

# HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Founded 1974

Institute Building, 122 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide 5000

President: Mrs H.R. Pearce

Newsletter Editor: Ms Annely Aeuckens

NEWSLETTER No. 36

MARCH, 1981

## CONTENTS

1.	Next Meetings	1
2.	May Field Trip	2
3.	Report on Australia Day Picnic	2
4.	Changes to H.S.S.A. Constitution	3
5.	Report on February meeting	3
6.	Notices	4
7.	Book Reviews	7
8.	Articles	8
	- M.E. Ragless, "South Australia's Regional Celebrations"	8
	- S.C. Dawes, "Governor Gawler - Explorer (Expedition of 1839)"	10
	- R.L. Heathcote, Murray McCaskill and Tom Stevenson, "South Australia 1888, A Geographical View" continued.	16
9.	Newsletter Exchange	22
10.	Newsletter Articles	22
11.	Constitutional Museum	24

### 1. NEXT MEETINGS.

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April Meeting - Friday, 3rd at 8 p.m.

"Social and Regimental Dress in the Victorian Era."

Mr. Brian Reader is a lecturer in Physics with the Department of Further Education. For twenty years he has had an interest in historical costumes and has been making copies of original fashions and uniforms. His costume designs and styles are based on detailed historical research. Some of the clothes that he has selected to show us will be modelled at the meeting, and his talk will also be illustrated with slides. The Victorian era produced a rapid change in clothing styles as new fabrics came into general use, while the sewing machine became a revolutionary technology which aided this development.

May Meeting - Friday, 1st at 8 p.m.

Dr Ian Davey - "Growing up in Hindmarsh at the Turn of the Century"

"It is easily forgotten that it is only just over 100 years since compulsory schooling was first introduced in South Australia and only sixty-five years

since full-time attendance was enforced. These developments had profound effects on the experience of growing up in South Australia and on the transition from school to work in particular. This lecture draws on the research of the Hindmarsh Project and the Hindmarsh Oral History Project, to reconstruct childhood experience in a working-class community at the turn of the century."

2. FIELD TRIP TO HALLETT COVE - MAY 10TH. \*\*\*\*\*

The next field trip has been organised for Sunday, May 10th, from 1 p.m. to 5 or 5.30 p.m. It will be a walking tour through the Conservation Park at Hallett Cove, under the expert guidance of Ms. Maud McBriar, a conservationist who has been associated for many years with the movement to save this most important geological area. She is a principal tutor in Geology at the University of Adelaide, and is also an executive committee member of the National Trust, which initiated the concept of a reservation. The Trust now holds a small strip of land along the cliff line known as the Sandison Reserve. This adjoins the Government-owned Hallett Cove Conservation Park. The uniqueness of this area is internationally famed for its evidence of glaciation of Permian geological times (perhaps 250 million years ago). The Aboriginal camp sites in the area are of great archaeological interest.

It is suggested that members might like to purchase the field guide called "Hallett Cove" (Cooper, Kenny, Scrymgour) from the State Information Centre, Grenfell Street at \$1.20, as it contains two excellent aerial photographs of Hallett Cove, with an informative text and other illustrative material.

Arrangements. The Historical Society Council will hire a coach to take members and friends to Hallett Cove. We will leave Kintore Avenue by the War Memorial at 1 p.m. If you intend to go by coach, please ring our Secretary, Stephanie Moss, 268-5486, by Friday, May 1st to make a booking. Payment for the coach trip may be made upon boarding, and will probably be between three and four dollars.

If members wish to go by car to Hallett Cove please meet at the Hallett Cove Railway Station (not the Hallett Cove Beach Railway Station) at 1.45 p.m. We will then begin our walk from the north end of the reserve through to the south end at Hallett Cove Beach, taking approximately two hours (so wear comfortable walking shoes). Members might like to bring their own refreshments to sustain them for the afternoon as there are no provisions nearby.

3. "A DAY IN THE GARDENS"- AUSTRALIA DAY PICNIC, 1981 \*\* Helen Pearce

A perfect day for lunch in the Botanic Gardens brought fifty members and their children together to mark Australia Day. Huge, old trees protected us from the sun as we ate our picnic lunch near the Mulberry Arbour, and then clouds cut out the sun as we walked around the Gardens, guided and informed by Mr. Trevor Davey. The Tropical House was at its humid, exotic best, while in the Victoria House a profusion of flowers took me (at least) back to my childhood visits to the Gardens with my family. There is a great deal to see in the Botanic Gardens and if members are not as fortunate as we were in having a guided tour, small brochures are available with a lot of historical and botanical information for individual tours. The age of many of the plants and trees is quite amazing, some dating back to not long after the Gardens

were opened in 1855. One of these early planted trees is the Hoop Pine (Araucaria cunninghamii), 1859, while the London Plane Tree (Platanus hybrida) is younger, being a mere hundred and eleven years old. For members who have not visited the Gardens in years, it is time you had another leisurely stroll in this beautiful and peaceful area. To the members who came with their friends and family, many thanks for your support of the first Australia Day celebration in the programme of the Historical Society of South Australia.

Helen Pearce

CORRECTION!

In the report on the Mines Tour of November, 1980, written up in the January Newsletter, the mine at Callington should have been the ACLARE MINE, not the Adare Mine. The error was a result of the President's poor hand-writing! Sorry.

Helen Pearce

4. CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The minor constitutional changes, which were printed in the November, 1980 Newsletter, were put to the General Meeting on Friday, 6th February, 1981. They were passed with the required three-fifths majority. The incorporation of the Society is now being carried forward.

5. REPORT ON THE FIRST MEETING FOR 1981: THE LECTURE BY DR. JOHN TREGENZA, 6/2/81, ON THE HISTORICAL PICTURES INDEX.

This lecture was an elegant, informative and vividly illustrated beginning to the Historical Society's year. While the subject was the compiling of a practical guide to historical paintings and drawings, known as the Historical Pictures Index, its context is in the mainstream of historical research, as an invaluable part of the imaginative re-creation of the past.

The Historical Pictures Index was started by Dr. Tregenza in his capacity as Curator of Historical Collections at the Art Gallery of South Australia, and has been continued by Dr. Tregenza and Ms. Kathleen Patitsas with the aid of heritage grants from the South Australian Heritage Committee. One of the first uses of the Index has been for a heritage survey of South Australia's early buildings and historical sites; some of the slides from one such survey (Early European contact, early transport and communications) were shown, together with the original views, dramatically illustrating both the changes and continuities at that place in the intervening years. Other recent slides, taken by Dr. Tregenza, when compared with early views, showed remarkable changes in the South Australian coastline. These views have been used in research by the Coast Protection Board.

All the pictures are being photographed, annotated and indexed according to subject, region and artist, with extra historical information being added where possible. Pictures have been copied from interstate libraries as well as the Art Gallery, and are at present being researched at the South Australian Archives, which has a massive collection.

A major use of the Index will be as a source of historical information, frequently not available in the written record, and also as illustration. But Dr. Tregenza cautioned against the trivialisation of pictures in many publications and emphasized the need for the same careful citing of source, creator and content for each picture as is common practice for the information

conveyed in the text. Such pictures (and photographs) are not simply bright patches interspersed with text to relieve the reader's eye, but history in themselves, complementing and expanding upon history as words.

The Historical Pictures Index is being compiled and is currently stored at the Art Galley of South Australia.

Susan Marsden

## 6. NOTICES

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- (a) Industrial Archeology. Thursdays - 8-9.30 p.m.

5 meetings from March 12

Fee \$12.50 Tutor - Denis Cumming, M.A., M.I.C.E., M.F.E. Aust.

This short introductory course will cover methods of investigating, assessing and recording industrial sites and artifacts. A field excursion to visit some of the sites discussed in the course will be organised. Sessions will include:

- 1) Scope of studies and resources available.
- 2) Transport in South Australia.
- 3) Mining in South Australia.
- 4) The Murray River - its navigation and irrigation.
- 5) Gawler as an example of an industrial town.

Further details are available from the Department of Continuing Education at The University of Adelaide, Telephone 223 4333, Extension 2236.

