

HIS SA

istory

Newsletter of the Historical Society of South Australia

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1996 – another year of historical facts and fun

Your Society has done it again – the 1996 program of talks and tours is full of variety and interest.

A brochure with full details is included with this issue of *History SA* but to whet your appetite, here are some highlights: a talk by a former Premier John Bannon, a stroll through time as Rosemary Michell introduces us to the people of North Terrace, Hamish Angas on the early theatres of Adelaide, and a talk with the title 'Saucy Sarah Rarely Sober' about a certain Sarah Francisco.

Other topics for 1996 include the politics of the Playford era, World War II battles in New Guinea, the Wittunga Botanic Gardens, hospital nursing since 1945, and South Australia beyond Goyder's Line.

The monthly meetings will continue to be held in the Prince Philip Lecture Theatre, Prince Alfred College, Kent Town.

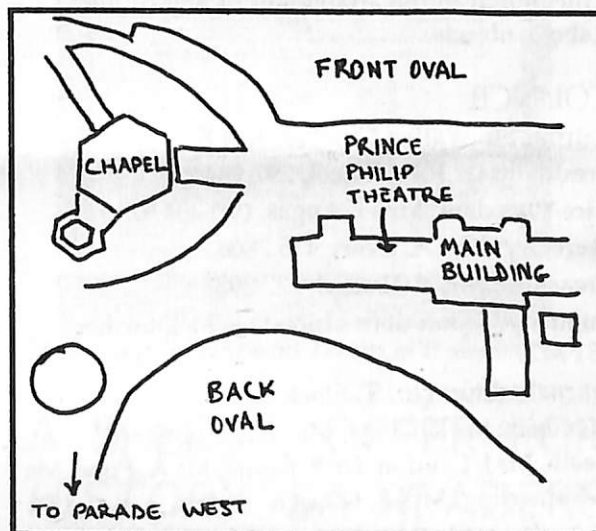
Also scheduled for next year are day trips to Gawler and Kapunda and visits to the Adelaide Oval and Old Parliament House, so it will be a great year. Good enough in fact for you not only to renew your own membership but also to encourage others to join and enjoy the program.

And remember, all members receive a copy of the Society's annual *Journal*, which is regarded as one of the finest State historical publications in the country.

If you are not already a member of the Society, just ask yourself why Adelaide is different to

anywhere else on earth and why we are as we are? How did we entertain ourselves before television, and how did W.G. Grace come to play in Kadina? The answers are intriguing and often amusing. The Historical Society believes history can be fun, so why not join us? There is a membership application form with the enclosed program. Send it off soon and join us for 1996.

Of course, if you are a member, use the form to renew your membership for next year.



To get to the Prince Philip Theatre enter the Prince Alfred College grounds from Parade West. There is ample parking near the theatre.

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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

Institute Building, 122 Kintore Avenue,
Adelaide 5000 (mailing address only)
Founded 1974

OBJECTS

- To promote the collection, preservation and classification of source material of all kinds relating to South Australian and Australian history.
- To publish historical records and articles.
- To promote the interchange of information among members of the Society by lectures, readings, discussions, field trips and exhibitions.
- To arouse interest in and promote the study and discussion of history, especially that of South Australia and Australia.
- To cooperate with similar societies throughout Australia.
- To do such things as are conducive or incidental to the attainment of any of the above objects.

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**A VERY HAPPY
CHRISTMAS
TO YOU AND A
PROSPEROUS 1996**

Newsletter of the Historical Society of SA

TO THE EDITOR

Moore with more about Sth Australia

Following the item in the September 1995 issue of *History SA* about the publication *Irish Australian Studies*, archivist and historian Peter Moore has written to draw the attention of readers to other SA-related publications in which he is or has been involved.

Sir,

Another article in an earlier volume of *Irish-Australian Studies* which might interest members is my 'Half-Burnt Turf: Selling Irish emigration to SA 1835-45', which looks at the marketing methods of the SA Commission and local entrepreneurs to promote investment and recruit possible emigrants. The article appears in Philip Bull and others (editors), *Irish Australian Studies*, published by La Trobe University in 1991.

My biography of Colonel Torrens is a by-product of my biography of Robert Torrens (1780-1864), Chairman of Colonisation Commissioners and a significant early economist - not his son, the politician/land titles fellow, though I have picked up a great deal about him and his personal background. I have sent copies of the biography to several Torrens scholars and am mulling over some final drafting.

I'd be interested to hear from anyone who knows of an illustration of Colonel Torrens and the whereabouts of a silver piece the colonists gave him before they left England for South Australia in 1836.

I have also begun rewriting a history of the South Australian legal profession originally drafted in 1878. I hope this will be published next year. I have a lot of data on lawyers 1836-1936, including biographical notes on them all, and I'd be happy to help anyone who is doing research that involves lawyers. In particular, a photograph of 'an unprecedented master of the Bar' was taken in February 1897 at the Supreme Court in homage to Chief Justice Samuel Way. *The Observer* thought then that the photograph would be 'historical'. It is! Does anyone know of it?

Peter Moore,
Darlinghurst, NSW.

