

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

FOUNDED 1974

P.O. Box 203, North Adelaide, S.A. 5006

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NEWSLETTER NO. 23

JANUARY, 1979

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1. NEXT MEETINGS

FEBRUARY

Date: Friday February 2.
Place: State Library Lecture Theatre
Time: 8.00 p.m.
Speaker: Dr. John Daly (Adelaide C.A.E.)
Subject: Play and Display - A Study of the Sporting Behaviour of a Colonial Upper Class.

Dr. Daly has made his mark in athletics (first as a competitor then as a coach) and in the field of physical education generally. He has been very interested in the topic of sport in colonial society, especially in South Australia, and has completed a thesis, in this neglected historical area.

MARCH

Date: Friday, March 2
Place: State Library Lecture Theatre
Time: 8.00 p.m.
Speaker: Mr. Denis Cumming
Subject: Our Engineering Heritage in South Australia
Mr. Cumming lectures in civil engineering in the University of Adelaide. He has a strong interest in the national estate, and has been an active

worker for the conservation of the built environment. His interest in the engineering heritage of this State is well known.

2. HISTORICAL SOCIETY AFFAIRS

FIRST MEETING

The February meeting will be the first for the new year, 1979. Members and visitors will be made welcome and we shall all take the opportunity to find out about recent happenings and those planned for 1979. The Historical Society programme should also be available at this meeting.

As Newsletter Editor (Ms. Susan Marsden) I look forward to discussing with members their current interests and research and summarizing these in future Newsletters. I'd be happy to receive the information in note form, as well as articles, letters, abstracts, book reviews and notes on new sources. These can be posted to the Society's postal address or handed to me at meetings. As far as articles and abstracts are concerned, please type these if possible, keep them fairly short and to the point and, where possible, list sources and give further references.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE SOCIETY'S COUNCIL

The Society's Annual General Meeting is to be held on April 6. Nominations are called for the following positions for the 1979-80 term of office: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 8 Council members. Existing members if they wish to continue in office must be re-nominated and elected.

Some Council members have indicated that they will be unable to continue in office in the forthcoming year. Members are asked to give thought to these elections. If they would like to know more about the activities of the Council could they please contact the Secretary (Stephanie Moss ph. 268 5486). The Council meets monthly from February to November.

Members are asked to give special consideration to the position of Treasurer, a position which will again fall vacant in April. An offer of nomination for this position will be welcomed.

Nominations should be sent to the Secretary at the Society's address (P.O. Box 203, North Adelaide, 5006) by February 12. Nominations should be signed by the proposer and nominee.

3. BOOKS

1. Alan Jones, Snowtown, The First Century, is a history of the Snowtown District Council area from the beginning of closer settlement in 1869. There are 344 pages, illustrated.

This new local history was written by a member of The Historical Society of S.A.'s Council and published in October 1978 by the Snowtown Centenary Committee.

Copies are obtainable by post (\$12.00 plus \$1.55 postage) from Mrs. T.M. Atkinson, "Gumlyn", Snowtown, 5520, or for \$12.00 by calling at the author's residence, 42 Salisbury St., Unley.

2. Roy Parkes, Please Sir. Let's Do History.

This was due for release last October, to coincide with the centenary of Port Germein, and is far from the run-of-the-mill regional history.

PLEASE SIR is the first of two companion volumes to be reproduced photographically from journals kept by primary school students during the 1930s. SIR is a triumph of a teacher's dedication and foresight. Here's how editor RITA PURVIS describes the work of the late Roy Parkes:

"He took the children on excursions. Even in those days. Not far, mind you; just in and around their own town. He seemed interested not so much in extending their horizons, as in deepening their understanding.

It would seem they had a camera, too, to record their visits; and sometimes they took lop-sided snaps as children will. You'll meet the children: the town kids, the farm kids, the railway kids. They all had a turn to write something.

These days we take our children on trips; we call them excursions, and say it's the modern way. We help them to write an account of their trip; we call it a project, and say it's the modern method. We go off to conferences and tell each other we must develop the child in his present situation; we call it child-centred education. I doubt if Mr. Parkes would ever have heard the term. Funny, how he seemed to know so much about it."

