

HSSA *istory*

Newsletter of the Historical Society of South Australia

Print Post approved 535806/0005

No. 122, January 1996

Nursing, politics to launch HSSA meetings for '96

Former nurse and now PhD student Sally Ann Nicholson will be the first of the speakers to address the Society's lecture meetings this year.

On Friday 2 February, Sally Ann will talk on the emerging sphere of private hospital nurses, which is also the topic she is researching for her PhD thesis to be submitted to Flinders University in 1997.

Until 1991 Sally Ann was a registered nurse, with wide experience in paediatrics and community health. She then embarked on tertiary studies and has so far gained a BA (hons) degree in history and politics.

For the following lecture meeting, on Friday 1 March, Dr Peter Howell has chosen as his topic, 'Playford, Politics and Parliament'. Dr Howell is Associate Professor of History at Flinders University. He has published widely and is well known for his ability to reveal the normally hidden aspects of people and events.

Both talks will be given at the usual location, the Prince Philip Theatre, Prince Alfred College, Kent Town, starting at 8 pm.

Entries sought for community history prizes

Books of community history of between 30,000 and 100,000 words and published after 1 January 1994 are being sought for this year's Christina Smith Award. The Bank SA prize of \$1,000 and the Christina Smith Medal will go to the winning author. Community history publications of under 30,000 words are eligible for the \$500 Ebenezer Ward Prize donated by the National Trust of SA.

The biennial competition for both prizes is coordinated by the South East Promotions, a group of writers formed to promote the work of writers in the South East of South Australia, with support from the History Trust of SA and the SA Writers Centre.

The aim of the awards is to raise both the standing and the standard of books of community history and to encourage the research and recording of the history of Australia. They are the only awards of their type in the country.

For the purpose of the awards, community history is defined as first hand history and may deal with a town or region, an organisation, a person or group.

The judges will be looking for literary merit, quality of research and documentation, and a sense of place, history and historical context. They will also assess the book for the interest and vitality of the narrative. All entries must have an index, bibliography, list of sources and table of contents.

Three copies of the books entered for either of the prizes must be submitted, together with contact details for the author and a \$5 entry fee, to Judy Murdoch, Box 1, Kybybolite, SA, 5262, by 29 March 1996. Ms Murdoch may be contacted on (087) 64 2091. The winner will be announced at the SA Community History Conference in September.

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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.

COUNCIL

Patron: Sir Walter Crocker, K.B.E.
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Cairn and Anchor

The past is only remembered
 By a brass inscription
 On the town's stone cairn.
 Giving a potted history
 Of how it came to be.
 There is an anchor too,
 Now high and dry
 And far from the shore,
 That links the story with the sea.
 The sea still calls
 But now for beach side recreation,
 A temporary reprieve from the quest
 For a rock solid investment in tomorrow,
 Whilst anchored firmly in the present,
 With little thought of the past,
 After all it's - History.

- Michael.F. Hind
 Glen Osmond

The AGM - an early warning and nominations please!

This year's annual general meeting of the Historical Society of South Australia will be held on Friday 12 April, before the usual lecture meeting, and it involves a change of venue. It will be held in the Chapel, at the Orphanage, 181 Goodwood Road, Millswood, at 7.45 pm.

Nominations are being called for the positions of president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and the eight council members.

Nominations must be forwarded to the secretary by 26 February 1996. There's a nomination form below.

Following the AGM there will be a talk by Yvonne Reynolds of the State Heritage Branch on Sarah Francisco. Sarah, who lived from 1839-1916, was popularly known as 'Saucy Sarah, rarely sober'.

NOMINATION FOR COUNCIL

I hereby nominate.....
 for election to the Council of the Historical Society of South Australia, Inc. for the year 1996, to
 hold the position of

Signed.....

I,, accept this nomination for election to the
 Council of the Historical Society of South Australia, Inc.

Signed.....

Conference papers published

A SENSE OF PLACE AND A SENSE OF IDENTITY

The papers given at the State History Conference, held in Adelaide on 2-4 September 1994, are now available in published form.

Under the conference title of *A Sense of Place: Community history in practice*, the soft cover, A4 size book contains the 25 papers and addresses given over the two days of the conference together with a preface from HSSA president, Dr Robert Nicol.

The proceedings were edited by HSSA member Jim Loudon. Illustrations accompany many of the papers and there are notes on all the contributors.

In his preface, Dr Nicol draws attention to the thread of the conference, and its message:

(A) broad collection of interests from both South Australia and interstate made for an extraordinarily comprehensive but at the same time varied examination of problems and the successes in the current world of community history in practice ... There is a growing sense of place in Australia and much of it has to do with our history and our heritage. It is for the community history movement to ensure that it is not lost among the parties and balloons in the quest to identify and celebrate what it means to be an Australian.

The SA Minister for the Arts, Diana Laidlaw, conveyed a similar message in her introduction when she said:

The question of what it means to be an Australian has been the subject of much debate in recent years and we can expect even more discussion as our country nears its centenary of nationhood. The debate is one which can arouse strong emotions, as inevitably it becomes intertwined with issues such as republicanism and a new flag. Realistically we cannot expect a consensus on these issues, or even on what it means to be an Australian, but I would hope participants in this conference would all agree ... that a knowledge of history is absolutely essential for any full understanding of Australian identity or identities.

Australian identity is not something you can buy

at the shop off the shelf or in kit form. It is something which grows and is absorbed over a lifetime, It is often hard for native-born Australians to define it at all – hence the commonplace experience of Australians having to travel overseas in order to see Australia with new eyes and discover what is really distinctive and what they really value about their place of birth.

The theme of this conference – A Sense of Place – can be interpreted at several levels. We gain our individual identities in several ways.

- from a sense of place with the families we grew up in
- from the characteristics of the places we live in
- from our place in the networks of friends we develop
- and from our place in organisations we choose to join.

This conference is only dealing with some of these areas, but I believe strongly ... that a knowledge of history gives us a stronger sense of who we are, what is important and, looking to the future, what is worth doing.

Members and friends can obtain copies of *A Sense of Place: Community history in practice* from HSSA secretary, Anne Every, Institute Building, 122 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide, 5000, or you may call Anne on (pager) 415 7866. The cost of the book is \$15 plus \$3 postage and packing.

April date for Kapunda tour

The Society is planning a bus tour to Kapunda and district on Sunday 21 April, so mark your diaries now.

The Society's secretary, Anne Every, would be pleased to receive early expressions of interest on (pager) 415 7866.

Kapunda was the site of the first successful metal mine in Australia and, together with Burra, the town contributed to South Australia's recovery from economic crisis in the early 1840s.