BISCUIT VAN DROVE THE MESSAGE HOME



This early model Ford van, painted bright red and emblazoned with advertisements for Arnott's Sao biscuits, caught the eye of shoppers when it formed part of an HSSA display in City Cross Arcade, Adelaide. The August promotion was just one of a succession of displays drawing attention to the Society and its program.

\$12,292 loss for FAHS

The Federation of Australian Historical Societies recorded a \$12,292 loss in 1994-95 August, compared with a \$13,167 surplus in 1993-94.

The financial year was marked both by reduced income and increased expenditure. The drop in income was primarily due to a fall in affiliation fees received (from \$1,485 in 1993-94 to \$770 in 1994-95), reduced income from the Antiquarian Book Fair, and a drop in Commonwealth grants from \$14,000 to \$2,000.

Major expenses included the cost of the 1994 Conference, including \$3,000 for the publication of the conference proceedings, \$10,000 for the development of the funding database, and a rise in the cost of the Association newsletter.

Financial assistance for the production of the 109-page database was provided by the Commonwealth Department of Communication and the Arts.

Although early sales were slow they have increased and enquiries are now quite strong, according to the Federation's research officer Patricia Parker.

HISTORY SA DEADLINE

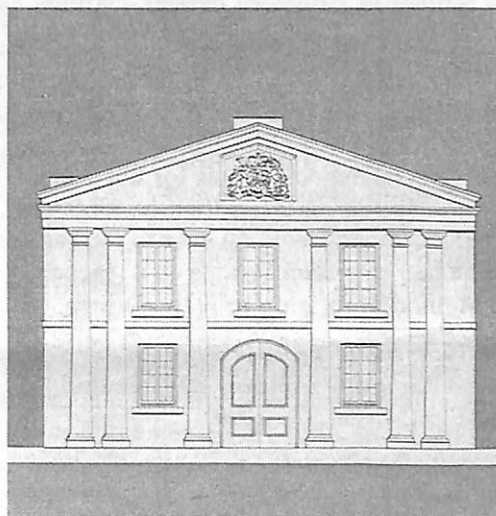
The deadline for all material to be submitted for the January issue of *History SA* is Friday 17 December.

Old Queens Theatre visit on 19 November

Please note the change of date for this month's visit to the old Queens Theatre at the corner of Gilles Arcade and Playhouse Lane, Adelaide. The visit will be on Sunday 19 November, not 9 November as published in the 1995 program. Members and friends making the visit are asked to meet outside the theatre at 10.30 am.

Music lovers will find added interest in the visit because the Queens Theatre will be the setting for a new version of Mozart's *The Magic Flute* during next year's Adelaide Festival.

There will be a \$3 charge for the tour. Bookings to Avis Huckel on 277 2953.



The heritage-listed Queens Theatre as it was in 1850.

A SPECIAL OFFER FOR HISTORY SA READERS

The State History Centre is offering *History SA* readers subscriptions to *Community History* magazine at a bargain price. For only \$20 you will receive six issues – the final two issues (Volume 5/3 and 5/4) for this year as well as the four issues (comprising Volume 6) to be issued in 1996. The regular rate for a year's subscription to *Community History* is \$20. To order, send your name, address and daytime telephone number with payment (cheques payable to State History Centre) to *Community History* (HSSA), State History Centre, GPO Box 1836, Adelaide, 5001. Enquiries to 207 1077 or fax 207 1088.

HSSA MEMBER WRITES HISTORY OF ANNESLEY OLD SCHOLARS

Daphne Gum, a founding member of the Association, has had her history of the Annesley College Old Scholars Association published by Peacock Press, Adelaide.

Daphne wrote the book to mark the 90th anniversary of the Association, which is the oldest organisation of its kind at an all-girls school in Adelaide.

An old scholar of Annesley herself, Daphne has called her 200-page book *A Tapestry of Lives* and describes it as 'a social history'.

She established and was first director of the SA Spastic Centre in the building now known as Ashford Special School. It was for her work with handicapped children that, in 1960, she became the youngest woman ever to receive the MBE. She has also seen service as a teacher with a Methodist mission in New Guinea.

A Rich Tapestry of Lives is available at \$24 a copy from Annesley College, 89 Greenhill Rd, Wayville, 5034. Tel.373 2099.

SA Illustrated priced at \$1,250

The current catalogue of Time Booksellers of Frankston, Victoria, includes some 50 titles that relate to South Australia, including a facsimile edition of *South Australia Illustrated* by George French Angas.

Produced by A.H. and A.W. Reed in 1967, the edition was limited to 1,000 copies of which the copy for sale is no. 413. The Time Booksellers' price is \$1,250.

Time Booksellers is run by Philip and Maureen Fraher at their home, 32 Maberley Crescent, Frankston, Victoria, 3199. South Australians visiting Melbourne are welcome to view the books the Frahers have on display but they ask that you phone first for an appointment, tel. or fax (059) 71 3230. They also buy collections, large or small, of old and rare books.