The editor's dedicated work to halve the overall wordage of the journals has nullified the 'exact copy' nature of a true facsimile yet the quaint character and the contagious enthusiasm of Parkes and his kids has been retained.

PLEASE SIR, LET'S DO HISTORY will be comfortable in every school and college library. It will also appeal to seafarers, farmers, social historians and educationalists; and it will whet the reader's appetite for the second volume, YES SIR, THAT'S OUR HISTORY now in preparation.

DISTRIBUTORS:

South Aust. AARON BOOKS, P.O. Box 242 MAGILL. Tel. 332 3858.
Other states, BOOK PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA, 590 Little Bourke Street, MELBOURNE
Overseas, AUSTRALIAN BOOK SERVICE, P.O. Box 238, BALGOWLAH 2093.
OR DIRECT FROM THE PUBLISHERS, NADJURI AUSTRALIA. (Jamestown, 5491)

Write for Nadjuri News No. 4, C/o Nancy Robinson, 42a Fisher Street, FULLARTON 5063. Telephone 79 3310.

3. When publishing was discussed at the local history seminar, it was obvious that many of the participants would appreciate having access to lists and details of Australian publishers.

DIRECTORIES (listing names, addresses, areas of interest etc.) can be purchased from the two main publishers' associations. Directories cost \$2.00 per copy posted.

1. AUSTRALIAN BOOK PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION,
163 Clarence Street,
SYDNEY, 2000
2. AUSTRALIAN INDEPENDENT PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION,
P.O. Box 4059, Mail Exchange,
MELBOURNE, Victoria 3000.

4. Geoff Rathjen, Sources and Tributaries - the Story of Birdwood (Blumberg) and its Schools (Reviewed by S. Marsden)

This little book was written by a member of the Society to mark the centenary of the Birdwood Primary School in 1978. It is an excellent local history, well researched and skilfully written. Sources and Tributaries ... is not simply an account of the town and its schools in isolation but, as the author demonstrates, the "history of Birdwood is rooted in the development of South Australia's earliest rural areas; and the establishing of its schools is based in the education movement, both in England and the Colony in the 1830's and forties".

Much of the history is that of the German families who settled Blumberg. There are a number of original quotations and one is particularly moving in describing George Fife Angas' visit to the Germans at Plymouth.

".... Men, women and children, with broken voices and tearful eyes, poured out with one accord such a burst of thanks that Mr. Angas was glad to make his escape, on the plea of inspecting the ship, but really to hide his own emotion."

In pointed contrast are the speeches in Parliament shouting for the elimination of all German place names in South Australia during World War I.

"..... When you have many of the richest places in South Australia given German names it shows what a foolish lot of people lived in this country before us."

So Blumberg became Birdwood.

There are black and white photographs in the book and maps, as well as a useful and well laid out bibliography.

Copies are to be had from the Secretary, Birdwood Primary School, Birdwood 5234 or Gould Books, Cudlee Creek 5232 (Phone 389 2271). The price is \$3.00 or \$3.60 posted.

5. J. Estcourt Hughes, The Church of Saint Columba

For over 80 years, Saint Columba's Anglican Church at Hawthorn, with its square tower, has been a familiar sight to those who have travelled along Cross Road. To mark the 80th anniversary of its Opening, in October 1898, the Church has published a History of its life throughout that time.

Dr. J. Estcourt Hughes, whose history of the Royal Adelaide Hospital, and biography of Sir Henry Newland will be well-known, has in beautifully proper English prose told the story. He was aided in the work by an earlier compilation of recollections and comments made by the late Miss Mabel Hardy up to 1958, and by recollections of the first four Rectors supplied by the fourth of these, the Revd. Canon R.S. Correll. The present Rector provided the final chapter.

The book, published by Deverson Typesetters and printed by Lutheran Publishing House sells at \$4.00 for an 88 page volume, attractively bound and illustrated with 12 black and white photographs. It is on sale at the Church - call or write to the Rector, 2 Kent Street, Hawthorn, phone 71 3418. Please add postage - 70c per copy.

4. HISTORICAL SOCIETIES & EVENTS

SEQUICENTENARY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

This year Western Australia celebrates 150 years of European settlement. Perhaps more specifically it is 150 years since the Swan River settlement was proclaimed as the Colony of Western Australia, in June, 1829.