Joyce Jones of the Kapunda Historical Society will act as a guide for the tour, which will include the mine site and other historical features of the area.

Full details, including the bus fare and any other costs, will be published in the March issue of *History SA*.

Another look at the 'Elliston Massacre'

Prompted by an article by Pat Sumerling in History SA, November 1995, Dr Barbara Wall of Crafers has submitted the following article which sheds more light on 'one HJC'. Dr Wall has been researching the Congreve family for some years and her book, Our Own Matilda, on Matilda Evans (nee Congreve), was published in 1994.

Pat Sumerling's article 'The Myth of the Elliston Massacre' raises interesting questions about the authenticity of memories. She holds 'one HJC of Port Lincoln' responsible for the 'manufacture' of the myth since his appears to be the first published account, and his conflating of three incidents into one gave rise to the idea of a massacre.

A few facts about HJC will perhaps help those trying to discover the truth of the matter. HJC was Henry John Congreve, brother of Matilda Evans (Maude Jeanne Franc), the South Australian novelist. He arrived at Port Adelaide in the *Trafalgar* on 17 January 1849 when he was 19. Shortly afterwards he went to the Port Lincoln area where he remained for about 18 months. He moved around a good deal taking various station jobs. He showed a great interest in the aborigines he came in contact with, taking notes about their customs and languages. He had been apprenticed as a doctor in England before he decided to emigrate and he used this medical knowledge to assist aboriginal people with health problems. To his great regret he lost his 'precious documents dealing with aboriginal lore' when the native bark canoe in which he was crossing the Murray on the way to the gold fields in the winter of 1851 cracked and threw him into the water.

From 1851 until 1880 he was at the goldfields; from 1863 he was resident in the town of Inglewood. In 1880 he returned with his wife and children to South Australia, and in November 1880 he became editor of the *Gawler Standard* and later of the *Bunyip*. A couple of years after his retirement in 1890 he came to Adelaide to live. He died in 1918. He was a devout and public-spirited man, serving on many local committees and acting as the preacher-in-charge at the Smithfield and Golden Grove Presbyterian Church while he was in Gawler.

The piece published on 14 August 1880 about the killings near Port Lincoln was the first of about 50 stories and sketches Henry Congreve wrote for South Australian papers from 1880 to 1890, and must have been written shortly after he returned to South Australia. Obviously he was not present at the time of the events he described as they took place before he arrived in Australia. We have no means of knowing whether he conflated these stories himself or whether the legend was already developing when it was told to him. He was after all only 19 or 20 at the time, something of an adventurer, and no doubt eager for tales of courage and disaster. In any case he was remembering many years after the event and he had lost all his notes. Although Pat Sumerling does not mention it, he acknowledged in the article that he could not remember Captain Beevor's name and was to call him Captain B.

Congreve was a storyteller by nature and this piece is clearly fictional in many parts. For instance, there was no eye-witness or indeed survivor to the murder of Mary and her baby, but Congreve gave many circumstantial details for the sake of his story. Mary was 'merrily singing while preparing some little bush dainty for her husband' and the murderer 'stood by the stone chimney poisoning the child by its heels'. It is perhaps a tribute to the vividness of his fictional writing that his sketch has been taken more seriously than it probably deserved to be taken. An admirer of Henry, I am a little taken aback to find that he become something of a villain!

Newspaper sources

Observer 14 August 1880

Register 31 March 1909 (interview 'A Versatile Octogenarian')

Observer 20 July 1918 (obituary)

ERRATUM

There were a couple of mistakes in Peter Moore's letter on matters South Australian as it appeared in the November issue of *History SA*.

First, *The Observer* called the photo taken in February 1897 in homage to Chief Justice Way, 'an unprecedented muster of the Bar', not 'master'. As there is an officer called a Master this would have confused readers.

Also, the second paragraph of the letter contained a *non sequitur* in 'My biography of Colonel Torrens is a by-product of my biography of Robert Torrens (1780-1864) ...'. That should have read 'My article, "Half-Burnt Turf" is a by-product of my biography ...'. Colonel Torrens and Robert Torrens were one and the same man!

Visitors Book to gauge likes and dislikes

A Visitors Book will be available for members and visitors to sign when they arrive at HSSA lecture meetings this year.

We expect this year's meetings to be at least as popular as those of 1995 but the Visitors Book will enable Council to gauge which topics are of most interest to members and friends and so help in the planning of future programs. Please enter into the spirit of this impromptu 'member survey' and sign the Visitors Book when you arrive.

The first lecture meeting for the year, on Friday 2 February, will have a well-stocked bookstall with some new material, some of which has been noted in recent issues of *History SA*.

Irish Australian Studies has several pieces by South Australian contributors and one about South Australia.

Tony Brooks' novel *First of All*, based on the life of Catherine Helen Spence, will also be available. Mr Brooks will be speak at the lecture meeting in September this year. If you would like the author to sign your copy of *First of All*, this can be arranged.

Several flyers with information about new publications have been received since the last meeting and these will be on display at the bookstall. If there are multiple copies, members and friends are welcome to take one but we do ask that there always be one left on display for the interest of others.

— Anne Every
Secretary

New group to promote the teaching of history

A History Alliance Group has been formed to promote history teaching as a part of school curricula.

In the Group are representatives from the History Trust, the history departments of the three SA universities, the History Teachers Association, the Historical Society of SA and other organisations involved in community history.

News from the Federation

The Federation of Australian Historical Societies is planning to hold its annual general meeting and conference in Darwin this year, in association with the Historical Society of the Northern Territory.

Precise dates have yet to be announced but it is likely to be in August-September. A field trip to historic sites will be held in association with the conference.

The Federation also resolved to organise a national conference to be held in Sydney in 1997 to bring together historical interest groups, particularly in the field on community history, and to promote coordination in matters of mutual interest. The FAHS plans to hold the conference in an historical setting. It will have reference to the Sydney Olympics and the centenary of the conventions that preceded Federation.

Dr Alan Roberts has resigned as secretary of the Federation to be replaced by Dr Ruth Kerr, until recently president of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland.

However, at the Federation's annual meeting in Canberra last August Mr Roberts was appointed a research officer to the FAHS and will continue to be involved in Federation affairs, particularly on Commonwealth policies, and will lend assistance to the Federation treasurer, Mr Ron Winch.

The meeting passed a vote of thanks to Dr Roberts for his outstanding work as secretary. Mr Winch said it was possible that, but for Dr Roberts, the Federation might not have survived earlier difficulties.