Fresh look at the Eliza Fraser story

The mythology, texts and art inspired by the wreck of the *Stirling Castle* and the subsequent stranding of Eliza Fraser on Fraser Island will be the subject of a symposium at Adelaide University on November 25-26.

Speaking with *History*, SA, Associate Professor Kay Schaffer said reports of the wreck and Eliza Fraser's 'captivity by savages and cannibals' had set back race relations in Queensland by at least 100 years.

The seminar will look afresh at films, paintings, novels, poetry, drama, art, opera and scholarly research that have been inspired by the saga over the past 150 years.

Professor Schaffer said performances relating to the Eliza Fraser story would be staged over the weekend, including an exhibition of Thoorgine (Fraser Island) art work by Badtjala artist Fiona Foley at the SA Museum, a reading of Barbara Blackman's libretto *Eliza Survivor*, and a screening of Gillian Coote's documentary *Island of Lies*.

Co-convenors Dr Ian McNiven and Dr Lynette Russell said it would enable researchers to engage with the mythology, texts and art surrounding the wreck and its aftermath.

Enquiries and registration to the Women's Studies Department, University of Adelaide, SA 5005. Tel. 303 5267, fax 303 3345. e-mail: kschaffer@arts.adelaide.edu.au

A BIBLE FOR POTTERY LOVERS

Potteries in Magill, Hindmarsh, Brompton, Norwood, and Longwood are all covered in *Australian Pottery: The first 100 years*, the result of eight years of research by author Geoff Ford. The hard cover book, with 416 pages and more than 800 pottery pieces illustrated in full colour, contains information about companies established throughout the country during the 19th and early 20th centuries. It is available in a limited edition of only 2,000 copies from Salt Glaze Press, PO Box 928, Wodonga, Victoria, 3689, for \$145 plus \$10 postage and packing.

A WORD OVER DINNER



HSSA president Dr Robert Nicol and Justice Catherine Branson at the Society's annual dinner on 9 September. Justice Branson, a judge of the Federal Court of Australia, was guest speaker at the dinner, which was enjoyed by members and friends in the dining room of the Public Schools Club. Kapunda (085) 662 657.

Public History courses for wider work options

The Department of History in Adelaide University will initiate a program of Postgraduate Awards in Public History in 1996. Course Convenor Professor Wilfred Prest said the Graduate Diploma and Master of Arts in Applied Historical Studies would introduce students to skills and understandings that would prepare them for work in applied or public history.

Professor Prest said the new courses, which were developed in association with the Association of Professional Historians (SA) and the History Trust of SA, would draw on the unique concentration of human expertise and cultural facilities found in and around Adelaide.

'Most Western societies have experienced an upsurge of interest in history and engagement with "heritage". As the pace of technological change quickens, more value attaches to physical traces of the past in the form of buildings, landscape, structures and artefacts,' Professor Prest said.

He added that people were seeking a better understanding of how they came to be where,

and what, they were, so opportunities had arisen for historians to work in a wide variety of roles, notably as independent consultants to and employees of corporations and government agencies; as museum curators and records management specialists; and as commissioned researchers, editors and authors.

Issues of historical fact were being raised with increasing frequency, he said, citing as examples the marking of wars in Europe and the Pacific, the republican debate, Aboriginal land rights, and concerns about multiculturalism, national identity, our colonial past, and relations with Britain, Asia, the Pacific and US.

'Historians also have more opportunity than ever before to communicate with a general audience via film, television, video, multimedia, community arts, exhibitions and museums, desk-top publishing and cultural tourism,' he said.

The Graduate Diploma in Applied Historical Studies is normally taken over one year (full-time) or two years (part-time). Students will complete the core subjects Heritage and History I plus either Practical History Workshop I & II and Heritage and History II or certain approved upper level History subjects.

The Master of Arts in Applied Historical Studies is normally taken over 18 months full-time or three years part-time. In addition to the core subjects mentioned above, students undertake a supervised research project to a brief negotiated with a public or private client and approved by the Course Convenor, for either a substantial piece of written work or an equivalent of comparable substance, such as mounting an historical exhibition or cataloguing an archival collection.

Candidates must have a BA with Second Class Honours in History or the Graduate Diploma in Applied Historical Studies at credit level or an equivalent qualification.

Fees are \$2,000 per semester full-time or \$1,000 per semester part-time, plus tuition fees of about \$256 a year.

For further information contact Professor Prest, Department of History, University of Adelaide. Tel. (08) 303 5605/5611, fax. (08) 303 3443, email wprest@arts.adelaide.edu.au. Application forms are available from the SA Tertiary Admissions Centre, 230 North Tce, Adelaide, 5000. Tel. 223 5233.

Coming events

Following are items that have come to the attention of *History SA* or have been selected from material compiled for *Community History*, a publication of the State History Centre. Corrections, updated information and new entries welcome.

17 November: Port Adelaide Historical Society's 'Portonian Dinner', Port Dock Hotel, Port Adelaide, 7 pm.

19 November: Historical Society of SA tour of Queens Theatre with archaeologist Justin McCarthy. Meet outside theatre (cnr Gilles Arcade and Playhouse Lane) 10.30 am. Bookings to Avis Huckel, 277 2953.

