

HIS SA

istory

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SPEAKERS FOR JUNE, JULY

The difficulties of crop production in marginal lands

A special interest in land use in marginal country, where crop production is an occasional event rather than an annual routine, will be the background to Colin Harris's address, *Beyond Goyder's Line: history of the SA pastoral country*, to be given at the 14 June meeting of the Society.

Mr Harris is also interested in the conservation of areas of native vegetation, particularly in arid and semi-arid areas, and spends much of his leisure time travelling in the outback.

Professionally, he is Principal Adviser, Natural Resources, in the Natural Resources Group of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. A former tutor and lecturer in geography at the University of Adelaide and a member of the Royal Geographical Society of SA. Mr Harris has been with the Department since its creation in the early 1970s. He has travelled extensively in the State's pastoral country and has a specialist knowledge of many of the key environmental and land management issues.

Wittunga Botanic Garden

On Friday 5 July the speaker will be botanist Enid Robertson, who will give an illustrated talk on the Wittunga Botanic Garden from a family perspective – Enid is the grand-daughter of Edwin Ashby who began the garden in 1902. The garden's evolution will be traced from a small formal English house garden on a family farm to a specialist garden on Australian and South African plants.

A Science graduate of Adelaide University, Enid has worked with both terrestrial and marine plants and

has published in the areas of systemic botany and the history of botany. She is particularly interested in the management of native vegetation and spends much of her time guiding others and working in this field herself.

Both talks will be given in the Prince Phillip Theatre, Prince Alfred College, Kent Town, beginning at 8 pm.

Annual Dinner



The Society's Annual Dinner will be held this year in the Chandelier Room of the Masonic Centre, 254 North Terrace (pictured), on Saturday 17 August. The dinner will begin at 7 pm, preceded at 6 pm by a tour of the spectacular Hall of Fame, which has only recently been opened to public viewing.

The Masonic Centre was completed in 1927 as the headquarters of Freemasonry in SA and was subject to major upgrading in 1984, with care being taken to preserve the building's original character.

Dinner bookings, at \$30 a head (\$35 for non-members), may be made with Rob Nicol (tel. 297 9844) until 2 July. After that date Avis Huckel (tel. 277 2953) will take your booking. There is free parking behind the building, with an approach from North Terrace.

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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New members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following new members: Mr P. Emery, Mr and Mrs I. Hunt, Mrs R. Janson, Mrs L. Leader Elliott, Ms K. Bradley, Mrs V. Balagengadaran, Mr and Mrs N. Smith, Dr K. Walshe, Mr J. Heyward, Mr M. Allen, Mrs J. Callen, Mr S. Parr and Mrs B. Barclay.

HISTORY SA DEADLINE

The deadline for all material to be submitted for the July 1996 issue of *History SA* is Friday 14 June.

Newsletter of the Historical Society of SA

Vandals besiege historic Marion cottage

The birthplace of Marion's first mayor is suffering from vandalism and continuing attacks of graffiti, according to a report in the *Southern Times* of 17 April. Walls have also been pushed in both at the cottage and at a nearby barn over the past year.

The cottage, close to the Main South Road at O'Halloran Hill, was built in 1853 and sold to the Trott family in 1877. Marion's first mayor, Frederick Trott, was born there a year later.

Early this century nearby land was used for pea farming and after the Second World War the State Government bought the land to save it from encroaching housing.

The O'Halloran Hill Pea Farm Working Party is seeking government funds to save and redevelop the site.

A second edition for Mount Lofty history

The District Council of Stirling intends to publish a second edition of *Under Mount Lofty: a history of the Stirling district in South Australia*. Author Robert Martin has revised and corrected the first edition and written new material, including a new chapter on the years 1983-95.

ADVERTISING IN HISTORY SA

The Historical Society of SA is prepared to consider approaches from individuals or businesses wishing to advertise in *History SA* material which could be considered of interest.

Acceptance of the advertising is at the discretion of the Council. Rates are \$100 for a full page and \$55 for a half page.

All advertising material should be addressed to the Editor, *History SA*, Historical Society of South Australia, Inc., Institute Building, 122 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide, 5000.

Each issue of *History SA* carries a note of the deadline for the succeeding issue. For example, the deadline for the July issue is Friday 14 June.

All aboard again! This time to Gawler

HSSA has arranged a bus trip to Gawler for Sunday 23 June following the successful visit to Kapunda in April.

The bus for Gawler will leave from outside the Institute Building, 122 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide, at 9.30 am. It is suggested that people take a picnic lunch to be enjoyed in Gawler Pioneer Park with fellow members and friends.

Gawler is one of the State's oldest towns and has a rich history. It was laid out by Colonel William Light in 1839 and quickly became an established commercial and industrial centre serving a growing population both in the town and in the surrounding farm district. The town is now regarded as the gateway to the Barossa Valley and and the north of the State.

A highlight of the Society's tour will be a visit to historic Church Hill, which has been declared a State Heritage Area. Church Hill, located on a natural spur rising above the Para River, evolved early in the town's history and is now distinguished by a mix of domestic and ecclesiastical architecture and the consistent use of bluestone and sandstone.

The cost of the Gawler trip will be \$20 per person and \$25 for non-members. Bookings may be made with Pat Sumerling on 362 8262.

Expectations are of a tour as enjoyable as the Kapunda visit when the president of the town historical society, Jack Barfield, acted as guide to a number of historic sites, including the Dutton Memorial Church of St Matthew at Hamilton.

Papers invited for oral history journal

The Oral History Association of Australia is inviting the submission of papers for its 1996 journal, *Reworking the Words*. The journal will contain many of the papers from the Association's 1995 Conference, *Words at Work*, and will cover the same themes: the different ways oral history can be used, and oral history in the workplace.

Finished papers must be sent to the editor, Anne Bartlett of 237 Peel Street, Launceston, Tasmania 7250, by 30 June. Anne's telephone number is (003) 44 5258.

People wishing to submit a paper must contact Anne for a copy of the journal's style guide.

1995 *Journal* brings SA history alive



The latest issue of the *Journal of the Historical Society of South Australia* (No. 23, 1995), edited by Dr Jenny Tilby Stock, is now available. It contains a stimulating selection of articles and reviews in its 136 pages.