- (b) Pichi Richi Railway Preservation Society Inc. - NSU Diesel Electric Locomotive Appeal Fund.

The old narrow-gauge Ghan has now gone forever. In its final years of operation through Pichi Richi Pass it was hauled by NSU locomotives and it is pleasing to know that A.N.R. have offered to the Society one of these locomotives in an operational condition and at an excellent price. The Committee believes that it should not miss the opportunity of obtaining one of these locomotives and this was ratified at the November General Meeting.

It is not all that long ago that people would have laughed at the idea of preserving steam - but not now. The time has come for preserving the first of the early diesels before they go the way of the steam locomotives and are lost forever.

A very important point to remember is that the Society is committed to preserving the era when trains operated through Pichi Richi Pass - and the NSU is part of that scene.

The Committee is hopeful that the purchase can take place with money specifically made available for this purpose and little, if any, will need to be used from general revenue.

So please help the Society by making a donation to this appeal. Every donation no matter how small helps and of course donations of \$2.00 or more are tax deductible. Donations to the NSU Appeal Fund can be sent

to The Hon. Treasurer, Pichi Richi Railway Preservation Society Inc.,  
P.O. Box 228, Magill, S.A., 5072.

(c) Book Inquiry.

Dr. Peter Moore, who addressed the Society's February, 1980 meeting on the subject of Colonel Robert Torrens, and his part in promoting emigration from Ireland to South Australia, is seeking to purchase a copy of the South Australian Public (or State) Library's facsimile edition of Robert Torrens' pamphlet entitled Emigration from Ireland to South Australia, originally published in 1839 by Dr. John Bernard of Dublin and then republished in the early 1960s.

Dr. Moore is currently working on a full-scale biography of Colonel Torrens and wishes to buy a copy of the pamphlet to help him in his research. Although able to "pay a reasonable price", he cannot afford to offer "big money". Any interested persons are invited to contact him at "Dubbo", 86 Camden Town, Newtown, 2042.

(d) Australian Society of Archivists Third Biennial Conference,  
Melbourne, Saturday, 23 May-Tuesday, 26 May, 1981.

Archivists, Record Managers, Historians, Genealogists, and others interested in the creation, care, use and preservation of records will be taking part in a programme of lectures and discussions organised by the Australian Society of Archivists for their Third Biennial Conference in Melbourne in May, 1981.

The object of the conference is to draw archivists and users of archives into closer discussion.

The Biennial General Meeting of the Society will take place on Friday, 22 May, and will be followed, from Saturday to Monday, by the formal Conference programme. On Tuesday, 26 May, a series of visits to archival institutions in Melbourne is planned.

The venue for the Conference is Trinity College at the University of Melbourne, where accommodation is available if needed.

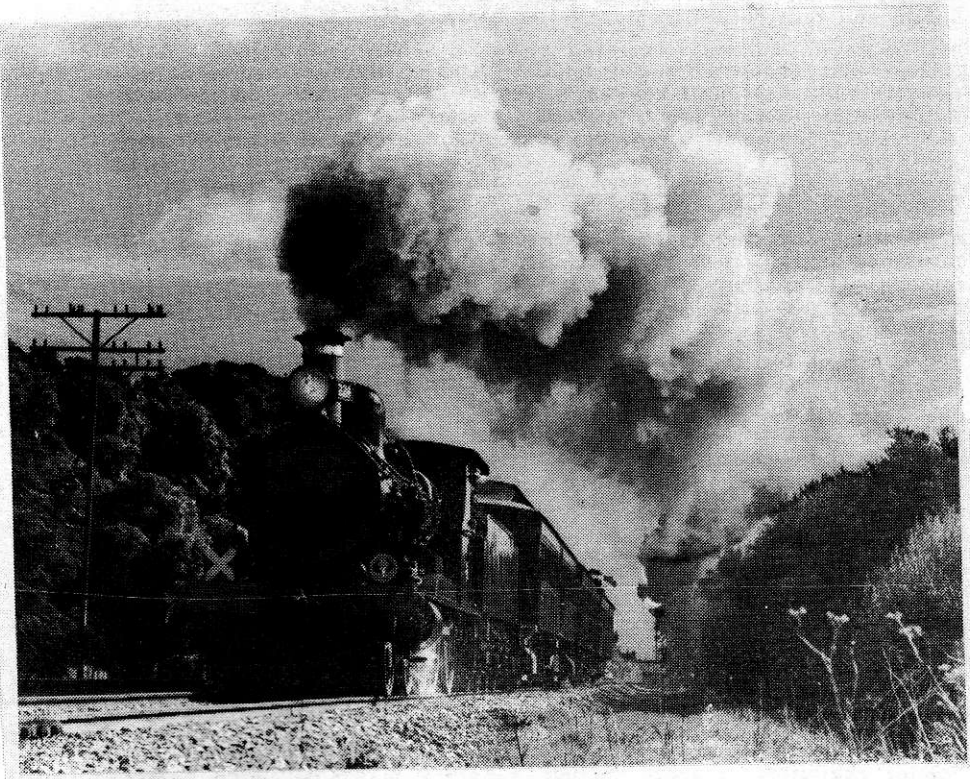
For further information, please contact: The Convener, Conference Committee, Australian Society of Archivists, 242 Danks Street, Albert Park, Victoria, 3206. Phone: Melbourne 592-8388, A.H. 699-2186.

(e) Art Gallery Centenary

The Art Gallery of South Australia is celebrating its centenary year. Special exhibitions planned include a survey of art in South Australia from 1836 to 1981, and a history of print-making in South Australia, "Graven Images in the Promised Land."

Major restoration work has begun on the Historical Museum. Originally used as an ordnance store as part of the Barracks complex, this old bluestone building became known as the State Archives before being taken over by the Art Gallery in 1972 and converted to an Historical Museum.

The present work, which should be completed next month, will re-establish the roof and other features to bring the building as close as possible to its early form and to prepare it for re-integration with the Barracks.



When the work is completed an historical exhibition entitled "Adelaide AD 1881" will be held.

(f) Steam Engine Photographs

Copies of the attractive black-and-white photograph of a steam engine, (reproduced here), taken on the 11th May, 1980, between Unley Park and Hawthorn railway stations are available in the following sizes and prices:

Postcard - \$1.00 ea.; 5 x 7 - \$1.75; 8 x 10 - \$3.00; 9½ x 12 - \$4.00; 16 x 12 - \$5.50. Sepia Toning \$1.00 extra.

Prints may be ordered from Peterson Photographics, 69 Marlborough Road, Westbourne Park, 5041.

7. BOOK REVIEWS.

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- (a) Clare - A Backward Glance, Stories of early Clare and District. Text by Jean Schmaal and Drawings by John Haynes. 1980. 64 pages, soft cover, Black and white sketches, \$3.

This is a short but entertaining collage of what the author appropriately calls 'human interest stories' drawn from various sources and events, including 5 pages of what now seem to us as highly amusing "letters to the Editor" of the "Northern Argus" of last century.

Copies can be ordered from: E. J. Schmaal, 4 Geddes Avenue, Clare. (Postage is 50¢)

- (b) Cornish Heritage, A Miner's Story. Jim Faull. 1980. 145 pages, soft cover, several black and white photographs, \$3.90.

"Cornish Heritage" is a very enjoyable biography of a Cornish miner named Christopher who came to South Australia with his family in 1864 as the copper mines in Cornwall were slowly being exhausted. The book combines the personal charm of a biography with what the 'back-cover blurb' correctly states is 'thorough historical research' and 'a dramatic reconstruction of life'. Mr. Faulk, who is a Senior Lecturer in Geographical Studies at Hartley College of Advanced Education, has successfully produced a 'good read' - a lively story of some lively times (!) while not sacrificing the rigorous use of historical fact and method.

Copies can be obtained from : J. F. Faull, 6 Boundy Road, Highbury. (Postage is \$1.10)

- (c) Gladstone, A Meeting of Creeks - A Breaking of Gauges. "One hundred years of development of the Gladstone District, 1880-1980". Published by the Gladstone Centenary Committee - Mrs. Lesley Lehmann, Editor. 278 pages, hard cover, plentiful black and white photographs, sketches, maps and diagrams, \$12.50.