19 November: Carrick Hill/Urrbrae House joint Open Day. Free entry to gardens. Plants sale, music, refreshments. Enquiries 379 3886, 379 3158.

19 November: Guided walk down Stirling main street. Stirling Institute, 2 pm.

20 November: Burnside Historical Society. Denise Schumann, 'A Tale of Two Cultures – an oral history of the Savings Bank of SA'. Burnside Community Centre, 8 pm.

22 November: National Trust meeting 'Share the Past'. Stangate House, Aldgate, 8 pm.

25 November: Australian Society of Archivists (SA Branch) 'Keeping Archives' workshop at Renmark. Enquiries to Ian Sutherland, 269 0100.

25 November: Introductory oral history workshop. State Library of SA, 9.30 am-4 pm. Enquiries to Beth Robertson, 207 7349.

25-26 November: 'Post-colonial Fictions' seminar examining mythology, texts and art inspired by the wreck of the *Stirling Castle* and the stranding of Eliza Fraser, in the light of the legacies of colonialism. University of Adelaide. Enquiries and registration to Women's Studies Department. Tel. 303 5267, fax 303 3345.

12 December: Campbelltown Historical Society Christmas Dinner. Guest speaker Dr Geoffrey Bishop on his work with Landcare. Paradise Hotel, 7.15pm.

17 December: Opening of exhibitions, 'Woman's Work' and 'Main Street, Terowie', arranged by Terowie Historical Society, North Eastern Times Building, 3.30 pm.

31 December-1 January: Cobdogla Station 150th anniversary celebrations. Dinner and special

visit to Cobdogla Irrigation and Steam Museum.

ONGOING EVENTS

DAILY

Royal Geographical Society Exhibition: History, events and people, past and present. State Library foyer. Weekdays 10 am-4 pm, 'weekends 12 noon-5 pm until 28 November.

Douglas Mawson Exhibition: 'Unpacking the Explorer Scientist', SA Museum, North Tce, 10 am-5 pm.

Howard Florey Exhibition: 'Florey and the Miracle Mould', SA Museum, North Tce, 10 am-5 pm to 31 January.

Kapunda Museum: Agricultural machinery and historic vehicles. Hill St, Kapunda, 1-4 pm.

Port Dock Station Railway Museum: Locos and carriages, historic goods shed, dining car and model trains, train rides. Lipson St, Port Adelaide, Sunday to Friday 10 am-5 pm, Saturday 12 noon-5 pm. Enquiries 341 1654/1690.

Sheep's Back Museum: Award-winning displays of wool industry and its people, in an 1870 flour mill. Craft shop. MacDonnell St, Naracoorte, 10 am-4 pm.

Signal Point: Tells Murray-Darling River story. Animated stories of the Dreamtime, video trips with explorers, touch screens life of the river system, *Oscar W* paddle steamer. Banks of the River Murray, Goolwa, 11 am-5 pm.

Tandanya: Guided tours and talks on Aboriginal heritage and culture, including the telling of Dreamtime stories. 253 Grenfell St, Adelaide, 10.30 am-5 pm Monday to Friday, 12 noon-5 pm weekends, public holidays.

Wadlata Outback Centre: Reveals the origins of the Outback, aspects of Aboriginal heritage and culture, stories of the Dreamtime. Shows what the vast and varied land means to the people who live and work there. 41 Flinders Tce, Port Augusta. Weekdays 9 am-5.30 pm, weekends 10 am-4 pm.

Whyalla Maritime Museum: Guided tours of *HMAS Whyalla*, first ship launched at Whyalla shipyards. Plus scale model of the Santos plant, Port Bonython, and Australia's largest 00-gauge model railway. Lincoln Highway (Port Augusta Rd), 10 am-4 pm. Enquiries (086) 45 7900.

Woods-MacKillop Schoolhouse: Where Mother Mary MacKillop and Father Tenison Woods

established first Josephite school. Cnr Petticoat Lane and Portland St, Penola, 10 am-4 pm.

MONDAY, TUESDAY, FRIDAY AND WEEKENDS

Gladstone Gaol (1881): Monday, Tuesday, Friday, 1-4 pm; Saturday, Sunday, school holidays and public holidays, 10 am-12 noon and 1-4 pm. Accommodation available. Enquiries (086) 62 2200/2232.

TUESDAY-SUNDAY

Ayers House: Home of seven times premier Sir Henry Ayers. North Tce, Adelaide. Tuesday-Friday 10 am-4 pm. Weekends and public holidays 1-4 pm.

Maritime Museum: Full size replica of sailing ketch, computerised ancestor tracing, penny arcade lighthouse, steam tug and coastal trader. 126 Lipson St, Port Adelaide, 10 am-5 pm. Enquiries 240 0200.

TUESDAY THURSDAY, WEEKENDS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Axel Stenross Maritime Museum: Boat building workshop, windjammer relics. 97 Lincoln Highway, Port Lincoln (086) 82 2093/1162.

WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY

'The Grange', historic home of Captain Charles Sturt: Jetty St, Grange (next to Grange Primary School). 1-5 pm.