Among the articles are one by Christine Garnaut on the 'thousand homes scheme' in the Adelaide suburb of Colonel Light Gardens, Ann White's story on the Salt Creek murder, David Hilliard on the Anglican schism at Port Lincoln between 1928 and 1955, Philip Butters on Fidelity Hill and 'our New Colony', Malcolm Saunders' story of Harry Samuel Taylor, effective founder and long-time editor of the Renmark newspaper, the *Murray Pioneer*, Allan Biggs on American influence on Australian railways, and Janet Callen's reminiscences of the horse trade.

Among the books reviewed are a life of architect George Strickland Kingston, South Australia's role in reviving Federation, an account of missionary Robert Mitchell, essays on SA writing, an account of the voyage of the barque *John* from Gravesend to Adelaide in 1839-40, a guide to maps in SA Parliamentary Papers 1852-1971, and a story of early Maltese migration to Australia.

Also included are the address given by Justice Catherine Branson at last year's annual dinner of the Society and an account of Society activities in 1994.

The *Journal* is available at meetings of the Society or may be ordered from HSSA Inc, 122 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide, 5000. The cost is \$12 plus \$1.25 for postage and packing. Copies are also available at the Society's monthly meetings.

TO THE EDITOR

Censures wrongly addressed

Sir,

I refer to correspondence regarding the State Library's fee for publication in *History SA* (No. 122: Jan. '96 and No. 123: March '96).

As a former employee within the Mortlock Collection of the State Library and as a frequent and current researcher, I have had the opportunity of seeing how the complexities of the 'user pays' principle affect both staff and users.

Any effective public action lies in addressing grievances to the initiators of the principle rather than censuring those responsible for implementing it.

(Dr) Leith MacGillivray,
Adelaide

The Library's side in the great debate

Sir,

As my earlier response did not appear in the last issue of *History SA* (having not been received) and as there has since been further correspondence from Mr Andrew Peake concerning the State Library of SA's publication fees, may I offer the following fuller information to explain the policy.

Firstly, the series of published correspondence of Dr John Jenkin with the State Library (*History SA*, January 1996) did not include any reference to the final explanatory letter. As this specifically addressed his criticisms, the omission was regrettable.

My last letter to Dr Jenkin of 6 November 1995 is reprinted here:

Dear Dr Jenkin,

I have noted your concerns about the State Library of South Australia's publication fee policy, set by the Libraries Board of South Australia as outlined in your letter of 13 October 1995.

I would like to clarify what is meant by the term 'publication fee'. The publication fee is applied when someone wants to reproduce an item held in our collection, in a new publication. It is therefore a fee for publication. If a researcher simply wants a copy of an item from our collection, and has no intention to publish it, then he or she only incurs a copying cost. In the case of a researcher who wishes to use an item for very limited publication, such as a thesis, we generally waive the fee.

You have observed correctly that the Library is applying income generation to support its activities. This reflects government policy and budget reductions in this State. You may be assured that your fee will be used to support our preservation program. This is a costly program to ensure that South Australia's documentary heritage will survive for the use of future generations. Each contribution made supports 'scholarship' and certainly aids in 'humanity and enlightenment', as noted in your earlier letter. Without such income, our preservation program will be less effective.

I appreciate that you have strong feelings about the issue of our library and others levying fees, but unless we do this, we will not be able to achieve our goals.

Further to that explanation, may I offer the following comments in response to Mr Peake's letter.

- Most State libraries in the nation charge similar fees. State Library of SA fees were first introduced in the 1980s; they are not a new initiative. We have a detailed brochure available in the Library that explains the fees and how income supports our preservation effort. Our overriding professional concern is the safeguarding of heritage collections, not just for current researchers but for future ones.

- Staff of the Mortlock Library are not responsible for fee decisions. Charging is now regarded as necessary in many spheres of government and is in line with government policy. The History Trust and the State Library are both Divisions of the Department of the Arts and Cultural Development. For Mr Peake to suggest that one Division should lobby another about fees is strange advice. The History Trust has its own charging arrangements at museums to view items that include donations.

- Regarding care of collections, the very high standard of preservation that the Mortlock Library offers cannot generally be matched by local history collections. We have a Local History Liaison Officer in the Mortlock Library who assists local history collection managers to achieve the best they can within the limits of their resources. We are well aware of the preservation difficulties at the local level, not to mention the limited availability of information about these collections.

- For Mr Peake to encourage people to donate significant rare photographs to local history collections in preference to the Mortlock Library and not to mention that they will be less accessible to the Australian research community and generally not as well protected was unfortunate. In time we hope to provide technological access to selected photos via our Internet catalogue, making the collections that are donated to us available for viewing to many

students and researchers across Australia and beyond. This will mean that originals are handled even less and survive in as pristine condition as possible in humidity controlled and fire protected storage areas.

The Mortlock Library offers service to many people, both here and interstate, and is highly regarded by users according to a recent survey. We strive to be of service and we value our donors. We encourage those members who are interested in fostering research and access and who wish to dispose of their photo collections to approach us for advice on the best location for their collections. We take items of state significance and have staff skilled in assessing this aspect. Ms Barbara Holbourn, Pictorial Curator, would be pleased to hear from you, tel. 207 7239.

As the person responsible for all collections in the State Library, please telephone me on 207 7347 for any further information.

Elizabeth Ho,
Assistant Director,
State Library of SA

Caught out by a 20-year-old hoax

Sir,

With reference to the reprinting (from the HSSA *Newsletter* of October 1975) of letters from 'Millicent Browne' and 'Pro Bono Publico' in *History SA* March 1996, it is very unlikely that anyone will remember that the same issue of the *Newsletter* included two more letters: a reply to 'Pro Bono Publico' by 'H. Jenkinson' and a letter from an unnamed Governor's unnamed Private Secretary to an unnamed Chief Secretary (the 19th century equivalent of the State Premier) in which His Excellency predicts, 55 years in advance, the passage by the South Australian Parliament of *An Act to Regulate the Disposal of Public Documents* and asks the Chief Secretary to bring this to the notice of the House so that the matter may not appear to be rushed through with unseemly haste.