The Gladstone Centenary Committee has produced an excellent "centenary history" that is visually highly effective, being profusely illustrated with many well reproduced "old" photographs, maps, diagrams and so on, and being organised and set out in such a manner as to be either a rewarding browse or an interesting cover-to-cover read.

The 15 chapters which concern vital aspects of the town's existence, such as Railways, Agriculture, Water, Aborigines and Family Histories,

to name five of the chapter headings, are each written by a different resident thus gathering together the widest 'pool' of local knowledge. Unlike some local histories, this 'product' is definitely not 'dull' but has a professional presentation without resorting to being too 'commercial', and it is evident that there has been some quite thorough research done, taking the book beyond a mere 'collection of recollections' or chronology of the town's history.

The following is an extract from the chapter on "Town Settlement":

"Like many other Australian country towns Gladstone evolved from a tiny settlement which had emerged around a great sheep run. Later part of the great holding (of the Booyoolee Station owned by Herbert Bristow Hughes - 200 square miles; from chapter 1, Ed.) was taken up by the Government, subdivided, and several years later a town council was formed. Originally Gladstone comprised two townships. The private town is the older of the two and lies east of the railway line. To stop any further private surveys, the Government surveyed a town west of the railway line and proclaimed it the Township of Booyoolie, after Hughes' station. In all appearances, the two towns were as one, which had a railway line running through its centre, and had always been known as Gladstone. It was not until 1940, however, that this became official".

A very good 'buy' at \$12.50 from the District Council of Gladstone, S.A., 5473.

Annelly Aeuckens

## 8. ARTICLES.

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### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN REGIONAL CELEBRATIONS by M. E. Ragless.

Don't wait until 1986 to experience a centenary celebration! Quite a number of South Australian country towns have arranged such celebrations, lasting between a weekend and a week, in commemoration of white settlement or council formation. Unless you have an attachment to a country district, you would never, in all probability, have an opportunity to attend such a celebration, although they are open to all and sundry.

It is a time when the town and district shows all its achievements and a unique country life-style of home-cooking and hospitality, which are all the more individual the further away they are from city influence. Each community organization and person is encouraged to pool resources and knowledge, usually with council financial support, in order to give a face-lift to the town, to erect monuments to faded settlements, and to record its history in the form of a book.

Planning begins anything from eighteen months to five years before the event, especially if facilities have to be upgraded and research carried out for the publication of a book. Appeals for information are usually made along the old-fashioned grapevine to friends and relations who may have left the district, to the local paper and, at a later, often more desperate stage, to the reunion column of the Saturday "Advertiser". As the date draws closer, it quickens the pace of the organizers and workers to almost fever pitch. If everyone doesn't pull their weight they are likely to succumb to such a fever that they are not able to enjoy the fruits of their labours!

The caravan park, old two storey hotels and private homes are filled to over-flowing, with both past residents and visitors to be catered for during this mini-festival. An old style ball opens the celebrations and launches the book, concluding with a lavish supper. The next morning a pageant of floats

representing the various organizations, along with clattering iron wheel farm machinery, proceeds along the only bitumen road in the town, the main street, to the tune of an accompanying military band. The sight of a team of horses or bullocks takes anyone over 40 or 50 back many years to child-hood days when their fathers argued over the virtues of horses and tractors. Dusty old tray-top farm trucks are well camouflaged to carry the 'rowdy' team of football players or the sedate senior citizens playing cards. The humour that kept the pioneers going is carried on with the present generation's interpretation of their ancestor's "Hard Times"; mother trying to get an overgrown baby into the wash-tub by the old wood stove, soap suds flowing over the sides of the truck, or two pit-sawyers cutting a log with a long cross-cut saw, while the third "mate" is bludging in the country loo, reading last year's newspapers. These processions are always full of surprises and imagination. The streets are decorated with coloured lights and the front gardens look a little tidier, often promoted by a competition for the best one. A public address system plays band music in between keeping everyone informed of where the action is, despite the souvenir programme that is also readily available.

Some districts test the city driver's skill and endurance when, in a cavalcade of cars, they are led over dusty roads to vibrate across wide stony creek bottoms, especially when there is water in them. Arriving at a heap of stones, or ruin or two, (if you're lucky), by the empty road-side, a plaque is unveiled. A potted history is then recalled of life at the isolated settlement, which died when the railway passed it by or with the advent of the car that could take its inhabitants to bigger and better places. If the town is still associated and usually supported by the business of a railway, a steam-train is organized to come and go, or to take passengers along a spur line. These "iron-horses", as they hiss and cover themselves in a cloud of smoke and steam, are always a delight to both children and adults alike.

A football match between the current team and retired players provides some lively entertainment as the retired team puts up quite a good fight to what the current team thought would be an easy game. School reunions in the new open space rooms, or hot wooden prefabs of the post-war period, around the original stone school house dismiss any notion that the generations don't mix. The youngsters smile as the "oldies" relate the pranks they played on some poor teacher just out of college and sent to this remote one-teacher school. With memories of exam time in hot wood and iron buildings in some distant paddock, another generation wonders how much the carpeted floors and airconditioned education centre is appreciated. However, any qualms of jealousy are soon forgotten as a demonstration or display takes their attention. The present pupils obviously must enjoy learning by the fact of attending school even on a Saturday morning just to proudly show the visitors around.

Little groups of people are seen talking along the streets, not just at the corners, often still going when you pass again an hour or so later. Displays of old products at old prices, but not for sale of course, dress the shop windows. The heavy black and dull chrome equipment of the barber or hairdresser's shop looks positively frightening. How did anyone survive at all, with the concoctions that the chemist mixed up, and what memories the sight of that old powder tin bring back! Faded painted advertisements for Lion Flour on the side of the General Store and the removal of the large glass cases that displayed the latest fashions of the 1880's inside, have cleared the way for a self-serve super-market of deep frozen take-aways and the normal products that one would find in a city shop. The old shelving boards still have their uses behind the long wooden counter that now display plastic wrapped "Mars-bars" instead of jars of "all-day-suckers". If you should look over the rickety paling fence at the back of the shop, you may

see enamel signs for "The Chronicle" or "Laurel Kerosene". The old wooden Kerosene Cases that carried motor-spirit to the local garage, that is as black now with grease as the blacksmith shop it replaced, are likely to be scattered out the back, among the ancient models of cars, kept never knowing what spare parts may be needed. I can't help admiring the knowledge the mechanics must have, from servicing the old models of local farmers who have run out of ideas for improvisation, to the more complicated imports of the tourists who have problems through not having their cars thoroughly checked before setting out. In between they have to fill the thirsty tanks with petrol; no self-serve out here! Good and bad seasons are reflected to some extent in the style of housing in the town, and a walk around the back streets is well worth while.

The conclusion of events is marked with Church Services, either at the individual churches or a large inter-denominational one, often it's the first time in years that they have been so full. Either then, or at a later date, a time-capsule is buried containing a bottle of Centenary Wine, souvenirs, photographs, newspapers about the events, and a centenary book in a concrete lined hole, deep and thick enough to endure an atomic blast, hopefully to be opened in a hundred years time. It makes one wonder how many of the South Australian country towns will remain to be awoken at the end of a second century of rural living. As locals rally together for a once in a lifetime celebration to maintain the town's name on the map, perhaps we can use the city facilities and resources to help these people in the remote parts of our society to discover the value of their heritage too.

GOVERNOR GAWLER: EXPLORER (The Expedition of 1839) by S. C. Dawes.

Proclamation Day, Adelaide, 1839 was a dismal one for Mrs. Gawler, wife of the Governor. Was her husband, as despatches suggested, dead in the desolate territory beyond the North West Bend of the Murray? Was their eldest child safe? Were the two sons of Captain Sturt, left in her charge, to be orphans?

By evening she knew. Governor Gawler, his daughter Julia, Captain and Mrs. Sturt, and the battered remnants of a unique expedition which had set out five weeks before, rode into Adelaide from Gawler Town. But a personable young man was dead; only Mount Bryan marked his passing.