Thousands of people attended the official opening ceremony on 31st December, 1978. The Royal Western Australian Historical Society appears to be actively involved in the celebrations and the President, Mr. A.E. Williams, is a member of the celebrations committee and was historical adviser for the opening ceremony. I look forward to a similar involvement by the Historical Society of South Australia and its members in the sequicentenary of South Australia in 1986/7.

I include here a few details of the earliest years of contact leading up to British settlement in W.A. (reference, This Was Australia, published by McGraw-Hill, 1970):

1616. Dutch captain, Dirk Hartog discovered and visited an island later named after him. Several other more or less accidental discoveries were made in ensuing years by Dutch vessels en route from Holland to Java, from Cape York to Peter Nuyts Island near the present South Australian border. The Dutch named the country New Holland but were, understandably, unimpressed with its appearance, and made no attempts at colonisation.
1629. The "Batavia" was wrecked and 125 passengers were massacred by mutineers. The Captain's account of "The Unlucky Voyage of the ship 'Batavia'" has been translated and reprinted frequently since 1647.
1694. William de Vlaming named "Rat's Nest" (Rottmest) Island and the Black Swan (Swan) River.
1772. Capt. St. Alouarn landed at Shark Bay and took possession of the land on behalf of France.
1791. Capt. George Vancouver took possession on behalf of the King and England on the site of Albany.
1802. Capt. Matthew Flinders sailed into King George Sound before proceeding eastward in H.M.S. "Investigator" to make notable discoveries along the coast of South Australia.
1826. Governor Darling, in N.S.W., was instructed to form a garrison settlement at King George Sound so as to prevent colonisation in the West by the French. A detachment of troops and working convicts were sent from Sydney under the command of Major Lockyer and they built barracks at Frederickstown (Albany).
1827. Capt. James Stirling examined the Swan River as a site for further development and gave such a good report that Capt. Charles Fremantle was ordered to take possession of the Swan River territory, which he proclaimed a British possession in May, 1829.
1829. Capt. Stirling, as Lieutenant-Governor, returned (June) with free settlers. They selected a site up-river and named it Perth, for Sir George Murray, Secretary of State for the Colonies, and representing Perthshire in the British House of Commons. The Colony of Western Australia was officially established by Act of British Parliament in 1829, with its present boundaries.

The numbers of free white settlers very slowly grew, half-starved, and the Colony was "rescued" (at their request) by the transportation of nearly 10,000 convicts between 1850 and 1868. Yet prospects of progress and profit remained meagre until the discovery of gold in the 1880's The rest is history.

RARE PUBLIC PRINTING ON SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S FIRST PRESS

Each Sunday, until February 11, South Australia's first printing press will be operated from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Historical Museum of the Art Gallery of South Australia. The printing will be a special feature of the current exhibition, Foundation Years.

The press, a Stanhope, was invented in 1800 by the third earl Stanhope and was the first kind of printing press to be made entirely of iron. This example, No. 200, has been restored to full working order and will be used to print a view of the old Register newspaper office as it appeared from 1860-1908 at 13 Grenfell Street, the site of the new Royal Insurance Building.

Prints will be made from an 1870s block made from two pieces of box-wood hand-engraved on the end grain. The accompanying text has been set by the School of Graphic Arts using nineteenth century-style type locked into a 'chase' or metal frame. It will be possible to see the whole operation as originally carried out when the press was first worked in a rush hut near the Glenelg sandhills in January 1837. Copies of the resulting prints will be available for sale from the Gallery bookshop.

Other items of interest in the exhibition include Charles Hill's large painting of the reading of Governor Hindmarsh's first Proclamation, the only known copy of the original printed version of this Proclamation, the first newspaper issued in Adelaide, an actual-size cross-section of a typical immigrant ship of the 1830s and 40s showing the sleeping places made up with straw palliasses to allow each adult the legal minimum of space of 6' x 1½', a painting of Governor Gawler giving an open-air banquet to all the Adelaide aborigines in November 1838, and two large maps of Adelaide, one drawn in 1837 by R.G. Thomas, a son of the first owner of the Stanhope press, and another in 1916. The later map shows, among other details, the old railway which used to pass in a tunnel below King William Street on its way to the Exhibition grounds on the site of the present University of Adelaide.