Now that they have been brought out into the light of day again, I feel it incumbent upon me to explain again how I came to write those four letters. At a seminar run by the HSSA and the Adult Education Department of the University of Adelaide, it was agreed, among other things that I, as Principal Archivist, should write something for the *Newsletter* urging owners of private archives to deposit them in the then South Australian Archives. The busy months went by and nothing was done until I

found myself laid up in bed for a few days with a sore back. It occurred to me that something more interesting than mere propaganda would attract more attention. Thus it was that the young Millicent, the indignant Pro Bono Publico and the rest – perhaps I should not say were conceived – sprang to life fully grown.

There was no doubt in my mind that readers finding credibility stretched beyond its elastic limit would realise that here was something intended to provoke thought. As far as I know, these literary effusions failed utterly in their intended purpose. However, the ghost of Millicent Browne came back to haunt me. Two, perhaps three, people contacted me, asking for the correct archival reference to the first letter because they wanted to quote Millicent's immortal line to her cousin Eliza, 'Mama says it is only foolish talk...' Of these, one was a librarian and one, if I remember rightly, was a young academic historian or postgraduate history student.

Archivists among your readers might like to imagine Mr H. Jenkinson as an earlier relative of the author of one of the classic texts on archives theory and practice.

May the ghosts now rest in peace.

John Love,
Beaumont

(Count me among the gullible – Ed.)

Help sought with SA bee history

Sir,

I seek assistance in discovering something of the beekeeping heritage of South Australia. I am working on a second edition of my self-published book, *The Immigrant Bees, 1788-1898: a cyclopaedia on the introduction of European honeybees into Australia and New Zealand*. The first edition was a limited run of 100 numbered and signed copies.

For South Australia, I came across very little detail on the introduction of honeybees. Isaac Hopkins, the 'father of New Zealand beekeeping' was an active correspondent with early colonial beekeepers. He wrote in 1886 in the third edition of his *Australasian Bee Manual*,

I have not been able to obtain any information as to the introduction of the German bee into South Australia, Victoria or Queensland. Probably the importations may have been made from New South Wales or Tasmania, and not direct from Europe. (p.14).

(to page 6)

(from page 5)

Subsequent editions of Hopkins' book added no new details for these three States.

It is possible that honeybees were introduced from 1836 out of Western Australia, where there are records of them having been landed in 1830, 1834 and 1846. There may also have been a New Zealand connection. Captain Arthur Wakefield, head of the Nelson settlement, was the addressee of a consignment of honeybees from England in 1842. Captain Wakefield, a beekeeper, was brother to Edward Gibbon Wakefield. Whalers provide another potential link. The Nelson *Examiner* of 8 October 1842 reported:

When Dr Imlay visited Nelson in April last, he brought with him, as a present to Captain Wakefield, a hive of bees. These interesting and useful colonists are, as usual, among the busiest of our settlers.

The Imlay brothers were involved in cattle breeding and whaling. William Wakefield, also a beekeeper, received hives from Sydney. The *New Zealand Journal* of 25 November 1843 reported, 'Colonel Wakefield has received bees from Sydney; on April last he had five swarms' (p. 305). German settlers may also have been a catalyst.

As an aside, Australia may have had a native *Apis* honeybee prior to the arrival of the European honeybees in 1822. Tarlton Rayment wrote in 1935 in *A Cluster of Bees*:

The only native *Apis* was discovered by me in Gippsland during the Great War. ... The native species is black, and almost as small as *A. florea* of India, but it is now extremely rare. (p. 552)

In Rayment's unpublished 1947 manuscript *The Commercial Bee Farm: a manual on the cultivation of the hive-bee and the profitable production of honey and beeswax*, in the chapter titled 'Introduction of the Hive-bee', he wrote:

There is, or was, a very small native *Apis*, which the author described as *A. aenigmatica*, but its three combs, suspended from the underneath of a tree limb, are too small for commercial purposes.

Rayment collected evidence that this native honeybee habited the south eastern parts of South Australia.

A South Australian distiller of eucalyptus-oil, and a nature student of more than average ability, described some nests that he had found along the river Murray, just where it crosses the border. This gentleman says that the little colonies were fairly plentiful in the early days,

and favoured the 'mallee' country, but died out as settlement progressed.

Are any of your readers aware of any details on the early days of beekeeping in South Australia, and particularly the 19th century introduction of honeybees? Any assistance I receive will be gratefully acknowledged in any works I publish.

Peter Barrett,
1 Banjo Place,
Springwood,
NSW 2777

Looking for information on Ambrose Redman

Sir,

I am into the final chapters of a 330-plus page history of the Redman family and have recently received pages 9-10 of your *Newsletter* No. 15 dated July 1977, which is headed 'Research Notes on Superintendents of Minda Home, Mr Ambrose Redman in Particular' by H.E. Henning with acknowledgements to Mr H.J. Leverington and Mrs Oliver Redman.

As Ambrose is my granduncle and as I've been very restricted in my search for him and his family, my request is for any information you may have on him, his wife and children (two girls were mentioned by H.E. Henning in his 'notes'), as well as a contact address for Mrs Oliver Redman, who is a long-lost relative also.

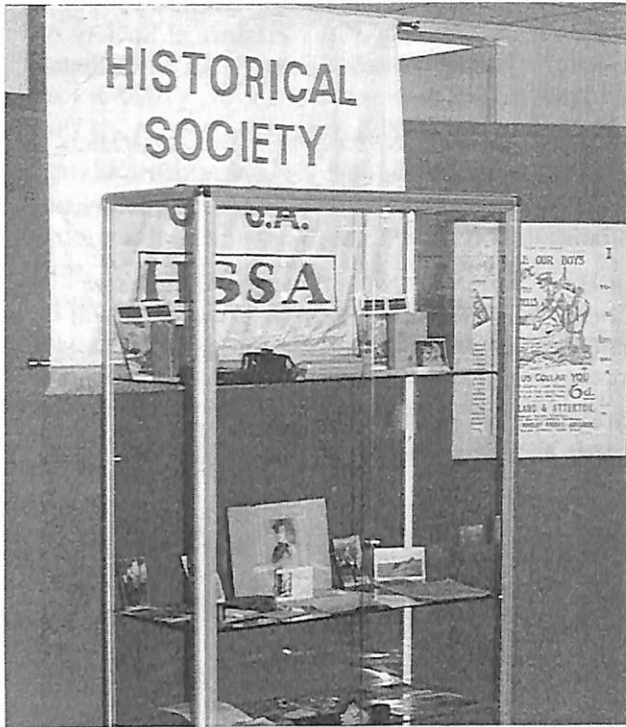
As a long-time member of the Shoalhaven Family History Society Inc., I appreciate there may be a fee involved in any research and copying and I'd be happy to meet these costs by return mail.