The president, Professor Brian Fletcher, is to do a prospectus and suggest chapter headings for a Federation history of the community history movement in Australia. Professor Fletcher suggested that the book have chapters on each of the States and Territories as well as chapters giving a general overview.

Professor Fletcher also foreshadowed a Federation book that would answer the principal questions asked by tourists and correct the ignorance and misunderstandings visitors often have about Australian history. It would comprise about 25 essays, engagingly written and about 1,000-1,500 words long.

SA LIBRARY'S 'USER PAYS' POLICY RILES LATROBE HISTORIAN

We are publishing the following correspondence (slightly edited) with the State Library of South Australia at the suggestion of Dr John Jenkin of the School of History, La Trobe University, Melbourne. Dr Jenkin says he is 'furious ... not only about this particular episode but about the attitude of bureaucrats throughout our society'.

Letter to the Library from Dr Jenkin, dated 29 August 1995:

I have prepared an article entitled 'Horace Lamb and early physics teaching in Australia' for publication in *Historical Records of Australian Science*, an Australian Academy of Science journal/periodical.

Horace Lamb was the foundation Professor of Mathematics at the University of Adelaide and he had an important role in the design and construction of the first university building, now called the Mitchell Building.

I am writing ... to seek permission to publish with this article a photograph from the collection of the Mortlock Library, namely no. B25246 - from 'The Austral series, No. 1 - Adelaide University Buildings'.

I look forward to your positive response.

From the Library to Dr Jenkin, 4 September 1995:

With reference to your recent request for permission to use the following photograph in the *Historical Records of Australian Science*:

B25246 Adelaide University buildings c. 1890.

I am pleased to give permission subject to the required publication fee of \$100 and acknowledgement of the Mortlock Library, State Library of South Australia ...

From Dr Jenkin to the State Library, 12 September 1995:

... I write particularly in regard to the so-called 'publication fee', quoted in your letter as \$100. I would make the following observations.

(1) A charge is made by the State Library of South

South Australia for the cost of making a good copy of original material. I have no objection to this and I happily paid it on this occasion, as on several occasions in the past. Indeed, as part of my ongoing research in the history of Australian science, in 1985 I published an annotated book of photographs (*The Bragg Family in Adelaide: A Pictorial Celebration*) containing some 55 photos from collections around the world. And I have, in fact, about three times this number of photos on this and related topics. For all these photographs I happily paid the reproduction costs, but for none of them have I ever previously been charged a 'publication fee'.

(2) Material held by the Mortlock Library of South Australia is not owned by the Library but is held in trust for the people of South Australia and beyond. They, I am quite confident, would be pleased to see the treasures held by the Library made available to as wide a cultural, scholarly and humanitarian audience as possible, without such availability being restricted by a non-trivial 'publication fee'.

Furthermore, the material held in the Mortlock has been donated to the Library by the citizens of the State (collectively and individually), for the enlightenment and enjoyment of future citizens and scholars. I wonder what they would think of the Library charging such a fee for the future dissemination of their gift?

(3) I find the particular fee demanded in the present case - based upon 'Category B, commercial use, interstate/overseas, \$100' (From 'Publication of material from the SL of SA Collections') - especially obnoxious for the following reasons:

- I am myself a South Australia - born, raised and educated - as is my wife and one of my children.
- The research paper in question concerns a piece of South Australian history and an important academic pioneer at the University of Adelaide, the foundation Professor of Mathematics, Horace Lamb.
- I am an academic, working at an Australian university. It is widely understood that the Australian universities are starved of funds at present - the older ones (Adelaide, Melbourne, etc.) are struggling financially, the new ones (Flinders, La Trobe, etc.) are all but bankrupt. To suggest therefore that our research output represents 'commercial use' is surely unthinking at best, money-grubbing at worst.

- (4) The introduction of such a fee is a stark example of the modern economic-rational (sic) approach to all areas of Australian life, including the academic, the scholarly, the intellectual and the cultural. There is much talk in Melbourne of closing suburban libraries and charging fees in those that remain.

The Philistines are all around us and they have now taken control of even our academies and our cultural institutions. I write as one appalled and greatly saddened by this loss of understanding and sympathetic leadership. When our Australian and human heritage is available only to those who can afford to pay, then our society is, indeed, in very deep trouble.

The generation to which I belong has dropped the baton of scholarship, humanity and enlightenment. I am working as hard as I can to encourage the next generation to pick it up again.

Yours passionately ...

From the State Library to Dr Jenkin, dated 25 September 1995:

... I am willing to accept the Category A – non-commercial fee of \$60.00 (replacement invoice enclosed).

The Libraries Board of South Australia has directed that publication fees be charged for all published and non-published items held by the State Library Collections. This is detailed in the enclosed publication fee brochure.

From Dr Jenkin to the State Library, dated 13 October 1995:

I refer to your further response of 25 September to my representations regarding the so-called 'publication fee', which I now note can refer to material that is not published!

The section of the publication fee brochure to which you refer states 'Publication is defined as making an item available to the general public ...' and this is amplified by the later statement that 'Publication fees apply to all published and non-published items ... and are additional to the cost of making copies'. It could be argued that making one copy for an individual researcher is not making an item available to the general public, or at least not in the accepted and dictionary definition of the terms; and further that the use of the words 'publication' and 'published' is at best obscure and confused here.

The truth of the matter, I am reliably informed, is that the State Library of South Australia, like many

other government-funded cultural institutions, is in financial difficulties and is looking for ways to charge its users without offending too many of them. Hence its use of this misleading and deceptive language, to which I take exception. If the Library must charge these exorbitant prices, it should at least have the courage and the decency to use honest and direct terminology, so that we may all understand what the true situation is.

I enclose my personal cheque for \$60.00, which I pay with the utmost reluctance and the strongest objection. Be assured that I shall use the resources of the Mortlock Library as little as possible in the future.

I should be pleased if you would bring our correspondence on this matter to the attention of members of the Libraries Board of South Australia.

'What was Legacy like for you?'

Dr Pauline Payne, an HSSA council member, is helping to research a study of the work of Legacy and its impact in South Australia.

The Legacy Club of Adelaide has commissioned Flinders University historian Associate Professor Brian Dickey to write the study, with a special focus on the period since 1945.

Professor Dickey and Dr Payne plan to interview a range of people with experience and knowledge of Legacy and its work, and would like to hear from widows, Legatees and wards who could tell them what they remember of Legacy and its activities, if the association with Legacy had been a positive one from their points of view, and how it had affected their lives.

Professor Dickey can be contacted at Flinders University on 201 2024 or messages can be left with the Legacy Club on 231 9812 or, from outside Adelaide, on 1800 18 2270.