THURSDAY

Adelaide Oval: Guided tours include Bradman Stand, Bradman photos, dressing room, and secrets of the scoreboard. 10 am from South Gate, Enquiries 231 3759.

SATURDAY, SUNDAY AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Aviation Museum: Piston engines, jet planes. 11 Mundy St, Port Adelaide, 10 am-5 pm.

Market Square Museum, Burra: Saturdays 2-4 pm, Sundays 12 noon-2.30 pm.

Old Police Station, Clare: Early furniture, clothes, records and photos of district, agricultural machinery, horse-drawn vehicles. Cnr Victoria Rd and West Tce, Saturdays and public holidays, 10 am-12 noon; Sundays 2-4 pm.

Strathalbyn Museum: Police Station (1858) with rooms containing domestic objects of 19th

century. Also Courthouse (1866). Weekends, public and school holidays, 2-5 pm.

SA Police Museum: In Old Police Barracks and Armoury Building (behind SA Museum, enter from Kintore Ave), 1-5 pm.

SUNDAY TO FRIDAY

Clayton Farm: Historic site and agricultural museum, fine rural buildings and original farm machinery. 3 km south of Bordertown, 2-5 pm.

SUNDAY

Adelaide Gaol (1841): Guided tours of cell blocks, exercise yards, hanging tower and graves. Port Rd, Adelaide. First tour 11 am, last tour 3.30 pm. No booking needed. Weekday and night tours available but bookings essential. Enquiries to State Heritage Branch, 204 9261, or gaol manager, 231 4062.

The Brocas: Colonial house with blacksmith's shop, joinery, stables. 111 Woodville Rd, Woodville, 2 pm-5 pm.

Cummins: Historic home of the Morphett family. Sheoak Ave, Novar Gardens, 2-4 pm.

Historic Military Vehicles Museum: Cnr Baynes Place and Commercial Rd, Port Adelaide, 9.30 am-4.30 pm.

Old Customs House, Station Master's House: Victor Harbor, 11 am-4 pm.

Old Government House: Vice-regal summer residence 1860-80. National Park, Belair. 12.30-4 pm.

Railway Signal/Telegraph and Aviation Museum: Story of aviators Ross and Keith Smith, history of Albert Park and Parafield airports, railway memorabilia. 112 Marion Rd, Brooklyn Park, 1-4.30 pm. Enquiries 373 3554.

Cockle Train: Runs between Victor Harbor, Port Eliot and Goolwa. Every Sunday to Christmas. Tel. SteamRanger 231 1707, or (085) 52 2782 on Sundays.

Suburban Steam: Tank loco F251 hauls trains from North Terrace TransAdelaide station until end November. Various destinations and prices. Tel. SteamRanger 231 1707, fax 231 5542.

FIRST SUNDAY OF MONTH

Sunnybrae Farm: Restored historic complex including Enfield Heritage Museum, Gallipoli Grove, Regency Park, 2-4 pm (NOTE: Closed in January).

A celebration of Florey and 'the miracle mould'

The scientific achievements of one of Adelaide's most famous sons, Lord Howard Florey, are celebrated in a current exhibition at the SA Museum.

The exhibition, 'Florey and the Miracle Mould', marks the 50th anniversary of Florey winning the Nobel Prize in Medicine for the production of penicillin. The world's first antibiotic, penicillin has had a revolutionary impact on modern medicine and is considered by many to rank second only to the splitting of the atom in terms of scientific achievement in the 20th century.

During World War I Alexander Fleming had discovered and named penicillin but with the difficulties of isolation and production, he abandoned further research. Florey and a talented research team picked up where Fleming left off, concentrating solely on penicillin in 1939-40. Test results on mice produced astonishing results. 'It looks like a miracle', said Florey.

Tests on humans were equally miraculous as demonstrated by the dramatic results achieved with the wounded in World War II.

The exhibition is presented by the State History Centre and the Florey Medical Chapter of the Alumni Association of Adelaide University.

New journal for living history

The Historical Re-enactment Society of Australia has launched a quarterly magazine, *Heritage Australia*, as its official journal.

In his foreword to the first issue, secretary of the Society and editor of the magazine, John Underwood, said there were more than 100 re-enactment groups performing regularly in Australia.

Most groups focus on events from Australia's past, some draw their inspiration for further

afield. One portrays 16th century Italian mercenaries. Another presents Byzantine history and another the American Civil War.

Mr Underwood said *Heritage Australia* would carry articles on costume and clothing, military uniforms, arms and accoutrements, places relating to Australia's past, museums and collections, book reviews, re-enactments, modelling, war games and genealogy.

The first issue carries a register of living history organisations which lists 14 groups in South Australia.

Enquiries should be addressed to the Editor, *Heritage Australia*, 6 Durham Court, Epping, Victoria, 3076.

CATHERINE HELEN SPENCE'S 'LOVE AFFAIR WITH THE HUMAN RACE'

South Australian writer Tony Brooks has written a novel based on the life of Catherine Helen Spence, a prominent worker for women's suffrage in SA. Speaking from his home in Port Willunga, Tony Brooks said he wrote the book in order to bring Spence's 'truly amazing' personality to life.