The original Redman - David Stott Redman - arrived in Australia as a 12-year-old cabin boy and my history is based on his diaries, journals and notes from his eighth birthday in England, through the trips he took in search of work in the South East, his involvement in the Kingston area, his brother's involvement with the Lacepede Council (Ambrose's father Robert and brother Thomas also) plus the Coonawarra wines Redmans.

As you can see, they were a very strong pioneering family in early South Australia and there are plenty of direct descendants still around. In fact, we've taken orders for more than 60 printed copies of the history.

Jay Hughes, JP,
65 Macleans Point Road,
Sanctuary Point,
NSW 2540.

ANZAC DISPLAY



The Society's publicity officer, Marcia Dunshore, installed an appropriate display of items from World War I at the City of Adelaide Lending Library from 9-24 April to mark this year's Anzac Day commemoration.

Shedding light on Adelaide

A 12-minute film screening continuously at the State Library in North Terrace has Col. William Light taking viewers around Adelaide to show them the city's past and its present delights. The film – which promises 'a tale of determination, intrigue and passion' – may also be seen at the SA Travel Centre in King William Street and at Ayers House, North Terrace.

It is one of two recent initiatives of the SA Tourism Commission and the City of Adelaide in conjunction with the National Trust. The other is an audio tape for a walking tour of the city's East End.

TV personality Jane Doyle tells the stories and history of the area, bringing buildings and people alive. The tapes and an accompanying brochure are available from the National Trust, Ayers House, at a cost of \$10. If a player is also required the charge is \$15 plus deposit. Enquiries and bookings to Ayers House, tel. 232 1234.

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Adelaide history doubles as city guide

Former State Historian Susan Marsden and Kathryn Gargett of the State History Centre are co-authors of a new history of Adelaide that doubles as an illustrated guide to the city.

Adelaide: a brief history traces the journey of the city from pioneer settlement to State capital and indicates the landmarks that have been left along the way.

Chapters cover such areas as aboriginal Adelaide, the Wakefield scheme and Light's vision, imperial Adelaide, the city state, the building of Adelaide, town life, the suburbs, and Adelaide today. Each chapter lists places to find with the help of an easy-to-read map at the back of the book.

Also included is a chronology of the city compiled by Brian Samuels, former Director of the State History Centre and now an officer with the State Heritage Branch.

Illustrations have been drawn from the SA Art Gallery and historical photographs held by the Mortlock Library and the State History Centre.

Adelaide: a brief history has already caught the attention of hotels and government departments, which will use the book to promote Adelaide to visitors. Priced at \$12.95, it is published by the State History Centre in association with the Adelaide City Council and distributed by Wakefield Press.

Pre-suburban memories of Blackwood

A new addition to the books on sale at the Society's monthly meetings is *Blackwood, Do Your Remember?* in which the author, HSSA member Janet Callen, traces the development of Blackwood from its beginnings as a railway camp in the 1880s until it became submerged in suburbia in the 1960s and 70s.

The brief (56 pages) pictorial account concentrates on the area along the Main Road from the Belair Hotel (the old Blackwood Inn) to the heart of the township south of the railway line.

Janet Allen herself is a school teacher who grew up among the people who have given Blackwood its village identity.

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.

15 May: Ray Gilbert, *Levels of Port Adelaide*. Port Adelaide Historical Society, Semaphore Library, 14 Semaphore Rd, 8 pm.

15 & 29 May: *Conserving Your Heritage Items* seminar. State Library, North Tce, 9 am - 12 noon. Bookings essential, 207 7314.

16 May: Mark Spooner, Defence, Science and Technology Organisation, *Australia in Antarctica*. Royal Geographical Society of SA, Institute Building, 122 Kintore Ave, 5.30 pm.

20 May: Phillip Knight, Colonel Light Gardens Residents Association, on the history of this early garden suburb. Burnside Historical Society, Burnside Community Centre, 8 pm.

1 June: Introductory Oral History Workshop. State Library, North Tce, 9 am-4.30 pm. Details from Beth Robertson, tel. 207 7349.

2 June: Open Day at Beaumont House, 631 Glynburn Rd, Beaumont, 2-4.30 pm. Enquiries tel. 379 5301.

2 June: Open Day at Stangate House, opp. Aldgate railway station. 1-4 pm. Enquiries tel. 370 8112.

11 June: Campbelltown Historical Society AGM. Guest speaker Barbara Bartsch on stamp collecting. Community Centre, 2 Newton Rd, Campbelltown, 8 pm.

14 June: Colin Harris, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, *Beyond Goyder's Line - history of the SA pastoral country*. Historical Society of SA, Prince Phillip Theatre, Prince Alfred College, Kent Town, 8 pm.

17 June: Graham Moloney, SA Gas Company Historical Group, *History of Gas in SA*. Burnside Historical Society, Burnside Community Centre, 8 pm.

19 June: Port Adelaide Historical Society AGM. Guest speaker Ms Jenny Nairn, Semaphore Librarian, on her visit to Gallipoli and its emotional impact. Semaphore Library, Semaphore Road, 8 pm.

20 June: Colin Harris, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, *Native Vegetation Management in SA*, Royal Geographical Society of SA, 122 Kintore Ave, 7.30 pm.

23 June: Historical Society of SA bus tour to Gawler.

Bookings and details from Pat Sumerling, tel. 362 8262.

5 July: Enid Robertson, botanist, *Wittunga Garden From a Family Point of View*. Historical Society of SA, Prince Phillip Theatre, Prince Alfred College, Kent Town, 8 pm.

14-17 July: National conference of the Australian Historical Association, Mebourne. Enquiries to Andrew Marcus, History Department, University of Melbourne.

18 July: Phillip Jones, SA Museum, *Tinny: a tour through the career of Norman B. Tindale*. Royal Geographical Society, Institute Building, 122 Kintore Ave, 7.30 pm.