HISTORY SA DEADLINE

The deadline for all material to be submitted for the March 1996 issue of *History SA* is Friday 16 February.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society is pleased to welcome the following new members: Mr A. Biggs, Mr H. Cilento, Mr and Mrs D. Hills, Mr and Mrs S. White and Ms M. Symons.

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.

- 2 February:** HSSA meeting. Sally Ann Nicholson, PhD student, Flinders University, *The Emerging Sphere of Private Hospital Nurses*. Prince Phillip Theatre, Prince Alfred College, Kent Town, 8 pm.
- 19 February:** Burnside Historical Society – Bernard Whimpress, sports historian, *The Centenary That Isn't: Commemorating Australian Rules Football*. Burnside Community Centre, 8 pm.
- 21 February:** Port Adelaide Historical Society visit to the Naval Association, 35 Quebec St, Port Adelaide, 8 pm.
- 28 February:** 50th anniversary of closing of Loveday Internment Camp. Photographs and memorabilia on view at Cobdogla Museum. Enquiries to Rosemary Gower (085) 88 7031.
- 1 March:** HSSA meeting. Assoc. Professor Peter Howell, Flinders University, *Playford, Politics and Parliament*. Prince Phillip Theatre, Prince Alfred College, Kent Town, 8 pm.
- 18 March:** Burnside Historical Society. David Reid, *The Standardisation of Australia's Railway Gauges Since WW II*. Burnside Community Centre, 8 pm.
- 20 March:** Port Adelaide Historical Society. Lloyd Lawrence, *Sea Oddities*. Semaphore Library (upstairs foyer), 14 Semaphore Rd, Semaphore, 8 pm.
- 24 March:** Burnside Historical Society visit to Port Dock Railway Museum. Details from secretary, Elaine Smyth, tel. 332 8019.
- Special operating day to mark Cobdogla Irrigation and Steam Museum's 10th anniversary. Enquiries to Rosemary Gower (085) 88 7031.
- 12 April:** HSSA annual general meeting followed by Yvonne Roberts, historian, State Heritage Branch, *Saucy Sarah, Rarely Sober – Sarah Francisco, 1849-1916*. The Chapel, Orphanage Teachers Centre, 181 Goodwood Rd, Millwood. 7.45 pm. (Note different venue.)
- 15 April:** Burnside Historical Society AGM. Burnside Community Centre, 8 pm.
- 17 April:** Port Adelaide Historical Society. Helen Myhill, *Alberton Baptist Church*. Semaphore Library (upstairs foyer), 14 Semaphore Rd, Semaphore, 8 pm.

21 April: HSSA bus tour to Kapunda and district. Details in March issue of *History SA*.

ONGOING EVENTS

DAILY

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

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

Maritime Museum: Full size replica of sailing ketch, computerised ancestor tracing, penny arcade, 1869 lighthouse, steam tug and coastal trader. 126 Lipson St, Port Adelaide, 10 am-5 pm. Enquiries 240 0200.

Migration Museum: In the restored buildings of the Destitute Asylum. Tells of the people who left all that they knew to start life afresh in Australia. 82 Kintore Ave, weekdays, 10 am - 5 pm; weekends and public holidays, 1 - 5 pm.

National Motor Museum: A great collection of motor vehicles. Birdwood Mill, Birdwood, 9 am - 5 pm.

Port Dock Station Railway Museum: Locomotives 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.

TUESDAY

Adelaide Oval Museum: 10 am - 12 noon

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. Museum open 12 noon - 2 pm.

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. 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. 111 Woodville Rd, Woodville, 2 pm-5 pm.

Cummins: Historic home of the Morphet 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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF MONTH

Sunnybrae Farm: Restored complex including Enfield Heritage Museum, Gallipoli Grove, Regency Park, 2-4.30 pm. Enquiries 346 4486. (Note: Closed January).

MEDICAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

Darwin is to be the setting for the fifth biennial conference of the Australian Society of the History of Medicine in July 1997.

The conference will look at the history of Australian medicine and health in relation to migration, quarantine, mining and institutions.

Earlybird registration closes on 1 July 1996 and the final date for registration is 31 December. Abstracts of papers are required by 15 April 1997.

Enquiries and expressions of interest should be addressed to Complete Conferences, PO Box 40359, Casuarina, NT 0811, tel. 089-851909 until April 1996 (08-89851909 after April), fax 089-483566 until April 1996 (08-89483566 after April).

Elephant poo the secret of Sumatran plant's survival

Sean Dawes

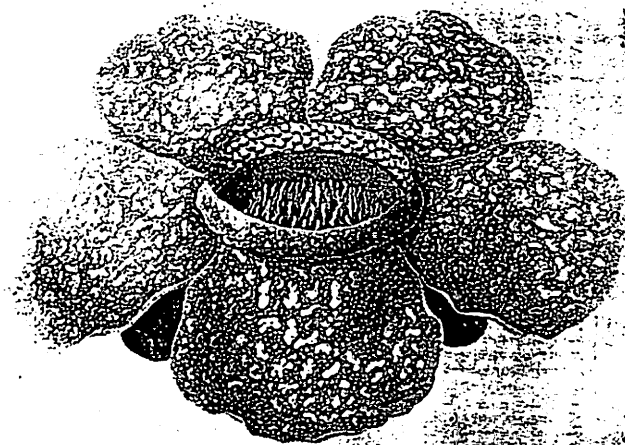
The 'stupendous flower of Sumatra', Rafflesia arnoldii, is threatened with extinction through rain forest destruction. But this may not be the only factor in its demise. The place of this extraordinary flower in the public interest rests largely with Robert Brown, a naturalist who visited Australia aboard the Investigator in 1802, one of several scientists and artists serving Captain Matthew Flinders. Mount Brown, near Port Augusta, marks his enthusiasm for walking 30 miles in January heat.

*Rafflesiaceae are parasites: the first recorded species was discovered in Java in 1797 by L.A. Deschamps. This is known as *P. patma*, with a flower some three inches across, while that of *R. arnoldii* exceeds one meter! This enormous relation was discovered in 1818 during an expedition in Sumatra by Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, of Singaporean hotel fame, and co-founder of London Zoo with Sir Humphrey Davey (the miners' lamp man).*

*Sir Thomas was Governor of the East India Company in Sumatra and, with his pregnant wife, Sophia, explored several days' journey up the Manna River. In their party was Dr Joseph Arnold, a naval surgeon from Sydney, acting as Sophia's personal physician. He was led into the jungle by a Malay servant to see an unusual flower and recorded the first description of *R. arnoldii*. He was lucky to see the flower as the plant takes 18 months to bloom from seed, and survives only two or three days. he observed that:*

It sprang from a small root which ran horizontally ... the whole flower was of a very thick substance, the (five) petals ... being in some places three quarters of an inch (thick) ... When I first saw it a swarm of flies were apparently laying their eggs in the nectary ... It had precisely the smell of tainted beef ... The nectary would hold twelve pints, and the weight of this prodigy we calculated at fifteen pounds.