The threads which wove this tragedy reached back even to London, and concerned the Governor's appointment. Gawler was commissioned to reduce South Australian food imports, to get the populous working, and to actively expand the province's grazing land in order to attract settlers, labour and capital; thereby establishing Wakefieldian self-sufficiency and an export trade.

However, this program was dependent on selling the two notions of quiescent natives and public safety, as the murder of Colet Barker at the Murray mouth in 1831, and the irrational fear of escaped convicts and bushrangers, had both been a drag on development.

Since arriving in Adelaide in October, 1838, Gawler had explored widely, and then had devised one final move to accomplish all his objectives. A Murray voyage, with women, to the Great North West Bend was planned, with a return along the overland route. Such a demonstration of safety would surely attract investment. To the basic scheme, he added a side trip of exploration north of the river, and then dangled this bait before Captain Sturt, first explorer of the River Murray in 1829/30. The women selected were Gawler's daughter, Julia, 15 years old, and Mrs. Sturt, together with her maid Eliza Arbuckle, a Scottish Baptist, about 18 years of age. The two girls kept diaries of the trip.

On the 22nd of November, 1839, the party of 16 left Adelaide for Currency Creek. The Governor and the rest of the party travelled by coach to the Onkaparinga River, and then on horse-back through Willunga and Mt. Compass to join twelve surveyors camped at the creek. Trailing behind was Eliza, and two men driving a tandem team in a four-wheeled dog cart. Bullock drays and horse wagons carrying five beds, five tents, bedding and a canteen of kitchen and dining equipment were sent ahead. Amongst the food for the expected twelve day trip to the Bend was 480lbs. of meat, pickles, 6 loaves of bread, biscuits, vinegar, 25lbs. of sugar, 12lbs. of tea, pepper, butter, flour, oatmeal, oats, rice, spirits and five dozen bottles of wine. There was, in addition, 2 bushels of salt, weighing about 240lbs.

The expedition was carefully structured with heavy stores being transported by sea, and carts, to Encounter Bay and then to Currency Creek. A support party for the return journey, under Finniss, went along the North Para River from Adelaide across the Murray Plains, to wait on the river for the boats and riders coming north.

The main party, after being caught in rain and hail, embarked at the surveyor's camp in the three whale boats and a gig, (commanded by Pullen), and sailed past Sturt Point, across Lake Alexandrina and up the Murray to Morphett's Farm at Wood's Point. Here they met three riders from their party, and the dog cart, which had travelled along the northern shore of the lake to where sheep from Portland were rafted across the river.

It was a leisurely voyage for the first white women on these waters, relaxing beneath an awning rigged by Pullen, even though Mrs. Sturt was pregnant with her third son. A vastly different journey, in fact, to the epic voyage of her husband ten years before. Sturt and Gawler were now both 44, and they, together with Pullen and the Commissioner of Police, Inman, led the group, which also included Henry Bryan, an 18 year old aide of Gawler's, recently arrived from England, Arthur Gell, Gawler's secretary, and Mr. Strange, a taxidermist (who no doubt used all the art of his particular profession) who came along to collect specimens for John Gould. As guides they added Encounter Bay Bob and Black Tommy, two natives of the Ngarrindjeri tribe, a group of whom demonstrated fishing techniques and entertained the party at Poomunda.

While occupied with sailing, rowing, fishing, riding, exploring and gathering fossils, rocks and birds, the party progressed by slow camps, unaware of tensions building further east. They camped early in the evenings, ate with silver cutlery from fine china and linen cloths, and drank wine from crystal glasses; the candles and spirit lamps illuminating their specks of gracious civilisation.

Only once did they get a fright, a foretaste of what lay ahead. Gawler and four horsemen went on too far ahead one day for the flotilla, and both groups spent an anxious night twelve miles apart.

At the Darling river crossing, far to the east, two overlanders joined forces to disperse a native attack. Alexander Buchanan had 4,000 sheep, and Tooth 550 cattle. Together they travelled to Lake Bonney, 'savaging' the natives, until Tooth swam his cattle across the Murray to take the cut-off and recrossed the Murray on its southern run.

Tooth and Gawler met on December 7th. That night, inexplicably for the Governor, the natives 'fired' grass around his camp and he shot at the attackers. Buchanan on the 7th, further north, near the N.W. Bend with his sheep, let his men take pot-shots at the natives on the opposite bank, 'bagging' at least one. On the 9th, Buchanan and three companions,

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITUREINCOME

Balance Brought Forward, 1/1/80

Operating Account	1468. 01	
Deposit Stock Account	1450. 00	
Life Membership Account	1200. 00	
Petty Cash	<u>0. 32</u>	4118. 33

## Membership Fees

Family	960. 00	
Ordinary	2508. 00	
Institutes and Schools	459. 00	
Pensioners and Students	216. 00	
Country	370. 00	
Newsletter Subscriptions	<u>20. 50</u>	4533. 50

Sale of Journals		274. 50
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Field Excursions		160. 25
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Grants		1261. 06
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Bank Interest		249. 70
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## Sundries

Supper Receipts	33. 01	
Newsletter Advertising	100. 00	
Miscellaneous	<u>68. 00</u>	201. 01

\$10798. 35

I have obtained all the information and explanations I have required and accurate record of the financial affairs of the Society for the year ending 31st December 1980.

28th January, 1981

EXPENDITURE

Publications

Newsletter Printing and Postage	2427. 58	
Journal Printing and Postage	<u>3834. 27</u>	6261. 85

General Administration

Stationery and Filing Cabinet	238. 78	
Petty Cash and General Expenses (postage, telephone, insurance etc.)	302. 83	
Affiliation Subscriptions and Donations	<u>55. 00</u>	596. 61

Educational Programme

Catering	58. 21	
Theatre Hire	<u>172. 00</u>	230. 21

Bank Balances, 31/12/80

Operating Account	1390. 91	
Deposit Stock Account	1118. 45	
Life Membership Account	1200. 00	
Petty Cash	<u>0. 32</u>	3709. 68

10798. 35

ed. In my opinion the above summary of Income and Expenditure is a true  
e year ended 31st December 1980.

R.E.E. Kearns  
R.E.E. Kearns  
Registered Company Auditor

separated from their group in order to prepare a shearing camp near Kapunda, met Gawler's two support drays on the river bank. They decided to wait and greet the Governor. Once met, Sturt promptly asked whether they had experienced any hostility but Buchanan recorded in his diary, '... did not say we had shot any.' The following day, the Governor and the ladies arrived at N.W. Bend and settled in at the Elbow Camp, while the exploring contingent went into the unknown north west country.

Six men left. Gawler, Sturt, Inman, two surveyors, Craig and Richardson, and Henry Bryan. Each were mounted, and they led a pack horse with two water kegs for one day's supply, and food for three. Now the tragedy began. Deceptively close was the mountain named for Bryan by Gawler. They planned to find water on the second day. At their first camp, 32 miles out, one keg had leaked and evaporation had reduced the other. The next day, while debating whether to return, Gawler was deceived by a mirage of water and trees at the foot of Mt. Bryan. Eventually Sturt convinced him of the error, but now the explorers were 40 miles out in waterless country and down to dribbles in the kegs. They decided to wait for nightfall to return. But as they waited, native fires showed on the mountain and Gawler decided that these promised water, and led his men a further 25 miles into the rocks and ravines ringing Mt. Bryan.

It was Friday, 13th of December, and Gawler had exhausted both himself and his horse by midday, finding neither water nor natives. They decided to force march 65 miles overnight back to camp. Gawler, with Bryan, left at 6 p.m.; the others at 7 p.m. As Sturt led his horse away, the native fires again flickered on Mt. Bryan, but now only unpleasant reality would save them. One horse 'knocked up' and was abandoned. The other horses, almost three days without water, were roped in line, but stumbled and fell as the four men walked and sometimes rode towards the river. By the next afternoon, Sturt was the only man on his feet. His companions were exhausted, unable to move. As a last resort Sturt stabbed a horse in the neck, bleeding it, so all the men could drink. Sturt took only a little, but Craig and Inman gorged themselves to the point of vomiting, and fell unconscious until Sturt roused them early the next morning. They pushed onwards for two hours, crossed a ridge, and stood beside the Murray where Sturt strictly rationed water to both men and horses. As day broke on the 15th of December, base camp came alive four hundred yards away and the men finally reached safety.