For further information please contact Dr. John Tregenza, telephone 223.8494 or 223.8489.

Gallery Hours

Monday - Saturday	10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
Wednesday	10.00 a.m. - 9.00 p.m.
Sunday	1.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GENEALOGY AND HERALDRY SOCIETY

The Society held its first meeting for the year on January 10th. Interest in "discovering one's ancestors" has grown hugely and so have attendances at the Society's meetings, with 120 people at the last meeting. So the Society would like to draw your attention to their new meeting place, which is at the same location as the Historical Society's, at the State Library Lecture Theatre every 6 weeks. The next meeting is at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 21st February, 1979. Mr. Dan Manning will speak on the history of Norwood, Kent Town and Kensington.

NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE

Since October, 1978, the following Newsletters and other publications have been received:

- a. Canberra and District Historical Society. Journal No. 2 September, 1978 and Newsletters October, November and December, 1978.
- b. Environs, August, 1978.
- c. Mount Lofty Ranges Association Inc. November/December, 1978.
- d. Oral History Association of Australia (O.H.A.). Spring, 1978.
- e. Pichi Richi Railway Preservation Society. Spring, 1978. and Supplement (Mail Order)
- f. Port Adelaide Historical Society. December, 1978.
- g. Royal Western Australian Historical Society. October, 1978.
- h. The South Australian Genealogist. October, 1978.
- i. South Australian Horse-Driving Society. October, November, December, 1978.
- j. Senate Standing Committee on Science and the Environment. Supplementary Report on Woodchips and the environment. November, 1978.
- k. Uniting Church Historical Society. September, 1978.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

The following is a list of articles and information from the above Newsletters which may be of interest to H.S.S.A. members. The source is labelled eg (a. December) as above, Canberra ... Newsletter, December, 1978.

- "Current news in oral history in Australia" (d).
"Reminiscences of the old Port", part 3, E. Holthouse (f).
"Glanville Workshop Employees - 1908", E. Kirk (f).
"Recent Journey of Exploration across ... Australia", book review of facsimile of this account by Jess Young of the Giles expedition from Port Augusta to Perth (g).
"Passengers who left Tasmania for South Australia during 1837-38" (h).
"Local histories". M.E. Ragless (a summary of the H.S.S.A. local history seminar) (h).
Additions to the Genealogy Society Library - this library is open to non-members also, and is located now on the 1st floor of The Block, Hindmarsh Square (Librarian, Mrs. H. Baldock, phone 42 3317) (h).
Book review by A.G. Peake of the Harding Family history and the South Coast of S.A. by E.E. Morison (h).
"The Church, the State and Kuitpo", N. Hicks (k).
"Hindmarsh Valley Commemoration" (k).
"Thomas Quinton Stow", J. Cameron (k).

5. LETTERS AND RESEARCH

4 Aintree Road,
GLEN IRIS, VICTORIA 3146
7th November, 1978

The Secretary,
Historical Society of South Australia,
P.O. Box 203,
NORTH ADELAIDE, 5006.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am doing postgraduate research at Melbourne University within the general theme of the First World War and Australian society. In my thesis I am to look at Australia's expectations before and at the outset of the war and to compare them with the actual nature of the conflict. I will then relate the differences between expectations and reality to the

level of awareness on the Australian home front, i.e., the extent to which people back home were aware of the real nature of war as our soldiers were experiencing it in Gallipoli, France and elsewhere. I intend to follow this through the war and also into the post-war period, looking at some of the implications for Australian life in the 1920's. (So overall date range is c. 1910-c. 1928).

I am wondering whether you have any material in which I would be interested. Would you have in your manuscript collection any letters, diaries, etc. relating to the First World War period? I am particularly keen to get hold of any material (e.g., letters written from Australia) that would reveal how much (or how little!) awareness there was in Australia of the nature of the war. Other related aspects include what sort of war Australians expected in August 1914; the reaction in Australia to the casualty lists as they filtered through from the various fronts (and the effect of this on the conscription referenda); activities which affected the level of awareness in Australia, e.g., censorship; the returned soldiers and how they readjusted to civilian life in Australia; the influence of publications or pamphlets that appeared in Australia during or just after the war; the extent to which returned soldiers talked about their war experiences in Australia; and the general impact of the war on Australian society. I am also eager to unearth any evidence of variations within different Australian regions, so please mention any distinctively South Australian material that you possess.