Not only did the plant smell like meat but it looked like raw flesh, with repulsive cream warts scattered on its petals. The nectary was purple.



Rafflesia arnoldii - 'the stupendous flower of Sumatra' - from Basire's engraving of Franz Bauer's drawing, first published in Transactions of the Linnean Society 13 (1821).

Poor Arnold did not enjoy fame, dying a few days later of malaria: he was buried in Padang. A drawing of the plant, sketched on five sheets of paper by Sophia, several preserved parts, and buds as big as two fists were sent to Sir Joseph Banks.

In London, Banks passed all the somewhat damaged material to Robert Brown and the artist Franz Bauer. Together they composed the first botanical description of *R. arnoldii*, publishing in the *Transactions of the Linnean Society* for 1821.

In 1821, Brown's scientific status vastly exceeded that of the young surgeon's mate who sailed with Flinders; although the genesis of success lay in this earlier Australian voyage. Fortune decided that neither Brown nor his shipmate Ferdinand Bauer (brother of Franz) would share Flinder's imprisonment by the French on Mauritius. They stayed instead in NSW, collecting specimens of fauna and flora, including orchids, conifers, beetles, chafers and ants, with Ferdinand also preparing superb illustrations of plants and animals. Among the birds represented by Bauer was the Port Lincoln Parrot, the first bird collected by a European on South Australian territory. It was shot by Brown in February 1802. On their departure for NSW in 1804, in the rebuilt *Investigator*, 1,200 specimens, including a live wombat and black swans, were also aboard.

A scientist of renown

The ensuing 16 years saw Brown develop from successful collector to renowned international scientist, expert as a botanical systematist and taxonomist dedicated to the Linnean system of plant classification. He was employed to care for the huge Banks collection of natural history specimens and the associated library. During this period he identified countless specimens and resolved many queries from around the world, using the simple microscope, with magnification 370, as his main investigation tool.

This skill, combined with further study of *R. arnoldii*, would further enhance his reputation.

The public was fascinated by the Sumatran flower: it was 'the greatest prodigy of the vegetable kingdom', and the 'greatest botanical marvel of the age' during a period when Nature churned out novelties from distant regions for the edification and entertainment of Europeans. Empress Mother Maria of Russia, in appreciation of a personalised description of *R. arnoldii*, sent Brown a ring. Lesser mortals paid their compliments by plagiarising Bauer's description and bowdlerising for popular consumption Brown's explanation of the parasite's sexual parts. Models of the plant, made for 20 pounds each, were displayed in museums and institutions. Even the budding scientific community in India was treated to a report in a quality newspaper.

Rafflesia arnoldii, from Basire's engraving of Franz Bauer's drawing, first published in Transactions of the Linnean Society 13 (1821).

Birth of Brownian Motion

In 1827, while Brown sought evidence of a vital male force for botanic fertilisation, he isolated in water, particles or granules from grains of pollen and observed microscopically that they moved and even changed shape. This phenomenon was not new but Brown tested it further. He soaked microscopic particles for weeks in gin to destroy any life and similarly fossilised Tasmanian wood, petrified nuts from a lake bed, particles of decaying meat, soot, and ground stone from the Sphinx. All these particles moved (but obviously not from any vital life force), so Brown called them molecules. The smallest measured between 1/10,000 and 1/12,000 of an inch (estimated from his 5000 micrometer), and Brown published a pamphlet on '... the general existence of active molecules in organic and inorganic bodies'. Thus was born Brownian Motion, a critical step in molecular theory. Similarly, again as a microscopist with amazing acuity, Brown demonstrated nucleated cells in plants and the phenomenon of cytoplasmic streaming in pollen tubes. He became a scientific celebrity, dubbed by his peers *Jupiter botanicus*, the title given by D.J. Mabberely in 1985 to the first biography of this remarkably perceptive Scotsman.

Thereafter, until his death in 1858, Robert Brown was the doyen of botanists. He unlocked secrets with his microscope, not only of living plants but also of fossils. Charles Darwin took his advice before purchasing microscopes for the voyage of the *Beagle*.

Brown was conscientious. Presented with a probably new species of pine, he microscopically examined a cone, finally to declare it certainly was a conifer!

In 1833 Brown took an extensive European tour. Armed with his research findings, microscope and *Rafflesia* seeds, he demonstrated his results and expounded his views to notables and scientists. It was the first of many trips. In 1834 his work on *Rafflesia* was published in France. Ten years later nine plates were published, five of *R. arnoldii* by Franz Bauer and four of a similar parasite by Ferdinand Bauer, Brown's old shipmate. In 1836, however, Brown only had engravings of these pictures to display on tour, along with fossil woods and conifer embryos. Until he died Brown worked on the *Rafflesia*, giving demonstrations from Lisbon and Naples to Moscow, and saw his Latin papers translated into the more popular English, French and German.

Curiously, as more *Rafflesia* were discovered, doubt developed over *R. arnoldii*. The original, damaged material sent from Sumatra and the representation worked up by Bauer from Lady Raffles' drawing, created such a plant that another, exactly the same, was not found. Some botanists believe the original, the type specimen for the species, was either unique and subsequent *R. arnoldii* are properly another species, or, perhaps, that it was an aberrant form. Thus the endangered species in Sumatra is probably subtly different to that discovered in 1818.

Whatever may be its classification, however, one special factor in the original plant's environment was observed and recorded by Dr Arnold: 'The soil where this plant grows was very rich and covered with the excrement of elephants ...' What better for a stupendous flower!

Today, that special factor is largely absent. Not only are *Rafflesia* facing extinction but the Sumatran subspecies of Asiatic elephant is rare and endangered; just two organisms of many thousands which are falling before human encroachment.



The Port Lincoln Parrot (*Platycercus zonarius*) shot by Robert Brown on SA territory in 1802. From the zoological drawings of F.L. Bauer, British Museum.

MORE ABOUT THE MARKETS

Geoffrey H. Manning

For the past five years I have been indexing South Australian newspapers for the period 1837-1936 and from my data base I have researched and written a corollary to the entertaining article by Pat Sumerling which appeared in the November 1995 issue of History SA. I trust it adds something new to the recorded history on the subject of the markets of early Adelaide.

