (nee McCracken). Daniel was a wealthy pastoralist, holding the property 'Avoca Station' near Wentworth on the River Murray. He engaged the architect FW Dancker to design elaborate extensions to the original Hindmarsh Cottage. The new mansion was completed in 1893 and was named 'Adare' after the Cudmore's home in Ireland. Each summer, the Cudmore family left the heat of Avoca and travelled down the river Murray by paddle steamer to Goolwa. The family would then be collected by coach or travel on the Cockle Train to Adare. Daniel Cudmore had three children (Minnie, Henry and Roland) by his first marriage. The children of the second marriage were Collier, Paul, Milo and Dan.

The house of two storeys, with nineteen rooms and a tower, had three turrets topped by elaborate finials. Seaweed was placed in the ceiling for insulation, as in many of the older local buildings. When completed, the house was tastefully furnished. There was a very large mirrored sideboard in the dining room, along the wall opposite the windows, It had lead lined compartments for



drinks, etc. The hallstand is the only remaining piece of the original Cudmore furniture. The high ceiling in the Ballroom has a skylight made from etched glass, which would have come from England as ballast on a sailing ship.

The fireplace mantle, as well as much of the timber for the house, was also imported from England. Miss Minnie Cudmore hand painted floral designs on the panels of the bedroom doors. The mansion was originally kerosene lit, but at the turn of the century gasoliers were fitted. In the small tower Mr Cudmore kept a museum of stuffed birds, shells and a gun collection.

Mr and Mrs Cudmore had the gardens carefully laid out with elaborately shaped borders of clipped rosemary. An ornamental fountain in the lawn was fed from tanks in the roof of the house. Peacocks and spotted deer were kept in the Park. Bill Dyson was for many years employed as the gardener. Mr Cudmore also collected relics of the whaling days, and a summerhouse affair, made of whalebones, stood in the garden. A cannon, christened "Maria" after the ill-fated ship from whence it came, stood in the driveway. Every New Year's Eve during a party held at the house, the old cannon would be loaded and fired to mark the New Year's beginning.