However, Gawler and Bryan, despite their earlier start, had not yet returned. In the ensuing turmoil, Pullen formed a relief party, but before starting Gawler was seen from the west, falling from his horse, and was brought in unconscious. He recovered, but without any knowledge of Bryan. Apparently, both men rode together until Gawler's horse 'knocked up' sometime on the morning of the 14th. They then exchanged horses, checked compass bearings, and Gawler left, intending pushing on towards the camp and returning with water for Bryan and Sturt's party. But a 'willy-willy' forced him to dismount and shelter beneath a shrub. He lost consciousness for many hours before being able to remount and letting the horse wander into camp.

A relief party was quickly organised with riders and a boat going down the river. The tracker, Bob, started at 6 a.m. and remained in the saddle for 36 hours, serving with the three parties until they found Bryan's discarded clothes, saddle, bridle and telescope (but not his compass) and a note saying he was exhausted and intended heading S.S.E. Here they saw where the young man's horse, despite surviving three days without water, had broken its tether to a tree and had headed west, away from the river. Bryan's tracks vanished in a sand flat. Nothing was ever seen of him again.

In Gawler's later opinion, Bryan's compass had not been adjusted to the

southern hemisphere and his supposed S.S.E. course was, in reality, directed southwards, and thus he had walked to his death parallel to the southern run of the Murray.

Three months later, the horse ridden by Bryan found its way to Adelaide with 'hooves as long as skates' and trailing a tether.

Gawler's explanation, however, takes no account of the aggressive natives of the N.W. Bend, whom he had considered friendly and sure to help Bryan. But they had suffered at Buchanan's hand, and no doubt watched Gawler's meeting with both Tooth and Buchanan, and the subsequent journey to Mt. Bryan. The compass, though, may be significant in another way; Colet Barker was speared while using a compass, something which the natives saw as being a magical eye. Significantly, the local natives never revealed themselves to the camp while the explorers were away, nor during the subsequent week while the party searched. Gawler's trackers were not of the local people and as strangers they may have been too frightened, or even warned off, from reading signs correctly when they 'lost' Bryan's tracks on the sand flat. It is incredible that two trackers, who had back-tracked Gawler to where he separated from Bryan, and then followed Bryan to his clothes, would 'lose' the track of a man either walking, or stumbling and crawling for water; or of a man attacked, speared and left. Only other natives could have obliterated all the traces. Similarly, the 'knocked up' horse must have been well scared to break its rope and bolt away from water; a calamity Bryan would have mentioned in his note if he had intended continuing with the horse. Conversely, if he intended abandoning it, he would not have tethered it, but turned the horse loose and conceivably written an explanation.

A rational explanation seems to be that Bryan perhaps secured his horse while both cooled off, wrote his note at 9 p.m., and then, before continuing during the night, was surprised and carried off with his magic eye by 'avenging' natives who then obliterated the obvious signs of their visit (in order to satisfy the whites) but left enough to warn off the 'foreign' trackers.

Gawler's later explanation, and another by Sturt, both smack of expediency. The rationale of Gawler's policy was to sell public safety, and although neither he nor Sturt knew of Buchanan's deprivations before exploring, it is unlikely that no blame at all was attributed to natives for Bryan's loss among Buchanan's and Gawler's men when they met again on December 24th. By then, personal regrets could be replaced by political considerations under the guise of faulty compasses, or, in Sturt's case, that Bryan abandoning the horse led to his vanishing, and also, very conveniently, Bryan's brother remembering that Henry suffered recurrent dizziness. Certainly, one of the diarists involved, subscribed to Bryan as having, 'found his grave in the stomachs of savages and fell a sacrifice to government policy.'

But on the 15th of December, the promise that no more could be sacrificed was fast replacing tranquil memories of the voyage north. Sturt wanted to head home, the three weeks' stores were going fast, despite Finniss' supplies, but Gawler had searchers out until Pullen and the boats with Black Tommy left for the lakes on the 20th. A courier was despatched to Adelaide for more supplies, and it was his reports to the 'Southern Australian' for its Christmas edition which alarmed the town, and caused the cancellation of Proclamation Day ceremonies.

On the 21st, Gawler with the support vehicles, followed the river and turned west along Buchanan's route to the shearing camp between Julia Creek and present Hamilton. Strangely, with Gawler's experience on the voyage, and return from Mt. Bryan, the overland party divided into four, ostensibly to increase the chance of finding water, but perhaps also to find good grass

and justification for the whole expedition. The Sturts, Julia, and Bob the tracker had a horse cart, and consisted one party. Inman, and Trooper Freestone, comprised another, and Gawler, Gell and Gerald were the third party. The fourth, with vehicles drawn by horses and bullocks, comprised Eliza Arbuckle, Craig, Richardson, King, two servants, Isaac and William, and Strange the taxidermist.

For eight days the four groups struggled towards Gawler Town, cutting through pine and scrub, digging away sand, crossing rocky hills, seeking water, food and shelter from stations and overlanders' camps run by Eyre, Leake, Tooth and Buchanan. During the day the groups travelled separately, regrouping at night, but they often lost each other in the withering heat, and were forced to resort to brackish water and salt damper. The temperature hovered between 149 degrees F. and 152 degrees F. One night, Eliza's party survived on port, wine and spirits given by Tooth who had exhausted all other supplies. On Christmas Day, Freestone, with precious quondongs held in his hat, found Eliza and gave them to her, but she sent him away with half the fruit as presents for Mrs. Sturt and Julia. The next night, out of contact with the others, Eliza camped at a little mudhole the size of a man's hand, from which salt water oozed and Isaac used gunpowder to start a fire. The explosion took out his right eye, split his nose, and tore away his cheek, but he survived to walk to Government House.

The final run in was easy for most. Gawler led the travellers in and Adelaide was relieved. Plans were made to celebrate Proclamation Day on 10th January, 1840. Unfortunately, Eliza's party, although re-equipped with fresh horses and bullocks, was delayed. A wheel on the dray, loose from the heat and battering, finally collapsed, and then one on the wagon, and the horses bolted. Eliza and Isaac were alone to walk the final mile from North Adelaide to Government House, where Isaac got medical attention, but he unfortunately died shortly afterwards. Eliza took a glass of water from Mrs. Gawler and then walked to the Sturt home on East Terrace, stopping at a tinsmithy in Rundle Street for another drink. The man gave her one, and walked her home the final quarter mile. They were eventually married.

The next day, December 29th, was a Sunday that year, and Eliza Arbuckle, having, 'slept soundly and well, rose late, perfectly refreshed, but brown as a berry' and, to the great astonishment of Captain and Mrs. Sturt, as well as to herself, dressed for church. Perhaps, as she went, like many heads of government departments later, she wondered whether much good to the colony would result from the exploration. Time had the answer.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA 1888, A GEOGRAPHICAL VIEW by R.L. Heathcote, Murray McCaskill and Tom Stevenson (Geography Discipline, School of Social Sciences, Flinders University)

Reprinted from Australia 1888, Bulletin No. 5 September, 1980, pp. 91-113. Continued from Newsletter No. 35 January, 1981.

#### Intensification and Diversification

With settlement expansion stalled by uncertain rainfall in the north, by seasonal inundation in the Southeast and the mallee vegetation on Eyre Peninsula and the Murray lands, some South Australians in the late 1880s were trying to diversify their products and develop new technologies to wrest a greater return from existing resources. (26) None of these experiments yielded quick and spectacular results, but collectively they marked a new phase in attitudes to land resource management.