His book, *First of All*, seeks to clarify the emotional, intellectual and religious conflicts which shaped her character.

Mr Brooks said, 'Spence never married but brought up three young families of dead friends and relatives, and grieved when one of her "children" committed suicides, yet she worked ceaselessly for the underprivileged and broke through one barrier after another which restricted the lives of women.

'My novel seeks to expose the depth and beauty of her character, to recount her adventures, and to show her love for the human race.'

Tony Brooks is not only hoping for a wide readership for his book but believes it could make the basis of a television series.

First of All is available from Axiom Publishers, 108 Rundle St, Kent Town (tel. 362 7052) at \$14.95 a copy.

NEW LEASE OF LIFE FOR 'THE GRANGE'

Members of the Charles Sturt Memorial Museum Trust report that 'The Grange', the historic home of Captain Sturt, has overcome recent problems. Enthusiastic new tenants have taken charge and visitors are welcome from 1-5 pm, Wednesday to Sunday.

Situated next to the Grange Primary School in Jetty St, Grange, the location of the house is indicated by signs throughout the area. There is an admission charge of \$2.50 per person, \$2 for pensioners, and \$1 for children.

Sturt built the house in 1840 and occupied it until he and his family returned to England in 1853. He held a number of important government positions in SA, first following Colonel Light as Surveyor-General, then becoming Assistant Commissioner of Lands, then Registrar General in 1842, Colonial Treasurer in 1846, and Colonial Secretary in 1849.

In August 1844 Sturt left 'The Grange' on his Central Australian expedition and returned in January 1846 after exploring some of the most inhospitable parts of the interior. He reached to within 150 miles of the geographical centre of the continent and endured great suffering with heat, drought and scurvy.



Pictured is the Governor Dame Roma Mitchell addressing the gathering at the 200th birthday celebrations of Captain Sturt at 'The Grange' on 28 April this year.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society is pleased to welcome the following new members: Mrs M. Magraith, Mrs B. Oakey, Mrs S. Hickey and Mr R. Blair.

Mawson display just the beginning



An exhibition that opened last month at the SA Museum gives an insight into the life of Sir Douglas Mawson and the Antarctic environment he explored. Exhibits recall Mawson's epic sledge journey after the loss of his companions during the Australasian Antarctic Expedition of 1911-14, and draw attention to his work in Antarctica, Adelaide and the outback.

The Museum plans to follow the display with the development, in association with Adelaide University, of a Mawson Gallery to display more of the priceless historic and scientific collection left by Mawson and to give a fuller picture of his wide-ranging work.

The bulk of Mawson's collection of documents, photographs and objects is to be housed and cared for at a scientific and interpretive centre at the Urrbrae House Historic Precinct at the University's Waite Campus.

Information about the collection will be made available to researchers and students through an interactive database and the collection itself will be professionally conserved for all Australians now and in the future.

The University and the SA Museum are conducting an appeal for funds for the Mawson project. Donations are tax deductible and may be made personally or through companies. More information may be obtained from the Mawson Collection Appeal office on 303 3413.

While Mawson is known to most Australians as the explorer who marked the South magnetic pole, he was also a world-renowned geologist, an academic and a prolific writer.

Picture: A romantic image from the Mawson Collection captures the high expectations of the 1911-1914 Australasian Antarctic Expedition.

BUILDING THE CENTRAL MARKET

By Pat Sumerling

On Saturday 23 January 1869, just after 3 in the morning, a small, noisy procession wound its way from the East End Market towards Victoria Square. To the lively strains of the Concordia Band, eight carts laden with produce were driven by market gardeners in a determined attempt 'to secesch' from the East End Market. (1)

So began the first day of the Central Market (then called the City Market) on a site in Grote St without any structures except a fence and a couple of gas lights. (2) The official opening was a year later, on 22 January 1870. (3) Since then the Central Market has been a vital part of the cultural heritage of the city, becoming a mecca for any merchant, grower, wholesaler or retailer selling directly to the public.

The first three town acres (333, 379 and 380) were bought by the Corporation for the establishment of a new market in September 1867 for £2,600 but a city market had been located on the 'corporation acre' until about 1860, when the Town Hall displaced it.

As early as November 1838 the *South Australian* stressed there was 'the loss which the colonists sustain in consequence of the want of a proper market place'. (4) It was January 1855 before the City Corporation could open the 'City Market'. (5) The late start was due to the colony's shaky beginnings, bedevilled by an early economic crisis and an abortive first attempt to establish a municipal corporation in 1840. The Corporation was moribund by 1843 but, in its short first reign, it established a sheep and cattle market in the park lands opposite the Newmarket Hotel on the corner of West Tce and North Tce. West of this market, on the fringes of Bonython Park, was a grand two-storey slaughterhouse that had been built by the Government for the Corporation to manage,

It was not a success. Thomas Worsnop, later Town Clerk for the Corporation, wrote, 'It was in all respects unsuited for the purpose and was soon closed.' (6) But the city still needed a produce market that was conveniently located

and roomy. Some city blocks became available in the 1860s but there was some doubt about whether they were the ideal location. However, Richard Vaughan wasted no time in providing what was needed. He chose a site off the then unmade East Tce between Rundle St and North Tce from 1861. (7) As much as the Corporation wanted to intervene, it was powerless to do so when the market was so desperately needed. During the eight years in which Vaughan enjoyed no competition from the Council he went from 'strength to strength, so that he was eventually assured permanency.