I intend to include some oral history work in my research, and to this end I have been interviewing people. For those whom I have been unable to interview for various reasons, I have drafted a questionnaire. Could you recommend any persons or institutions in South Australia which I could approach with a view to finding men and women who could be able to complete a questionnaire dealing with their recollections of what it was like to be in Australia during and/or after the First World War? Although I am interested in those who enlisted and the views of returned soldiers are an important part of the study, the survey is not intended to be based entirely upon them. I am interested in men and women who were in Australia for some or all of the war years and/or the immediate post-war period. The South Australian State Library has supplied me with the addresses of Mrs. J. Morison, the R.S.L. and various Senior Citizens Clubs. Are there any other individuals or organizations you could suggest? (The Library thought some of your members would probably be involved in oral history projects and this may enable you to inform me of some suitable interviewees or questionnaire respondents).

Thank you very much for your assistance.

Yours faithfully,
ROSS McMULLIN

The Secretary, Ms. Stephanie Moss, has already contacted several people who may have information for Mr. McMullin. I print his letter here in the certainty that many readers would also have memories or materials relevant to his research. Please contact Mr. McMullin at the address above.

CONSTITUTIONAL MUSEUM OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Members of the Society are no doubt aware that State Parliament early last year passed an Act setting up the Constitutional Museum of South Australia. The Museum is to be housed in the Old Legislative Council Chamber complex adjoining Parliament House. It will tell the story of South Australia's political development in three main chambers, which will make full use of audio-visual techniques. Three other areas will be devoted to changing displays on aspects of South Australia's political past and present. The Museum has just hired three half-time research assistants whose first task will be to compile a list of material

suitable for use in our displays. Much of their work will be done in archives, hunting down old photographs, etchings, posters, banners, postcards and caricatures. But there must be much material not at present in archives. If members of the Society themselves have any relevant material or anything they think might be of interest, or if they know of likely sources of such material, would they please contact the Museum? We do not necessarily want to keep any objects sent in, but merely to copy and put on file what it is and who owns it. The Museum's address is: C/- Parliament House, North Terrace, Adelaide 5000, and its phone number is 212 6066.

I might add that several people have offered their services as honorary research assistants. If anyone is interested in helping our team in an honorary capacity, they would be made most welcome. We face a huge task between now and our opening in March 1980 and want to put on the best displays possible. Can you help?

(Signed) Peter Cahalan
(Director)

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PRESERVATION PLAN - HERITAGE UNIT

With the passing of the South Australian Heritage Act during 1978 came the formation of the Heritage Committee, which recommends items for inclusion on the Historic Register and, once funded will also act as a trust. The Heritage Unit has also been established within the Co-ordination and Policy Division of the Department for the Environment.

Four consultants have been employed for part of this year by the Unit to work on aspects of the proposed Preservation Plan, three of whom (an historian, Peter Donovan, architect Mark Butcher and photographer, John Dallwitz) are assessing buildings and relics on the National Estate and National Trust lists for the Register and the fourth (an historian, Susan Marsden) who is to provide an historical background for the Plan, by compiling a resources guide, precis history and thematic reference system.

If members of the Society are interested in the conservation of the built environment in South Australia and have any queries to make about the Heritage Act or Plan in general, or suggestions to the consultants in particular please ring 212 5555 (Heritage Unit).

6. ARTICLES

ERROL FRANCIS MONK, AND HIS ACCOUNT OF THE LAST TWO
PASSAGES OF THE "CARNARVON BAY" IN 1910 PART I by (Mrs.) H.E. HENNING

(This account has been slightly changed and abbreviated - Editor).

Errol Francis Monk was born in Childers Street, North Adelaide, S.A. on 26th February, 1893. His mother came out from Scotland with her parents when she was four years old. His paternal grandparents were Irish.