24 July: Wally Coles and Graham Quayle on fire engines and ambulances. Mt Lofty Districts History Society.

2 August: John Bannon, Flinders University, *The Crucial Colony*. Historical Society of SA, Prince Phillip Theatre, Prince Alfred College, Kent Town, 8 pm.

17 August: Historical Society of SA Annual Dinner, Masonic Centre, 254 North Tce, 7 pm, preceded by a tour at 6 pm.

31 August: Oral History Association seminar, *Dollars and Sense*, exploring a sense of place through oral history and other research techniques and discovering funding sources for local studies. Institute Building, 122 Kintore Ave, 9 am - 4.30 pm. Enquiries to Beth Robertson, 207 7349.

ONGOING EVENTS

DAILY

Unpacking the Explorer Scientist, a glimpse into the life of Sir Douglas Mawson and the Antarctic environment he explored. Level 2, SA Museum, North Tce, Adelaide.

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.

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: Australia's best collection of motor vehicles. Birdwood Mill, Birdwood, 9 am - 5 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.

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. The Wharf, Goolwa, 10 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. 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.

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.

Yesteryear Farm Museum: Stationary engines, tractors, household antiques, farm implement demonstrations, horse drawn vehicles and vintage cars. Koolunga, tel (088) 46 6040.

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 086 622 200/232.

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

WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY

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

Women With Attitude - 100 years of political action, an exhibition from the National Museum of Australia. Edmund Wright House, King William St, Adelaide, 10 am - 4 pm until 11 June.

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-WEDNESDAY

Banking and Currency Museum: A multiple Regional Tourism Award winner. 3 Graves St, Kadina, 10 am - 5 pm. Enquiries 0888 212 906.

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.

SATURDAY, SUNDAY, WEDNESDAY AND PUBLIC AND SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Kadina Heritage Museum: Includes restored Matta House (a former mine manager's residence), agricultural display, printing machinery, working displays. Matta Rd, Kadina. 2 - 4.30 pm. School and public holidays 10am - 4.30pm.

Moonta Museum and Miner's Cottage: Museum in Moonta Mines Model School (1878). Cottage (c. 1870) furnished in period. 1.30-4 pm, public and school holidays, 11 am - 4 pm.

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Wallaroo Heritage and Nautical Museum: Old Post Office, Jetty Rd, Wallaroo 2 - 4 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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF MONTH

Sunnybrae Farm: Restored historic complex including Enfield Heritage Museum, Gallipoli Grove, Regency Park, 2-4 pm.

J.McD. Stuart Society extends a welcome

Anyone interested in the discovery and early settlement of South Australia and the Northern Territory is invited to join the John McDouall Stuart Society, which perpetuates the achievements of the explorer who made the first crossing of the Australian continent from south to north.

Society members receive a quarterly newsletter and are welcome to take part in a program of activities throughout the year. Enquiries to the secretary, PO Box 398, Eastwood, 5063.

Newsletter of the Historical Society of SA

Behind the scenes but greatly valued



Ila Hollands, Council member Enid Ulbrich and Ken Ulbrich pictured at the annual general meeting in April. Ila and Enid are chiefly responsible for the post-meeting suppers – arguably the most tempting in Adelaide.

Library Friends revive Australiana facsimile series

The Friends of the State Library have revived the facsimile publication program which was discontinued in 1979. Two books have already been published and the aim is to produce four a year.

The first two are *A Successful Exploration Through the Interior of Australia From Melbourne to the Gulf of Carpentaria From the Journals and Letters of William John Wills*, edited by his father William Wills as a memorial to his son and originally published in London in 1863, and *Exploring in the 'Seventies and the Construction of the Overland Telegraph Line* by Alfred Giles, originally published in 1926.

Mr George Lieschke of the Friends said, 'Robert O'Hara Burke and William John Wills are probably Australia's most famous explorers, yet their expedition across Australia to the Gulf of Carpentaria was an expensive failure. It resulted in the deaths of three members of the party of four which made the dash to the Gulf from the banks of Cooper Creek, not far from present-day Innamincka.

'*A Successful Exploration Through the Interior of Australia* is the most extensive contemporary account of the expedition, which, in spite of the book's title, history has judged to have been "the single most outstanding disaster in the history of Australian exploration".'

The story of the 'most notorious pub in Adelaide'

Pat Sumerling

When first built in 1849, the Colonel Light Hotel (now known as the Heritage Hotel) in Light Square was in the heart of what was traditionally known as the 'red light' district of Adelaide and was part of the 'beat' for prostitutes, larrikins and the like for most of the 19th century. The hotel's reputation became of such concern that a newly arrived migrant who had been a member of the Salvation Army in England, campaigned outside the pub one night in May 1880. This led to the Army being officially established in Australia in September of that year in Adelaide's Botanic Park.

The hotel has carried a great variety of names – the Sir Robert Peel, the Billy Barlow, the George and Dragon, the Shamrock for 34 years until 1888, the Colonel Light Hotel and the Hotel Gambier. In 1970 its name reverted to the Colonel Light, a name it retained until 1994, when it became the Heritage Hotel.

First licensed in 1849 as the Sir Robert Peel, the hotel was built as a seven-room two-storey brick structure with cellars. On the same Town Acre 131 were about 14 other structures of tiny two and four-room cottages, shops and a bakehouse. Six other town acres in the vicinity were also heavily developed and made for a mini-town atmosphere in the area. The small homes on tiny lots attracted not only people of limited means but all the undesirables one would expect in the cheaper end of a city. The pub serviced this clientele, with its colourful

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Facsimile series

The cost of the book is \$65 for the cloth-bound edition and \$95 for the leather-bound, numbered edition.

Cloth-bound copies of *Exploring in the 'Seventies* are still available at \$40 a copy. The *Adelaide Review* of February this year described this as 'a most readable book, well produced and a fitting start to what could be an important facsimile program for South Australia'.

Orders for the books should be placed with the Friends of the State Library of SA, GPO Box 419, Adelaide, 5001. Tel. 207 7255 or fax 207 7247. Postage and packing in each case is \$5 within SA, \$8 interstate.

reputation being further nurtured by Thomas Boddington, who was its longest serving publican (1867-88). When the pub was well established, complaints to the *Observer* on 17 June 1854 demanded that

it is time that some steps were taken to abolish that most infamous nuisance at present polluting Adelaide. I allude to the houses with which the neighbourhood of Light Square is infested ...