However, there was interference from the police, and the Corporation often sent inspectors to cause 'bother', although they were told 'not to interfere more than necessary with vehicles in Rundle St until the new market was established'. (8) This interference did not go unnoticed and was raised in the House of Assembly, where the problem was passed on to the Attorney-General to investigate. (9)

Vaughan recognised the Corporation as a formidable opponent and promptly set about legalising his market by applying for and obtaining first an Act for the establishment of markets in 1871, and in the following year a private Act for making and maintaining a market at East Tce. (10) During these negotiations the Corporation did all it could to prevent assent being given to the Act for Vaughan's market but it was unsuccessful.

The Corporation opened its new market near Victoria Square in January 1869 but it was another six months before two wood and iron sheds were built. The market was open for business on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturday mornings and 50 to 100 produce carts made use of the new facilities. As soon as the first shed was ready 87 carts managed to stow themselves under the one roof. The sheds were soon fitted with gas lighting (11) and were joined by 'throwing a roof over the central roadway ... and the erection of a lofty and well built shed along the western boundary of Acre 380'. (12)

Several shops were built each year on the perimeter. By 1878 the land was worth £25,000 with all its structures. (13) The market's popularity soon saw the need to provide convenient accommodation and refreshment for the men in the form of the Langham Hotel. (14)

In the 1880s, vegetables, fruit, hay, fish and game could be bought but the Mayor considered a

special fish market was necessary because there was nowhere in Adelaide where the occasional large supplies of fish could be received for resale. (15) On 10 December 1884 a brick-fronted shed on town acre 379 in Gouger St, was opened as a fish market and leased to Edwin Daw for 30 years.

Until 1900 an ever increasing number of sheds, shops and stalls were crammed into the original market space but the structures were far from ornamental and the 35 shops and 260 stalls dating from 1869 were considered dilapidated in 1900. Plans were drawn up for rebuilding the market with an impressive two-storey brick facade facing Grote St. The design was by the Corporation's draughtsman, Mr R. Sloan, under the direction of the City Engineer, but it was not built to plan as shown in the 1899-1900 *Adelaide City Council Annual Report*.

Included in these plans was an assembly room, 80 feet long by 32 feet wide, on the first floor for wedding parties, dances and social gatherings. (16) The large shed covering the existing stalls was rebuilt and extensive additions were made to Edwin Daw's fish market, which since its opening, had been updated with refrigeration for fish as well as fruit and vegetables. Sixteen shops were also part of the Grote St additions. The foundation stone was laid on 8 February 1900. In 1902 electricity replaced gas.

In 1906 two-storey shops were completed facing Gouger St and are now an essential part of the market buildings. Other shops also replaced old shops on the western side. (17) In the same year three two-storey shops were built alongside the Grote St brick facade and leased to W.H. Bruce. This building became the Empire Theatre, opening in April 1909. The theatre survived until 1952 when Peoplestores Ltd acquired and converted it to be part of their store that faced Gouger St.

The rebuilding of the market in 1900 acted like a magnet for other business to be established in the area, with Her Majesty's Theatre (originally the Tivoli) opening in 1913 and the huge Moore's department store in 1914. Apart from the new frontage to Grote St, the most ambitious building program involved the construction of an arcade of shops on the eastern side of the market in 1915. The arcade used all the remaining land and was to comprise '36 first-class, one-storey modern shops and on the eastern frontage nine second-class shops to

replace the ten existing shops there. The roof of the arcade is to be constructed of glass in iron framing. The floor will be of tiles or slagetto paving'. (18)

The cost was almost £29,000 and the design was by the Corporation's Engineering Department. The arcade was built between Grote St and Gouger St, extending from the eastern market roadway to Moore's department store on Victoria Square. An arcade 30 feet wide and 201 feet long running east and west from the eastern roadway of the market to Page St was the main feature. Off this arcade were several others. Stained glass and Wunderlich ceilings were used and there were large louvre lantern lights divided into bays, with panels of stamped metal surmounting the centre of the arcades for their whole lengths. The arcades were closed with ornamental iron gates at the northern and southern entrances, with large collapsible gates at the main eastern and western entrances.

When the lease to the fish market expired in December 1922 the building was demolished to make way for an arcade running north and south from the existing main arcade. The extension was built by Anderson & Co. at a cost of £18,989 and provided another 32 shops. (19)

Three years later, in the early hours of 27 December 1925, the north eastern part of the market was damaged by fire but prompt attention from the fire brigade saw only two shops gutted and eight others slightly damaged. (20)

Although the Metropolitan Abattoirs Board criticised the hygiene (or lack of it) in the butchers' stalls in the early 1920s, it was nearly eight years before the City Engineer's office produced a plan for the construction of fly proof stalls suitable for meat and fish. However, building did not begin until 1933. On 3 March of that year the *Advertiser* reported that seven new butchers stalls were at last to be built. But now it was the Depression.