The First Markets

In April 1839 an enterprising citizen, Mr J. Lateward, advertised:

Adelaide Market

To Dairymen, Market Gardeners, Butchers, Seedsmen, Fishmongers and Others.

A plan of the above market may be seen and shops and stalls engaged at the proprietor's opposite the new Wesleyan Chapel, Gawler Place.

To open 1 May. (1)

It appears that this market had a frontage of 90 feet to Rundle Street and 80 feet to Gawler Place. Built of brick from a plan prepared by G.S. Kingston, it consisted of 'well-lighted shops, with a cool covered way, with a well of capital water in the centre'. (2)

In July 1840, following an invitation in the *SA Gazette and Colonial Register*, 'a very numerous body of the colonists' attended at Government House where it was decided that a market should be placed in the neighbourhood of the Botanic Gardens where grain, butcher's meat, vegetables, fruits, butter and country products could be sold on Saturday of each week from daybreak until noon. (3)

In January 1841 the government announced that 'the slaughter-house erected in the Park Lands near to the village of Thebarton shall be the authorised place for slaughtering cattle' and that a cattle market would be conducted there on Tuesdays and Fridays from 8 January 1841. (4)

A general market was opened in March 1841 on the 'Corporation acre adjoining that whereon the public offices are erected'. Fresh vegetables such as melons, lettuces, cabbages and turnips, together with butter,

poultry and fish were available and 'the scene was most gratifying and such as could not have been anticipated on a first and little known occasion'. (5)

This innovation was, apparently, short-lived for in February 1843 an irate Adelaidean proclaimed:

The scrupulous hesitation of the first corporate body and the imbecility of the second, combined with the supercilious treatment of the present corporation by the Government, seem to have placed a barrier in the way of any effective measures for the good of the city ... In any scheme for the permanent establishment of a market, that no private speculator could ever be permitted to interfere with the public good. (6)

On 2 March 1843 another attempt was made when 200-300 people presented themselves in front 'of the Auction Company's premises' in King William Street, while at the same time a Corn Exchange began operations 'directly opposite the office of (the *Register*)'. Again, these ventures failed because in 1844 it was apparent that 'everybody's business (was) nobody's business'.

Events of the 1850s

A meeting of the inhabitants of Currie Street was held in June 1851 when Mr J.H. Solomon proclaimed that 'it had been mooted that Victoria Square was a proper site' but in his opinion that venue was entirely unsuitable for it was 'occupied with Government offices, to which a market could not fail to be a source of annoyance. The Catholics also were about to build a cathedral there, and a market should be removed as far as possible from places of religious worship.' (8)

A resolution was passed declaring Light Square the proper site, for it had the advantage of 'presenting a ready and easy access from the South and West'. However, some doubts were expressed because of 'its contiguity to the dens of infamy congregated on the spot' which could 'prevent the attendance of that respectable class of people who may require to attend'. (9)

In a letter to the *Register* in 1853 Mr A.H. Davis of Moore Farm, Lockleys, expressed indignation at the existing market facilities:

We want a produce market, at which a seller and buyer may meet and in an hour or two transact their business ... What is the affair in King William Street? A retail stall where Mr George Stevenson, by proxy, supplies parties retail at the same prices he sells to shops wholesale ... I deny that his is a market; it is an interference with the retail dealer, much more justly to be complained of than hawkers' baskets ... (10)

In 1855 the Corporation built and opened a new market comprising 26 stalls, one being reserved for the sale of fish, in a building measuring 140 feet by 40 feet and by 1859 had passed a by-law 'prohibiting the sale of butcher's meat, butter, vegetables and other provisions except in shops and at the spot in Victoria Square selected for the new market ...' (11)

The growers protested, adamant that East Terrace should be the venue, but the Corporation was unbending. The market in the Square proved to be a 'white elephant' and in 1866 the city fathers were looking for a suitable site to build a market; 'six were offered ... the best at the rear of the Windsor Castle Hotel ...' The ratepayers demanded a poll when 900 votes were recorded, the majority of which went against the Corporation. (12)

At the same time it was reported that 'some time ago the Corporation opened a narrow alley flanked by two rows of stalls as a market'. (13) This state of affairs existed until January 1869 when 'a more favourable place' was purchased and 'the site was tried by nearly a score of carts'. (14) Thus the Central Market came into being 'on two acres between Grote and Gouger Streets'. (15)

In the earliest times the gardeners brought their stuff in and sold direct to the fruit and vegetable shopkeepers and some of them did a little hawking. Then hawkers who were not growers came on the scene when the gardeners at last agreed to meet them on East Terrace at specified hours on certain days and sell their produce wholesale. The Terrace and Rundle Street in front of the Stag Inn became such a popular rendezvous that the City Council, having first erected posts in Victoria Square to which the gardeners could fasten their horses, ordered that the wholesale exchange of fruit and vegetables should take place there. This was not to the producers' liking and 'before long the yard at the rear of the Stag Inn became the scene of operations'. (16)

As mentioned, the market gardeners were forced off the public thoroughfares by edict of the Corporation and, aided and abetted by Richard Vaughan, they conducted a market on private property, of which a roving reporter had this to say in 1860:

... We were really surprised at the number of carts, waggons, and other country vehicles assembled there, and the bustle and activity of the place. The market is comparatively of recent origin, and was commenced by one or two growers pulling up at the Stag to take a nobbler, and who found that ... such a demand arose outside for their fruits and vegetables, that they got cleaned out in less than no time ... the advantages of the spot for the purpose of the trade quickly became

apparent to the majority of growers and the result was that three times a week ... a regular market is held there ...

The vehicles are arranged in two lines running north and south and close up to the fence of the Park Land, not (at) all interfering with the passage of conveyances and we were told that it is in contemplation to put a stop to this market ... (17)

And so the East End Market was born, and in 1866 the opinion was that Mr Vaughan was

wise in his generation and took advantage of the necessity which was felt by many persons for a place of meeting between the producer and buyer. He turned his place of vacant land at the bottom end of Rundle Street to account and the existing market is the result. (18)

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- (1) *Register*, 6 April 1839, page 6c.
- (2) *Register*, 4 January 1840, page 2b.
- (3) *Register*, 1 August 1840, page 5c.
- (4) *Register*, 9 January 1841, page 1d.
- (5) *Southern Australian*, 23 March 1841, page 3c.
- (6) *Register*, 18 February 1843, pages 2e-3a.
- (7) *Register*, 17 December 1844, page 2d.
- (8) *SA Gazette & Mining Journal*, 5 June 1851, page 3b.
- (9) *Register*, 4 June 1851.
- (10) *Register*, 20 January 1853, page 3b.
- (11) *Chronicle*, 28 May 1859, page 3d.
- (12) *Express*, 17 March 1866, page 3a.
- (13) *Express*, 20 March 1866, page 2e.
- (14) *Express*, 23 January 1869, page 2a.
- (15) *Register*, 1 June 1869, page 2g.
- (16) *Advertiser*, 2 August 1913, page 6g.
- (17) *Chronicle*, 5 May 1860.
- (18) *Register*, 10 April 1866.