Errol Monk served in the Naval Air Service during World War I and met Edith Maud Hawkins in England. After the war, he became a planter in Penang and Miss Hawkins came out and married him in Ceylon on 3rd November, 1920.

This account was written by Monk, who signed on as an apprentice on the "Carnarvon Bay" in 1909. Errol Monk made two more roundings of the Horn in 1910-1912 on the "Torresdale".

Ship "CARNARVON BAY", of Liverpool

An account of her last two passages and loss off King Island, Bass Strait, Southern Australia, on 15th September, 1910.

I signed on this vessel in Port Adelaide on Friday, 31st December, 1909 as "Boy", without expectations on pay-off as my wages were fixed at 1/- per month! The Master had agreed with my parents to have me indentured for a period of three years on the vessel's arrival at her home port and the agreed premium of £30 was paid to him when I signed on. I went aboard to take up my duties on Monday, January 3rd 1910, complete with a hastily-assembled outfit packed in a new and cumbersome sea chest, a gift from members of the firm I was happily severing connections with to take up a life afloat. The chest was zinc-lined and so heavy that it was never removed from the half deck where it served as a seat and table and is still there, I imagine, serving Davy Jones. We towed out to the Semaphore Anchorage on Tuesday, 4th January, being farewelled, as was the custom in those days, by crews of the several ships we passed on our way down river.

We lay at anchor until the morning of Saturday, 8th January awaiting final clearance and a fair wind. (We could have sailed on Friday, the 7th but did not do so for reasons well known to all sailormen in those days.) We made a leisurely departure with light winds from the North and East, and passed through Backstairs Passage (between the mainland and Kangaroo Island) that evening, making our way South closehauled on the port tack with the wind steadily increasing from the East. It was all new and very exciting to me and luck was certainly in for we carried a fair wind right across the Bight and north of Cape Leeuwin into the South3East trades, when a course was set for the African coast in the latitude of Durban. This was "flying-fish" or "carpet-slipper" sailing and I don't think we had more than a spray aboard before rounding the Cape of Good Hope on Friday, 21st February, just 48 days out from the Semaphore Anchorage. We passed the Cape close to with the wind still fair and assisted by the Agulhas current, and were soon afterwards in the South/East trades again with the course set for St. Helena, which island we sighted and passed to the East of on Wednesday, 9th March, 12 days after passing the Cape.

Onward we went with the wind still fair to sight and past the island of Ascension on 13th March, four days later, and to cross the Equator on Thursday 17th March, 68 days out. Between St. Helena and Ascension we spoke the small French barque "Admiral Corbet" which vessel had left the Semaphore Anchorage 14 days ahead of us and had sailed eastwards to round Cape Horn. Together we had circumnavigated the globe but we soon left her astern as we did also a smart sealing schooner passed about the same time and bound for St. Johns after an absence of three years!

On Saturday 23rd April, 37 days from the Equator and 105 from the Semaphore, we were picked up by the paddlewheel tug "Flying Fish" just off the entrance to Queenstown Harbour and were soon safely at anchor with a "harbour-stow" on the sails and all ship-shape aloft. This was not a record passage by any means, especially compared with those made by vessels rounding Cape Horn, but it must surely rank high in the record of passages made West-about round the Cape of Good Hope.

END OF PART 1.

A SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH OF THE ORAL HISTORY
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

GENERAL MEETING,

MONDAY FEBRUARY 5TH, 7.30 P.M.

Aboriginal and Historic Relics Unit,
Dept. of the Environment,
43 Fullarton Road,
KENT TOWN, S.A. 5067

We have been invited by the O.H.A.A. to set up a South Australian branch of the Society. A meeting was held in December and an Interim Committee elected to investigate the possibilities, contact interested people etc.

For a successful founding of the branch we urgently need more people interested in oral history and for this reason we urge you to attend the General Meeting on February 5th. We are expecting Jean Teesdale, Secretary of the O.H.A.A. to be present at the meeting.

THE INTERIM COMMITTEE

Queries to:

Dr. Vivien Elliott

Dept. of History,
University of Adelaide
(223 4333, Ext. 2613)
Home: 30 3545
42 3634

Mary Hutchison