As the colony with the most meagre timber resources South Australia became the pioneer of forestry in Australia when an act of 1873 granted for landowners a subsidy of £2 per acre for tree planting. More important was the government's declaration of forest reserves on which there were 165,000 acres (64,900 ha) by 1886 and the planting of 6,680 (2,720 ha) in plantations, most of it initially in the southern Flinders Ranges east of Port Pirie. It was the seemingly omniscient and omnicompetent Goyder who recognised the superior tree-growing potential of the Southeast rather than the North and who played an important role in promoting pinus radiata as the timber species likely to prove most useful and profitable. (27)

In the early 1880s plans to subdivide for sale the 'government farm' at Belair in the Mount Lofty Ranges triggered Adelaide's first 'environmentalist' protest movement on the grounds that the bushland should be retained for public benefit rather than pass into private lands. The campaign bore fruit in 1891 when the Governor assented to the National Park Act creating at Belair Australia's second national park after Royal National Park south of Sydney. (28)

South Australians had regarded the River Murray chiefly as an artery of commerce enabling them to tap western pastoral areas of New South Wales and Victoria. By the mid-eighties the river was being seen as a potential irrigation source and stimulus to small scale farming following the success of irrigated fruit farming in California and the schemes begun in northern Victoria in 1882. (29) Given the unproven technology and markets South Australian governments were unwilling to do more than encourage private irrigation ventures. In 1888 the Chaffey Brothers' pumps began working at Renmark and land was on offer at £20 per acre for orchard blocks. The official government handbook for the Adelaide Jubilee International Exhibition in 1887 wrote grandiosely: "If, by a gradual system of locks, the normal level of the river can be raised, so as to provide on the one hand a permanent water carriage, and at the same time establish a natural reticulation of water by gravitation over the chief portions of those magnificent plains along its banks, no doubt a numerous and happy population would be planted along its banks". (30) With the financial collapse of the Chaffey Brothers in 1892 the government reluctantly became involved in the administration of water and subsidies to village settlements, but the vigorous prosecution of state-aided settlement and the creation of a distinctive Riverland region had to await the Murray Waters Agreement of 1914 and the popular pressures to settle returned servicemen after the two World Wars.

Of greater importance in the medium term were the experiments conducted during the 1880s with the application of superphosphate to wheat crops, the debate over fallowing to conserve moisture and check declining yields and the slow realisation that sheep grazing might be advantageously combined with wheat cropping. The pages of the monthly rural journal The Garden and the Field throughout the eighties and nineties reported on a wealth of experience, experiment and debate on farms and at Roseworthy Agricultural College. The journal was tireless in condemning the 'primitive system of land impoverishment by continuous wheat growing' and in arguing that 'this slovenly practice misnamed farming, must sooner or later be replaced by more rational methods of cultivation, including the raising of other crops beside wheat, combined as far as possible with grazing'. (31)

Experiments with superphosphate were begun at Roseworthy in 1882 on the arrival of J.D. Custance, the first professor of agriculture, and continued by his successor in 1887, William Lowrie. Adoption of the practice by the general body of farmers was slow until the mid-nineties when the Correll Brothers of Minlaton on Yorke Peninsula hit upon the idea of mixing small quantities of superphosphate with the seed wheat in their American-imported drills. (32)

Once again a folk innovation of the South Australian frontier produced a technical breakthrough that was to enlarge the productive capacity of the land and to provide a technology that allowed further advance of agricultural frontiers in the period 1900-14. Diffusion of the 'new' farming was greatly aided by the establishment in 1888 of the central Agricultural Bureau and its branches in the farming districts. This was a self-help farm extension service set up six years before the establishment of a government Department of Agriculture and its conception owed much to the energetic Albert Molineux, editor of Garden and Field. (33) Its aims were 'to collect and publish with the aid of district bureaus information of every kind calculated to prove beneficial to the colonists engaged in ... pursuits connected with the cultivation of the soil'. Its first annual report expressed the hope 'that the whole system of agriculture, dairying, horticulture, etc. will be so advanced by the endeavours of the Bureau and its district auxiliaries that an era of prosperity will be recognised as having commenced contemporaneously with the inauguration of the Bureau of Agriculture'. The era of agricultural prosperity lay some 15 years ahead but was to depend in considerable measure on the dissemination of information on farm practices by the Bureau and on its distribution of varieties of rust resistant and drought tolerant wheat seed.

#### THE PASTORAL INTERIOR

Despite the initial official emphasis upon agriculture, the pastoralists in South Australia had played a role in the expansion of European settlement very similar to that of their contemporaries in the other colonies. Here, as elsewhere, the pastoralists were the first to occupy most of the land which was to be settled by Europeans and their descendants and in 1980 exclusive pastoral land use still occupies 48 per cent of the area and 68 per cent of the rural holdings of the colony.

By 1888 the South Australian pastoralists had reached the edges of, and locally penetrated, the central deserts of Australia. They were in the van of the Australian advance into the arid zone. Although 40 per cent of the area of the leases at the peak in 1884 was not stocked (and much of this speculative area was to be abandoned in the next decade without ever having been stocked), on the stocked leases outside the Hundreds sheep and cattle numbers grew from 17 per cent of the Colony's total in 1877 to 24 per cent in 1884, reaching their separate peak in 1892, when they comprised 26 per cent of the total. By 1900 the proportion had dropped back to 20 per cent and by 1980 it was hovering around 9 per cent. At the peak in 1892 36 per cent of the Colony's cattle, 26 per cent of the sheep and 10 per cent of the horses were grazing on leases beyond the Hundreds. (34) Cattle were driven along the travelling stock routes or the Transcontinental Railway south from Hergott Springs (Marree) to serve the colonial meat trade, and sheep provided export wool and culls for slaughter; the horse trade with India had slackened considerably, however, in the 1880s.

While the pastoral landscape of the frontier varied in detail the basic components were the homestead as headquarters for staff, with outstations at strategic central locations and some fenced paddocks, with watering points linked by rough tracks. One example illustrates the details for properties established in the 1850s.

'Wirrealpa' Station in 1888 comprised three pastoral leases totalling 798 square miles (206,682 ha). The largest lease (No. 1558 of 602 square miles) had been consolidated in 1868 from 10 previous leases which had been taken up by John Chambers over the period 1856 to 1858 and (apart from one) transferred to Phillip Levi (probably as a mortgage to cover drought losses) in 1865. The two eastern leases fringing the Lake Frome salt flats were not leased until 1867, and then by John Angas who had taken up the original

leases of the neighbouring property to the north 'Arrowie' in 1858. Chambers had also leased a portion of this area in 1855-56 but by 1882 had disposed of this to Angas, who then owned the three leases comprising 'Wirrealpa' as well as 'Arrowie'. In 1884 however both properties were held by Willowie Land and Pastoral Association Limited, whose leases stretched eastwards to the New South Wales border and comprised a further 6,436 square miles (1,666,924 ha), of which only 875 square miles (226,625 ha) was not stocked. (35) In 1888 with the termination of the 1867-68 leases 'Wirrealpa' was subdivided into five new blocks of from 135 to 177 square miles (350-458 ha) to be offered at auction for re-leasing.

The 'Wirrealpa' property in 1888 stretched from sparsely wooded foothills of the Flinders Range (the Bunkers) eastwards on to the saltbush and cotton bush plains of the Lake Frome basin. Already the original head station had been abandoned, and a more central location in the larger lease established with huts and associated horse paddocks out on the plains. Post and wire fences divided up most of the property but rarely climbed the steep ridges and did not enclose all of the eastern leases. The names of the smaller paddocks around the head station indicated the holding sequence for sheep before and after shearing while the larger paddocks were given personal or locality names. A radial pattern of tracks linked all watering points, whether natural springs or excavated wells and dams, with the huts on head station. Seasonal distribution of rainfall, however, probably dictated that the eastern plains would be used only after winter rains had caused the creeks to run and fill the dams. Although thunderstorms might break the dry season, summer grazing would gradually retreat to the foothills as the surface waters dried up.

#### The Pastoralists

At the peak of the area under lease, in 1884, 345 owners in South Australia held pastoral leases beyond the Hundreds. (36) Most of the holdings comprised on average less than 1000 square miles (c2600 sq. km) and 18 per cent were less than 100 square miles (25,900 ha). Sir Thomas Elder, however, owned 16,919 square miles (4,382,021 ha) of leases; his nearest rival was in fact the Willowie Land and Pastoral Company with 7,778 square miles (2,014,502 ha). Individuals represented 71 per cent of the owners and held 66 per cent of the area; partnerships comprised 28 per cent of the owners, holding 30 per cent of the area, companies comprised the remaining minority. Of the partnerships 31 per cent were family concerns owning 31 per cent of the area held by all partnerships.