For a short time the hotel became associated with George Coppin, the 'father of Australian theatre'. In 1850 he renamed it the Billy Barlow after his most popular theatrical character, which had made him famous in Ireland, England, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. While the lease of the hotel was in his name, his brother Fred managed it and although Coppin's lease for the land began in December 1847 the pub was not built until 1849.

During Coppin's lease a circus was established alongside the pub in Currie Street. It gave its first performance in the week of 9 November 1850 and 'nearly all the principal families except the Governor, Sir Henry and Lady Young, were present'. The novelty of the circus, with its horses and the 'celebrated Maypole Dance' disrupted Coppin's own theatrical entertainment at the new Queen's Theatre across the square in Gilles Arcade. The circus changed its name several times but it was short lived and appears to have operated only till the end of 1851. This was partly due to unsettled times caused by the discovery of gold interstate and the mass exodus of labourers and coin from the colony.

The hotel became an even more popular place of entertainment when it was taken over by Boddington in 1867. He renamed it the Shamrock and added an extra room and then advertised that he had 'at great expense altered the entire features of the establishment' by fitting up a theatre and concert hall for musical entertainments in which the best available talent in the colonies performed nightly. The hotel also offered first class accommodation and provided 'good Billiard-Bagatelle-Board'. In his publication *Adelaide's Early Inns and Taverns* J. McLellan describes one night of frivolity which may have been shortly after the entertainment hall was opened in 1869. He wrote that

the place of assembly was opened nightly and free to all who cared to enter. A troupe of acrobats, exhibitions of the magnesium light, and the "stone act" formed some of the attractions offered to the numerous populace

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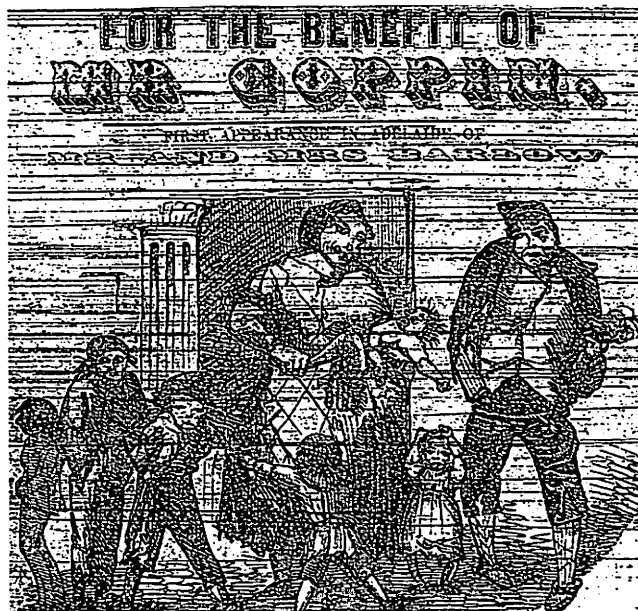
then residing in the locality. The "stone act" which seems to have been the program's highlight for some time, involved the demolition of a three-quarter hundred weight boulder reposing on the chest of one of the strong men: individuals from the audience were invited to wield the hammer.

Ten years later, on 29 October 1877, a journalist for the *Register* published his account of a walk in 'Lower Adelaide' that included the Shamrock. He wrote,

I next entered what is universally acknowledged to be one of the lowest among the low public houses in the city – the notorious Shamrock ... Men and women sunk to the level of brutes – or rather beneath that level, for no members of the animal kingdom could look so utterly debased – were jostling, crowding, shouting, and drinking in every stage of intoxication. The concert hall was a gaudily painted room ... several men (were) lying in a sodden sleep ... on the benches under the gallery, and a few swaying couples attempting to dance in the centre of the floor. Those assembled seem to be almost without exception Port larrikins of the worst type, loafers, prostitutes, and other well known Police Court *habitues* ... A little army of policemen outside were the only persons having a semblance of respectability that night.

The pub's reputation deteriorated to such a low level that each year when its licence was up for renewal, someone would invariably object to it continuing at all. But there was a valid reason why the pub was allowed to exist when so many were calling for its closure. The police justified its existence and so did the Licensed Victuallers Association because the pub had a clearly defined role in Adelaide society. On 12 March 1881 the *Licensed Victuallers' Gazette* stated, 'We must have these classes of public houses' and explained:

As usual, Mr Boddington has had his license opposed, and the hearing ... of his case was adjourned till Friday when the license was granted after all. The Shamrock Hotel does not aspire to be a select house of call, but a house of its description is an imperative necessity, and acts as a proper channel for the loose people of Light-square to keep to themselves. We do not desire to see the contaminating influence of the Shamrock *habitues* spread over the face of the city, and therefore, where a house is specially appropriated for the use of such characters, to



A woodcut showing Billy Barlow appearing at the Royal Victoria Theatre, from the Mercury & Sporting Chronicle, 9 August 1851.

seek to deprive it of its licence for permitting prostitutes to congregate is utterly absurd.

While the battles raged to keep the hotel open with Mr Boddington as its publican, the owner of the pub lived in the foothills near Athelstone, choosing to leave her notorious city property in the care of agents. Either she was oblivious of the pub's reputation or she had an attitude of 'out of sight out of mind'. The hotel and site were bought by Arthur Fox in 1849 but following his death by drowning in the River Torrens in May 1853, his wife inherited it. During her lifetime nothing was done to the hotel other than the addition of the concert hall, but after her death in 1894 her heirs decided to rebuild it in 1898. The Fox family owned the hotel until after the Second World War, almost a hundred years, which by hotel standards is exceptional. Only the Brecknock Hotel on the corner of Gilbert Street can compete with this length of time. The Moores, the present owners of the Brecknock, not only owned their pub but managed it for most of that time – another record that would be hard to be beat.

The rebuilding of the Colonel Light Hotel in 1898 was required under the conditions of a 21-year lease. This lease between the Fox family and the Ware brothers of the company A.W. and T.L. Ware required that they were

to erect according to elevations and specifications to be approved ... a good and substantial building for the purposes of an hotel with outbuildings and conveniences ... by the 1 day of December 1898 and to spend in such

execution the sum of 1500 pounds at the least.