THESE MEN WANTED!

The Clerk of the Legislative Council, Jan Davis, is seeking photographs of seven former members in order to complete the historical photographic record of the Council. If you have photographs of the members or know where they might be obtained, please contact Ms Davis at Parliament House.

The missing members are: Thomas Bewes Strangways (1837-38), Robert Bernard (1838-40), William Smillie (1840-51), James William MacDonald (1844-46), John Grainger (1851-55), Edward McEllister (1863-66) and William Wadham (1885-88).

THE BRECKNOCK HOTEL FOR THAT FAMILY FEELING

Pat Sumerling

The character of a pub is created by its publicans and the Brecknock Hotel is well known for its long association with the Moore family. In the present time, the Brecknock has a reputation for its celebration of all things Irish, particularly St Patrick's Day. Even though the Moore family is a household name in pub circles today, the Brecknock acquired an earlier reputation as a wrestling pub in the 1850s with William Hodge, the second publican, being called the founder of the sport in the colony.

The Moore family has owned and run the Brecknock Hotel for over 90 years, since 1903. Before them the Bray family owned the pub from 1851. While the Colonel Light Hotel (now the Heritage Hotel) in Light Square can claim to have been owned by the Fox family of Marybank, near Athelstone, for as many years, the Foxes never personally managed it in the way the Moores have managed the Brecknock. Because of this, the two pubs are entirely in character.

Apart from 1839, when the number of hotel licences jumped from 27 to 52, 1851 saw the biggest annual increase in licences in Adelaide. The Brecknock was one of the 20 new licences granted in that year, bringing the total number of pubs in the city to 96.

Between 1851 and 1852, however, the number of hotels suddenly dropped from 96 to 89, reflecting the colony's economic plight as much of its labour force rushed eastwards to the goldfields. After 1852 the number of pubs increased, peaking at 128 in 1900. There is now about half that number left in the city.

The Brecknock Hotel has had three distinct building periods – 1851, 1871 and 1922. The rate assessments for the southwest corner of the city of Adelaide show that in January 1852 the pub, known then as the Brecknock Arms, was a single storey, eight room structure with stabling, a cellar, a large garden and a wrestling ground.

From 31 March 1871, when the hotel was leased to

William Jones for 30 years by owner Tom Cox Bray, he immediately set to rebuilding it, although it remained a one storey structure. The *South Australian Register* of 4 January 1872 reported, '... the old Brecknock Arms has been replaced ... The plans were drawn by Mr Garlick, and the work has been carried out by Mr Jones, the proprietor, to good effect'.

From this time onwards, particularly from 1876 to 1886, nearly all the hotels in the city were rebuilt, usually to a height of two storeys. A few new ones also appeared and about four were built as three storey hotels. On rebuilding, many pubs dropped their names of 'tavern' or 'inn' in favour of 'hotel'. In a lithograph by A.C. Cooke and J. Calvert published in the *Pictorial Australian* for July 1892, the single storey Brecknock is portrayed, along with its yards and outbuildings.

As the Brecknock Hotel was built before this frenzied period, it perhaps explains why it was built again as a single storey hotel and retained this form until the 1920s. After the speculation boom it would have been one of the few pubs left in the city in its original single storey form. The Caledonian Hotel in O'Connell Street, first licensed and built in 1870, is also a single storey building, as is one of the city's oldest hotels, the Queen's Head in Kermodie Street.

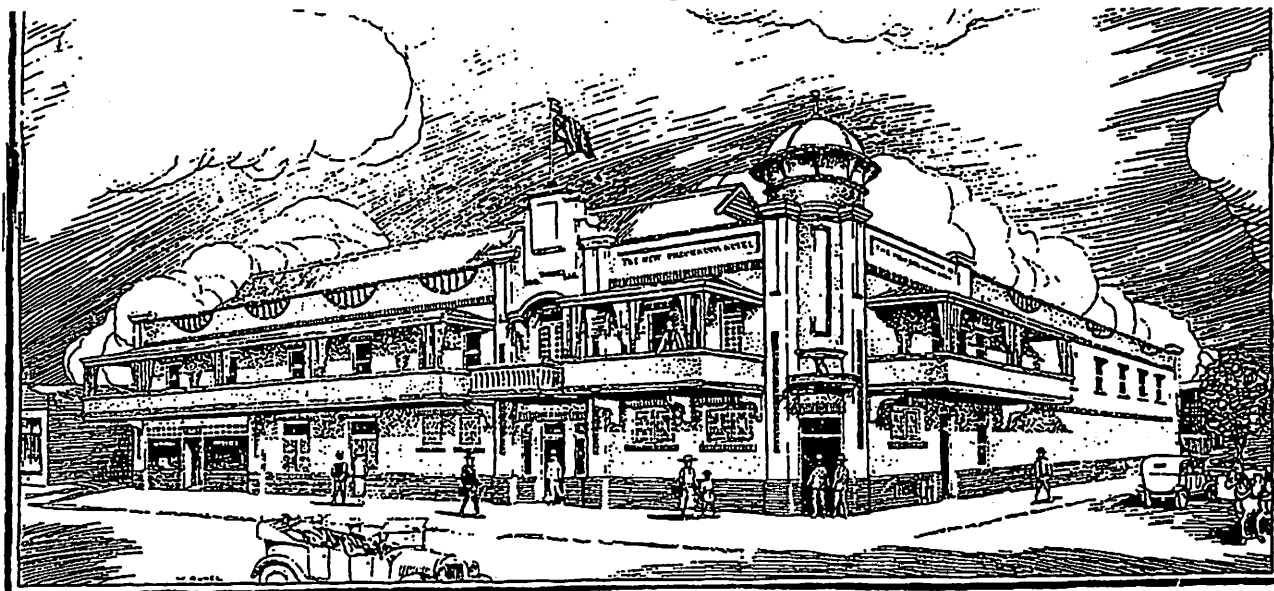
Revamped in 1922

In 1922 the Brecknock was revamped in the style of the time plus the addition of a second storey and the corner turret. Few hotels in the city were so dramatically remodelled in this period, although the Italianate facades of the 1870s and 80s were given a modern look with render jobs such as the Orient, the Earl of Zetland and the Arab Steed.