Already there was evidence that capitalists were acquiring properties widely scattered through the colony, and that freehold land within the Hundreds was being worked in association with remote pastoral leases in the interior. At least 8 capitalists already had property in other colonies, but the extent of inter-colonial integration of their operations awaits further research. (37)

#### Occupation of the Range

The initial provision, in 1836, for 'the common of pasturage' on unsold lands for up to three years in the proportion of 1280 acres (512 ha) for every 80 acres (32 ha) purchased, proved impossible to administer and was generally ignored by pastoralists. (38) The resultant illegal stocking of the unsold Crown Lands led to 'an Act for protecting the Waste Lands of the Crown in South Australia from encroachment, intrusion and trespass' (6 Vic. No. 8 of 1842). This required pastoralists to take out Occupation or Depasturing Licences and to pay an assessment on their stock. However, not until the 1849 Order-in-Council, which authorised pastoral leases for 14 years, and which came into force in 1851, were pastoralists required to provide details of their

runs. Thereafter, for the first time, the expansion of the flocks and herds could be documented over space and through time.

The pastoral expansion after 1851 rapidly occupied the open woodlands and natural grasslands of the plains and valleys of the southern Flinders Ranges. The lessees by 1855 were occupying most of the land which was to be designated agricultural land within the declared Hundreds by 1888. (39) Here, as elsewhere in Australia, some of the best agricultural land was first brought into commercial production as pastoral stations.

A major check to the rate of expansion came in the mid-1860s through a combination of circumstances. The termination of the 1851 leases in 1865, official offers of new leases for a similar period (14 years) but at increased rents based upon official valuations of the grazing capacities of the leases in 'a fair average season', together with a massive drought on the northern pastoral leases - which killed over quarter of a million sheep and almost thirty thousand cattle - brought protests and threats to abandon their leases from the pastoralists and a special official survey of 'the State of the Northern Runs'. (40) The Survey recognized the losses, sympathised with the pastoralists' position and admitted that everyone, including the government, had been over-optimistic about the capabilities of the country. As an immediate measure Surveyor-General Goyder was ordered north to delimit the drought area as the basis for rent relief to drought-affected pastoralists, and the Waste Lands Amendment Act (31 Vic. No. 21 of 1867) offered new leases for 21 years at reduced rentals and with the promise of payment at the end of the lease for all watering facilities put in by the pastoralists.

The response of the pastoralists was rapid. Within a year the lands abandoned in the drought had been re-leased and with improved rainfalls over the next decade the rate of expansion of new pastoral leases paralleled the boom of the 1850s. (41) By 1884 the expansion had peaked at 234,340 square miles (60,694,060 ha) or 62 per cent of the area of the Colony under pastoral lease - a figure never to be reached again.

The mid-1880s recurrence of drought, together with the imminent termination of the 21 year leases in 1888 and signals from the government that the terminating leases would be subdivided and offered for further lease at rents to be fixed at public auction seems to have pricked the bubble of what contemporary pastoralists admitted was, in part, a speculative boom. From 1884 the pastoral leased area declined steadily to 1896, picked up briefly then fell again to a figure in 1900 which only matched the area of the mid-1870s.

#### The Outlook from 1888

As had been the case twenty years earlier, the latter years of the eighties were a period of reappraisal in the pastoral industry beyond the Hundreds. In their efforts to maintain their operations many of the existing pastoralists were in the process of bidding up the rents on the new official subdivisions of their expired leases, thus creating a financial burden they were later to regret. Others held off, waiting for more favourable terms from the government.

By 1888 considerable experience of the problems facing pastoral expansion into the interior had come to light. The environmental stresses of increased frequency of droughts, remoteness and cost of transport and communications generally, attacks from dingoes which forced a reversion to costly shepherding, competition from rabbits (some of which seem to have been transported into the interior by Aborigines), (42) tropical animal diseases, (43) and the local effects of over-grazing around the permanent water points, caused many to look to other colonies or to different outlets for their

investments. Certainly the pastoralists were sensitive of their image as capitalists and conscious of popular pressure to curb their apparent monopolies of the colonial ranges. (44) They could point to the heavy expenditure their large holdings required and that 'development', as one of their number eloquently put it, was 'after all a great lottery'. (45) But the 1890s were to show that despite all the evidence of past losses, there were still many ready to gamble on the fortunes of the pastoral industry in South Australia.

#### NOTES

26. Two official inquiries into water conservation and agricultural diversification were symptomatic of the mood of the times: S.A.P.P., 1890, No. 94, Report of the Royal Commission on the Water Conservation Department and No. 181, Report of the Select Committee on Bonuses for Agricultural Dairying, Fruit and Wine Industries.
27. Michael Williams, 'George Woodroffe Goyder: A Practical Geographer', Proc. Roy. Geog. Soc. of Australasia, S.A. Branch, Vol. 79, 1978, pp. 1-21.
28. S.A. Parl. Debates, 1891, National Park Bill.
29. S.A.P.P. 1889, No. 29, Public Works Report, pp. xii-xiv.
30. Scott, op. cit., pp. 72-3.
31. Garden and Field, Feb. 1887, p. 103.
32. M. Williams, op. cit. (n. 5, above) pp. 283-285.
33. S.A.P.P., 1889 and 1890, No. 96, Report of the Agricultural Bureau.
34. Livestock totals in sheep equivalent units (of 5 sheep to 1 cattle). Data from Statistical Registers and Stock and Brands Reports of Chief Inspector of Sheep.
35. Lease data from S.A.P.P. No. 38, 1865-66; No. 99, 1884; No. 118, 1884; and No. 56, 1887.
36. S.A.P.P. No. 99 and No. 118, 1884.
37. Comparison of 1884 S.A. Lessees from data in footnote 36 with owners of leases in the Warrego Country of N.S.W. and Qld. in 1879 and 1889 from unpublished data used in R.L. Heathcote Back of Bourke: a study of land appraisal in semiarid Australia, Melbourne 1965.
38. J. Lewis, 'Our early pastoral possessions and the pioneers of settlement in South Australia', Proc. Roy. Geog. Soc. Australasia (S.A. Branch), Vol. 17, 1915-16, pp. 1-83.
39. Compare Fig. 1 in M. Williams 'Delimiting the spread of settlement: an examination of evidence in South Australia', Econ. Geog., Vol. 42, pp. 336-355, 1966, with Fig. 7 here.
40. See S.A.P.P., No. 103, 1860; No. 82, 1864; No. 188, 1864; No. 56, 1865; and No. 30, 1865-66.
41. Indications of rainfall fluctuations over the pastoral areas are provided in J. C. Foley, 'Droughts in Australia: review of records from earliest years of settlement to 1955', Comm. Bur. Met. Bull. No. 43, 1957.
42. Evidence, Question 2020, of Svy. Gen. G. W. Goyder to Pastoral Lands Commission, S.A.P.P. No. 33, 1891.
43. 'Report, etc. of Intercolonial Stock Conference', S.A.P.P. No. 116, 1889, Recommendations 38 and 47.
44. Evidence, Question 2402, of Sir Samuel Davenport, KCMG, pastoralist to Pastoral Lands Commission, S.A.P.P. No. 33, 1891.
45. Evidence, Question 738, of W.B. Sells, pastoralist, to Pastoral Lands Commission, S.A.P.P. No. 33, 1891. Goyder valued the 'improvements' on leases terminating in 1888 at an average of approximately £17 per square mile, in a ratio of 41:59 between Wells and dams:fences and buildings, S.A.P.P. No. 61, 1890.