Architect Ernest H. Bayer, who was commissioned to design the new hotel, advertised for contractors in the *South Australian Register* of 15 August 1898.

The new hotel was not built with the balconies that we see today. These were added in 1926 but not before the City Corporation made a fuss about such spreading verandahs over footpaths. It is believed that the 1898 pub may have incorporated the original cellars from the earlier structure. The new pub was built in brick. Before the speculation boom period of the 1870s and 80s, many of the earliest city pubs were built of brick and stone. However, when the pubs were replaced by bigger and often grander edifices, they were mostly built of bluestone or more expensive cut stones, but never of brick. But, fashions come and go, and by the time the Colonel Light Hotel was rebuilt in 1898, brick was once again highly fashionable. There are few public houses in the city built entirely of brick but two are the Hampshire Hotel of 1911 in Grote Street and the Sportsmen Hotel of the 1920s.

The pub underwent alterations in 1940 and 1956 in which many internal walls were demolished to open up small rooms. It appears that the pub's reputation was restored if not by the time of Boddington's departure in 1888 certainly once it had been rebuilt by the Ware brothers. An article in the *Daily Herald* of 9 September 1910 stated that Light Square was 'not now the resort of bad characters as it was at one time'.

During the 'prohibition period' between 1916 and 1967, when pubs were required to close at 6 pm and remain closed on Sundays, the Colonel Light Hotel's reputation was no worse than that of any other West End pub. The new licensing laws dramatically affected trading when six o'clock closing was introduced. Many pubs took risks by opting for illegal after hours drinking. A 1918 police report stated that of 59 hotels in the West End, 49 of them had over 100 convictions between them of one sort or another relating to the licensing laws, and the Colonel Light Hotel

has been a very bad after hours house, but since the passing of the last amendment relating to temperance bars it has closed up entirely - no indication of any after hours trading at all. It had received four convictions since 1908.

With more liberal drinking hours from 1967, the Colonel Light Hotel has rid itself of its torrid past but it can look back and claim with good authority that it was the most notorious pub in the city between 1867 and about 1900.

In 1987 the pub was unprotected by heritage

legislation and was threatened with demolition as part of a future development scheme. When all hope for the pub's retention appeared to have vanished a 'wake' was held and last orders called. At the last moment, the developers had a change of heart, retained the pub and totally renovated it. Since then the hotel has been heritage listed by both the city and the State Heritage Branch. And more recently its name was changed to the Heritage Hotel.

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'Going, going, gone!' for 1839 plaque?

Adelaide antique broker Tony Sims is looking for buyers for the foundation stone plaque from a Wesleyan Methodist Chapel which once stood on Town Acre 106 in Gawler Place, the site of the present Southern Cross Arcade. Mr Sims believes the plaque to be possibly the oldest surviving foundation stone plaque from Adelaide's earliest years.

Apparently there were some misgivings about the choice of site because of its distance from the intended settlement and the fact that it was surrounded by giant gums. Nevertheless, the misgivings were overcome and Governor Gawler laid the stone on 27 November 1839.

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The church was the first private commission for architect George Kingston and was built at a cost of 2000 pounds. It was used as a church until 1854, when it was sold for use as a warehouse until it was demolished in late 1856.

The Rev. James Haslam, in his history of Wesleyan Methodism in SA, notes, 'The style and cost were at least equal to any ecclesiastical structure then in any Australian colony ... the front is a Tetrastyle Ionic portico in the Doric order (sic) '.

Tony Sims says there are two illustrations of the building in existence, one a watercolour by S.T. Gill which is held in the Rex Nankivell Collection in the National Library, and the other an engraving by H.C. Jervis (c. 1842) held in the Mortlock Library. Both depict a building in the style established by John Wesley's chapel in City Road, London.

The present owner of the plaque acquired it as scrap metal several years ago when clearing a deceased estate. It was found lying face down under a tank stand in an eastern suburbs backyard.

Mr Sims said it was difficult to firmly establish the authenticity of the plaque but the patination of the surfaces was in keeping with its apparent 157 years of age.

He said, 'The lead appears to have been attached to its support by rectangular spikes or nails as indicated by the rectangular shaped holes at each corner, and it is known that spikes and nails of the period were hand-made with such a shape. Further holes around the perimeter of the plaque are of irregular shape and placement, suggesting that the plaque may have been attached to a piece of board or something similar. This may have occurred following the demolition of the church as means of support for the soft, malleable lead so the plaque could be displayed.

'The use of lead for the plaque is supported by the resources and skills that would have been available in the fledgling colony. Lead was readily available and relatively cheap. It was commonly used for sealing roofs.

'Because lead is easily worked the engraving could have been undertaken by almost any skilled craftsman. Other foundation stone plaque materials such as bronze or brass, both of which are much harder and more costly than lead, would have required a skilled engraver or casting facilities and it seems there was no foundry capable of casting bronze or lead in the colony in 1838. Also, it is doubtful if a skilled engraver would have made sufficient livelihood in the new colony.

'The style and layout of the engraving suggests that an amateur engraver was responsible for the inscription. Variation in the height, width and depth of the letters and in the offset in centring are readily apparent. These would not be present in professionally engraved work.

'Newspapers of the time reported that inserted within the foundation stone was a lead scroll which had wording the same as that on the plaque plus the names of the trustees, architect and builders. This, together with the fact that the scroll too was on lead, provides perhaps the strongest evidence that the plaque is genuine.'

The plaque will be sold by auction on the evening of Tuesday 11 June at Adelaide Antique Auctions, 75 King William Street, Kent Town. Further information may be obtained from Mr Sims by telephone or fax on 361 2158.

BOOK PREVIEW

The founding years of St Peter's College

The colony of South Australia was barely ten years old when active planning to set up St Peter's 'Collegiate' school began.

The colony had been experiencing difficult times but, after 1845, there was a decisive change and exciting prospects of growth and expansion lay ahead. Among the increasing flood of new immigrants came, in 1846, a group of energetic and enterprising men who combined with some of the leading pioneers and generous men of wealth already established here to set about founding the sort of school which they saw as crucial for the further evolution of the colony. Their hopes were, as one of their number wrote, that

from this school will spring our future legislators and (in due course) we may expect to see the Pulpit, the Bar, and the Magistrates Bench supplied chiefly from this source.