After its revamp, the Sydney trade journal, *Builder*, in April 1923 wrote of the many 'forward movements' that were being made in Adelaide with the erection of modern structures to replace old-time ones.

The *Builder* wrote of the Brecknock:

The structure has a fantastic appearance. The colour scheme is pleasing, the white finish of the rough casted walls contrasting with the blue brick panels in piers base, string courses, capping, inverted arches, ribbing, window heads and sills, with widely projecting balconettes supported by cantilevers. The bay composing the side entrance flanked on either side by windows, is the most pleasing architectural feature of the design. The interior design has been well thought out, everything necessary being provided for an up-to-date establishment of this class. The building



contains a public bar at the corner, fitted with a modern sloped front counter in oak, serving hall, two parlours, saloon bar, lounge, smoking room, and residential portion kept private from the public portion. A large dining room, complete with kitchen, serveries, etc. with a 20 feet by 80 feet shop, which can be used as a temperance bar with soda fountains, etc., faces the King William Street frontage. The ground floor of the Gilbert Street frontage is taken up with the man's room, store, shower room for athletes from the park lands, and motor garage. Eight bedrooms, numerous bathrooms, linen press, etc. complete the upstairs portion. A large cellar is provided under the bar and parlours with modern wash-houses, etc.

Although F.W. Hocart is the given name of the architect, it was his colleague Kenneth Bardolph who actually drew up the plans, which the family retains to this day.

Twenties look retained

The hotel underwent further major internal additions and alterations in 1950 and 1951 to bring it up to modern standards but it has retained its essential 1920s look, as well as an atmosphere of cosiness that one would expect from a pub that has been in the ownership of one family for so long.

In earlier times the hotel had several owners and publicans of note, apart from William Hodge the wrestler. Edwin Deacon, an early publican, was son of W.A. Deacon, also a publican, who came to South Australia via Kangaroo Island on one of the first emigrant ships to the new colony, the *Africaine*, in 1836. The South Australian census for 1841 records that he was joined by some of his family, including

The Brecknock Hotel, showing the 'fantastic appearance' of the remodelling in 1922. From the Builder, Sydney, 12 April 1923.

Edwin. From 13 January 1853 until April 1862 Edwin was the publican of the Brecknock Arms. Edwin's wife Caroline, nee Richards, gave birth to three infants between 1854 and 1862. He was its publican again for a short time between 1863-64.

The Bray family owned the Brecknock Hotel for 52 years from 1851 until 1903. Tom Cox Bray, a successful shoemaker who went on to own a large boot and shoe depot in Hindley Street by the 1850s, bought the Brecknock for 500 pounds. He owned the pub until 25 August 1880, when he transferred it to his son, Sir John Cox Bray, a notable lawyer and politician who became the colony's first native-born premier in 1881 and retained office for almost three years. Up to that date, this was the longest consecutive term for a premier in South Australia.

One of the most colourful publicans, as already mentioned, was the second, William Hodge. Several city hotels provided areas where wrestling matches could take place and indeed several pubs were hosting matches before William Hodge began organising his at the Brecknock. But it was there that wrestling matches came into prominence.

A 'win/win' situation

He organised matches and took part himself. It did not matter much if he lost the bout because the spectators paid to watch the fights as well as to refresh themselves at the bar. Only two days before becoming publican Hodge announced in the *Mercury and Sporting Chronicle* of 5 April 1851, that he was

(to page 16)

(from page 15)

erecting a well-built stage and ring for a course of wrestling matches as part of the Easter Sports and Pastimes to take place on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of the festival from 1 pm. The entertainment included 'old English sports' and 2,000 seats were provided in the grounds around the pub. The sports included running, leaping, throwing the hammer and stone, quoits and wrestling.

The wrestling area was described by the same newspaper on 26 April as first rate, having been 'carefully laid with tan (sic) and sawdust'.

(It) was surrounded with raised benches in the true amphitheatrical style; one half of the circle being duly covered overhead with canvas to protect the nob-ility, and the other open to the sky, for the mob-ility.

Keen to run a respectable show, Hodge claimed, measures will also be taken (under a respectable Committee) to preserve proper order and decorum during the sports, so that the entire respectability of the place shall be maintained.

He found 12 gentlemen to form the committee to superintend the sports and three others to act as umpires and referee. Financially, Hodge's pub did very nicely from the hundreds of spectators who were at the fight and no doubt worked up a thirst, as well as from the admission charges. It mattered not that when Hodge lost a match he forfeited as much as 50 pounds prize money. Sometime in 1852 Hodge left the Brecknock and went on to be a wrestling coach according to a sporting history of South Australia by John Daly, author of *Elysian Fields*.

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A different look at life in the Destitute Asylum

The position of women confined to the Destitute Asylum in Kintore Avenue in the 19th century and the middle class women who visited them is the raw material for a play being staged by the University of South Australia for the Festival Fringe.

Loosely based on the book *Behind the Wall* by Mary Geyer and supplemented by material from primary sources, the play explores women's issues from a historical and contemporary perspective but, above all, it promises entertaining theatre in its own right, with humour, song and dance. Presented with support from the Migration Museum, it will be staged in the Museum courtyard, in front of the old Lying-in Home. It lasts 75 minutes without interval and will interest students from Years 11 and 12 and adults.

Performances will be on Friday 1 March at 1.30 and 6.30 pm; Sunday 3 March at 1.30 pm; Wednesday 6 March at 1.30 pm; Thursday 7 March at 1.30 pm (signed for the hearing impaired); Sunday 10 March at 6.30 pm; Wednesday 13 March at 1.30 pm, and Thursday 14 March at 6.30 pm.

Prices are \$10 for adults (concession \$6), school parties \$3.50 per head with accompanying teachers free. Bookings may be made by calling the YEP hotline for schools, 231 8696, the Fringe on 1300 362 351, or Venutix on 223 7788.

Revival of interest in early plays by Australian women

Three one-act plays by women are the first in a series of Australian plays written before 1955 to be published by Currency Press in association with the National Centre for Australian Studies. The writers represented in *Playing the Past: Three plays by Australian women* are Catherine Shepherd, Mary Wilkinson and Betty Roland.

Described by the publishers as 'intelligent and entertaining examples of Australian drama', the plays will interest researchers and teachers of Australian literature as well as anyone interested in Australian women's history.

Available from the National Centre for Australian Studies, Monash University, Wellington Rd, Clayton, Vic., 3168, fax (03) 9905 5238, at \$10 a copy plus \$1.50 postage and packing (for up to four copies).