## 9. NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE.

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Since January, 1981, the following Newsletters and Journals have been received:

- a) Australia 1888, Bulletin No. 6, November, 1980.
- b) Australia 1938, Bulletin No. 3, December, 1980.
- c) Australia 1938-1988, Bulletin No. 2, December, 1980.
- d) Canberra and District Historical Society Newsletter, Nos. 220 and 221, December, 1980 and February, 1981.
- e) John McDouall Stuart Society Circular Letter, December, 1980.
- f) Pichi Richi Patter, Vol. 8, No. 2, Summer, 1981.
- g) Royal Australian Historical Society Newsletter, No. 1 New Series, January, 1981.
- h) Royal Geographical Society of Australasia (S.A. Branch) Inc., Newsletter, Vol. 16, No. 10, November, 1980.
- i) South Australian Horse Driving Society Newsletter, January, 1981.
- j) The National Trust of South Australia Newsletter, No. 105, February, 1981.
- k) The Push from the Bush, A Bulletin of Social History, No. 8, December, 1980.
- l) The South Australian Genealogist, Vol. 8, No. 1, January, 1981.

## 10. NEWSLETTER ARTICLES.

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- a) Graeme Davison, "First Thoughts on Religion in 1888"  
Walter Phillips, "A Response to Graeme Davison's 'First Thoughts'"  
Hugh Jackson, "The Place of Religion in 1888"  
Alan D. Gilbert, "Religion and Society"  
R.J. Selleck, "Statement on History of Education"  
Patricia Grimshaw, "Women in the 1888 Volume"  
Ailsa McLeary, "Reader to Writer"  
Ellen McEwen, "Australian Country Towns as Social Systems"  
Bruce Mitchell, "Urbanisation in New England in the 1880's"  
David Denholm, "Slightly Marvellous Wagga Wagga"  
Malcolm Thomis, "Thoughts from the Barcoo"  
B.J. Dalton, "What Makes North Queensland History Different?"  
W. Ross Johnston, "The Locality and the Environment"  
Henry Reynolds, "Race Relations"  
Terry Irving and Bob Connell, "Class in 1888, Theme or Theory?"  
Duncan Waterson, "Politicians as People"  
Malcolm D. Prentis, "The Scots and Australian History"  
Michael Durey, "The Death Registers of the Registrar General as Sources for Social and Demographic History"
- b) Ida Vincent, "Libraries in 1938"  
Ruth Thompson, "David Jones' centenary celebrations 1838-1938"  
Carolyn Rasmussen, "The Australian Peace Congress, September 1937"  
Jean Teasdale, "Australia 1938 and oral history: a reply to Bulletin number 2"  
Wendy Lowenstein, "They stamped on their heads: Lowenstein replies to Templeton"  
Keith Cole, "The final frontier of the farthest coast: Aborigines and non-Aborigines in Eastern Arnhem land in the 1930's"  
Jack Horner, "Aborigines and the sesquicentenary: the day of mourning"  
A window on life in the late 1930's  
Drew Cottle, "The moods of Sydney's bourgeoisie in 1938"

Pauline Watson, "The permanent casuals of my childhood"

c) Ann Curthoys, "The remaking of the working class in Australia in the 1950's"

A.W. Martin, "A new middle class? A note on the 1950's"

Seminar - Australia in the 1950's

Brian Dickey, "A tale of two houses: Sydney 1937-1951"

Andrew Spaul, "History of education and the 1938-1988 volume"

Janet MacPhail, "Women, Aborigines and health in Queensland 1939-1980: some preliminary thoughts"

d) As we are now drawing towards the official close of summer, I thought I might reproduce the following extract from the Canberra and District Historical Society Newsletter of February this year, which concerns the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Canberra Swimming Pool. The extract is part of the "after dinner" speech of John Cumpston at the anniversary dinner; Mr Cumpston arrived with his family in Canberra in 1927:

"The opening of the Canberra Swimming Pool at the end of 1930 was an event to which Canberra had looked forward for some time.

As a University student, doing my course in Melbourne, I saw Canberra either in the hot, dry summers or in the short vacations, when the mountains were covered in snow. The student fare from Melbourne in those days was 30/-. When I walked out of the railway station in 1928 I could see nothing, but a sea of grass seeds stretching across to Red Hill, and I had to ask where Canberra was. I used to spend an hour a day cleaning my socks from grass seeds: there were no footpaths and one had to take to the paddocks. There were practically no buses, and even in that era they ran at a loss. You could tell when the bus was coming because of the cloud of dust that it raised on the bare plain.

The population of Canberra was between 5,000 and 10,000. The city consisted of seven suburbs: Eastlake (Kingston), Manuka, Forrest, Acton, Reid, Ainslie and Westridge (Yarralumla), each containing no more than 100 houses, but when the job was finished and tenants allotted to the houses, there were only 99. Government House stood isolated in its country setting. The Visitors' Book was left at West Block, for convenience in signing. In those days we were invited to play tennis with Lady Isaacs, wife of the Governor-General. If we wanted to swim we went down to a basin in the Molonglo River below the Power House. To reach it one followed the track to Duntroon, which led across the dam wall. The RMC swam there on occasions.

My father (Dr J.H.L. Cumpston was Director-General of Health) decreed that everyone should be clean on entering the Pool, so one had to pass through a shower with a wading pool. Needless to say the shower, being cold, was very skimpily used. As the Pool was surrounded by continuous walls, swimming there was, at first, very pleasant in the warm sunshine. After the first season it was decided that the place lacked suitable sun-bathing areas, so small enclosures were cut into the western corners of the Pool. The result was that the westerly wind gained admittance, and with it the dust. Acting on the wet bodies, the wind felt cold and took most of the pleasure out of swimming there. Needless to say it was many years before an Olympic Pool was built at Civic Centre.

Before long a small but enthusiastic band led, I think, by Mr Brophy started a swimming club and proceeded to organize swimming races once a week. On that night the Club took over the Pool and one could get a swim only by entering a race."

- k) Elizabeth Webby, "Reactions to the Myall Creek Massacre"
- Lyndall Ryan, "Aboriginal Policy in Australia - 1838 - a Watershed"
- Bill Rubinstein, "The Top Wealth-holders of New South Wales in 1830-1844"
- Frank Broeze, "Foundation of Fortune: The Imperial Axis Flower-Salting-Challis"
- Sandra Blair, "Patronage and Prejudice: Educated Convicts in the New South Wales Press"
- Alan Atkinson, "Women Publicans in 1838"
- l) "Passengers Arriving - Port Adelaide, 1846-1850 Part 7"
- "Records of the West Terrace Cemetery, Adelaide"

## 11. THE CONSTITUTIONAL MUSEUM'S 'COME OUT '81' PROJECT: ELECTION 1855

The Constitutional Museum has initiated a project designed to give S.A. school students a vivid experience of their political history. They are going to recreate the 1855 election, the last which was to use the open system of voting. Those elected were the first group of representatives to sit in the newly-built Legislative Council Chamber, now known as the Old House of Assembly Chamber in the Constitutional Museum.

The project has three stages. Firstly, for several weeks during the first school term, students will study the life and political events of 1855. To aid teachers in preparing material, a resource pack has been prepared which outlines the various resources and the political processes. It also contains a lot of research on the social history of the era. It is hoped that students will not only study the history, but also try to recreate it by learning the dances, cooking the food, making the toys, recreating the school-rooms and re-enacting the events of the time. Some schools are already planning to hold 1855 balls and picnics.

The second stage will be to hold the elections themselves. Schools are being given an electoral map showing which of the 16 electorates they are in. The elections will be held first at the school level, following the practices of the era. The successful candidate will then stand against candidates from other schools in the electorate so that a final candidate emerges. It is hoped that these elections can take place in the original polling places, with the participants in costume. We would like to see vigorous, exciting campaigning as was the style in 1855. This successful candidate will take part in the final part of the project.

In the third stage, the 16 representatives will meet to work with Greg Elliott and Peter Wilkins of the Troika Theatre-In-Education team plus a small group of students from the Adelaide College of the Arts and Education. Their brief will be to recreate the debates and political issues of the time in a dramatic form. This re-enactment will take the shape of one-hour presentations in the old House of Assembly Chamber, and will take place at various times on May 14th to 16th. They will be open to school students and the general public.

The Constitutional Museum believes that this project offers an unparalleled opportunity for a Museum to leave its confines to participate in and with the community on a vital, exciting project. At the same time it aims to direct the attention of school children to their political heritage and to create an awareness of their historical environment. We are very excited about it, and we hope others will be too.

Priscilla Shorne