When the Depression began to affect market trading, tenants petitioned for a reduction in occupancy fees. From 1 October 1933 fees for stalls held by agreement fell by 20 per cent and by 10 per cent for those occupied under daily tenancy. (21)

From the end of the Depression until the early 1960s only repairs, cleaning and painting were

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undertaken, so it was no wonder that when the City Council decided to upgrade the market, the works were of a radical nature.

After the Depression Australia was soon at war and Adelaide's development was further thwarted by a national building restriction introduced in 1942 which meant that only projects allowed were those deemed important for the war effort. These restriction lasted until after the war so that by the mid-50s, Adelaide was generally run down and dilapidated. When materials became easier to obtain, developers were over zealous to rebuild rather than refurbish old and rundown buildings. Caught up in the spirit of the times, the Corporation destroyed all the splendid glass and iron market arcades. Only part of the market's Grote St facade was retained, along with some shops fronting Grote St and Gouger St.

By the 1960s the motor car was given utmost priority. City roads were widened and new ones built, and car parks were built on former residential and commercial sites. In 1955-56 a rooftop car park for 230 cars was planned. In March 1958 the *News* stated that 'the Adelaide City Council would be justified in spending at least £2 million in redeveloping the city market area' which would stimulate a dramatic growth in the southern section of the city. (22)

The languishing city certainly needed stimulation. Not only was it showing signs of neglect but its population was plummeting. It had dropped from 35,000 in 1951 to 28,000 in 1958 and would continue to drop to 14,000 by the early 1970s.

In November 1963 sketch plans by architects Cheeseman, Doley, Brabham and Neighbour were approved for redevelopment of the market area at a cost of about £400,000. Wilkens and Burnside won the tender and work began in November 1965. (23) and the eastern end of the Grote St facade was demolished. On 16 August 1965 the market that had always been known as the City Market was renamed the Central Market.

On 17 June 1966 Lord Mayor Irwin opened the new market. On its first trading day the roof top car park saw a total of 3,600 cars use its 230 bays. The 76 remodelled stalls were situated on six brightly lit malls running north-south with the facility for selling from both sides instead of only one as previously. (23) Each mall had

mezzanine storage areas above and additional shops were installed between the ground floor and the car park. In February 1967 a 50-year lease was granted to Weinarts Pty Ltd for the redevelopment of the eastern two acres, which had contained an arcade of shops and the Langham Hotel. (25) In June 1968 the first stage of this redevelopment was completed and a month later Coles' supermarket opened.

For ten years the market had few alterations except that it was altered to accommodate 530 cars under cover at this 'one-stop' shopping complex. On the night of 27 June 1977 fire again swept through the market. This time a major part of the southern stall area suffered \$500,000 worth of damage but major restoration and rejuvenation work was quickly undertaken. (26) From then until 1983 the market was bedevilled by several major redevelopment schemes but they never came to fruition. To add to the market's problems, fierce competition from suburban shopping centres caused much concern and stall holders proposed that more shoppers could be attracted by increasing the number of overhead car parks. (27) Once more the market was extensively refurbished.

Today the market is one of Adelaide's major attractions. Despite strong competition from suburban shopping centres and the refurbished East End market, the Central Market is still one of the city's favourite haunts for shoppers, browsers and tourists.

1. *South Australian Register*, 25 January 1869.
2. *Ibid*, 19 June 1869, supp. 4h.
3. *Ibid*, 24 January 1870, 3c.
4. *South Australian*, 24 November 1838, p.3.
5. *Observer*, 23 December 1854, 5 February 1855.
6. Worsnop, T. *History of the City of Adelaide*, 1878, p.328.
7. Warburton, E. *The History of St Peters*, pp.63-65.
8. Adelaide City Council, *Digest of Proceedings*, notice paper, 20 February 1865.
9. *Observer*, 23 January 1869.
10. Burgess, H.T., *Cyclopaedia of South Australia*, Vol. 2, pp.204-209.
11. *South Australian Register*, 19 June 1869, supp. 4h.
12. *Mayor's Report*, Adelaide City Council, 1873, p.2.
13. *Ibid*, 1879-80, p.8.
14. *Ibid*, 1879-80, p.96.
15. *Ibid*, 1880-81, p.133.
16. *Mayor's Report*, 1899-1900, p.102.
17. *Annual Report*, 1905, p.49.
18. *South Australian Register*, 20 October 1914.
19. *Annual Report*, 1922, pp.13, 41.
20. *Ibid*, 1925, p.30.
21. *The Advertiser*, 31 May 1932.
22. *The News*, 25 March 1958.
23. *Annual Report*, 1964-65, p.53.
24. *The Advertiser*, 15 June 1966.
25. *Annual Report*, 1966-67, p.6.
26. *Ibid*, 1976-77.
27. *The Australian*, 2 September 1983.