From very modest beginnings, within the 31 years chronicled in this book, during most of which the school had no serious rivals in its field, the founders saw their vision gradually being realised and taking the shape which, in essentials, it still has, almost 150 years later. The book is therefore more than a record of the founding and early development of a school: it is an important chapter in the history of South Australia. There is good reason to believe that without the contribution of St Peter's College, South Australia would be something significantly different from what we know it as.

The author of *The Founding Years, 1847-1878*, John Tregenza, is well versed in the early history of South Australia and he is a master of the skill necessary to project the reader into the past. He has written a very readable narrative history.

As the events unfold we meet the people who were responsible for founding and guiding the embryo school. Their well rounded portraits enliven the story. They tend to be sturdy individualists, prominent in their professions and in public life but with their share of private human foibles and virtues.

Besides adding fascinating new details to our knowledge of this period of the school's history, *The Founding Years* unravels most of the knotty points that have puzzled us in the past: was there any one individual who was principally responsible for getting the school launched? What was the outcome of the tussle between the two equally headstrong leading men, Augustus Short and William Allen? How many students were there on opening day? Who deserves the credit for the splendid quality of the three principal buildings – the Big School Room, School House (with its numerous carved heads and emblems) and the Chapel? Why did it need the impetus of George Henry Farr's arrival, seven years after the founding, to get the school finally away on its course? And, perhaps above all, how did the unexpected and critical large benefaction of Benjamin Mendes Da Costa come about?

As well as providing insights into what it was like to be a boy or a master at the school in this period, the writer sheds light on wider aspects of colonial life.

A notable feature of the book is its thorough exploration of the origins and growth of cricket, football, rowing, athletics and gymnastics.

Supporting and extending the reader's pleasure are the numerous fine illustrations, some of them rarely seen before.

– F.H. Schubert

(Reprinted from Saints, the newsletter of St Peter's College, April 1996. Mr Schubert was an assistant master at St Peter's from 1937-57, second master from 1958-78 and deputy headmaster in 1979.)

The Founding Years, 1847-1878 by John Tregenza will be published on the eve of St Peter's Day, 28 June 1996.)

What future for Brownhill Creek?

A number of recent developments raise serious concerns about what will happen to the historic reserve known as Brownhill Creek Recreation Park, and the viability of the stream itself.

The Brownhill Creek reserve was designated as such in the original colonial survey in the first few years of settlement (Norman, 1953) so it can lay claim to being one of the earliest parks outside the City of Adelaide parklands. It was declared a 'National Pleasure Resort' under legislation in 1915 and was managed by tourism authorities until 1972, when the National Parks and Wildlife Service began administering it as a recreation park.

Of course the region was occupied by Aborigines for thousands of years. The area at the beginning of the park, administered as a local council reserve, is recorded as being a gathering place for Aborigines (Norman, 1953), and the fish, waterbirds and other resources of the park would undoubtedly have been used. A small rock shelter at the eastern end of the park contains old smoke stains suggesting it was a campsite, as do hollow trees elsewhere.

The Aborigines of the Adelaide region are generally referred to as Kurna but Lutheran pastor Clamor Schurmann (1838-53) refers to several different 'tribes' or 'meyunna' in the Adelaide region – Marimeyunna (or East Men), Wonkameyunna, Parakameyunna (from over towards Lake Alexandrina), Wirramumeyunna (down to Encounter Bay), Wirrameyunna (Forest Men) and Putpameyunna (South Tribe) (Schurmann, 1987).

Since the Brownhill Creek area was reputedly called Wirraparinga by Aborigines (Oborn, 1985), with 'Wirra' possibly referring to the 'black' forest that once grew in a huge swathe south and east of the city centre to the hills (Griffin and McCaskill, 1986), it is interesting to speculate that the main Aboriginal occupants of the park region may have been the Wirrameyunna.

The colonial occupation of the area was early – Mitcham village (itself known originally as Brownhill Creek) is the earliest municipality after the town of Adelaide. Early immigrants camped in the area upon arrival – author and electoral reformer Catherine Helen Spence lived by the creek in a marquee for seven months in 1839-40 (Magarey, 1985). The reserve was quarried for stone under licences to W. Clark and J. Henderson from 1848, providing the

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slating for the former's brewery and malt kiln. Mitcham Council quarried for its institute and school in 1869 (Norman, 1953). A stone crusher was later constructed in the reserve to provide road materials and remains can still be seen.

A Baptist chapel was constructed adjacent to the park (near a ford over the creek) in 1874 and served as a meeting and school room to 1924 (Oborn 1985). It had fallen into ruin by the 1950s and only the foundations remain. The land has been sold and a mudbrick house constructed on the creek bank – an interesting design but its shiny iron roof rather intrudes on the park.

By 1888 Mitcham councillors were planting trees in the reserve – notably oaks, elms, Moreton Bay figs and sugar gums, many of which still survive. Although plans were laid for swimming baths in the creek in 1893 they did not eventuate until 1929.

Another project of 1893 was an early antipollution measure – the erection of concrete manure pits to hold part of the manure loads for market gardeners in the valley. Horses often could not manage the heavy cartloads up the rise, so part was dumped on the roadside, washing down the creek when it rained (Norman, 1953).

One of the earliest concrete bridges crosses the creek about a third of the way into the park but unfortunately it is in a very dilapidated state, like some other aspects of the park. Despite voluntary efforts by the Friends of Brownhill Creek, weeds are flourishing – blackberry, fennel, thistle, African daisy, boneseed, and more. Some of the trees planted as ornamentals as late as the 1970s have become pests, such as poplars or desert ash which sucker over large areas, and *pinus radiata*, which suffocates native vegetation. Olives which have become rife were probably introduced on steep slopes in the valley to provide oil in colonial times. Walnut and carob trees, with their edible products, also survive.

The parks service reportedly as a budget of only \$1,500 for management, with a ranger attending for two days a fortnight. There have been rumoured proposals to sell part of the reserve to provide funds for its management – hardly a long term solution, and the reserve comprises only 51 hectares in the first place.

Most of what appears to be the park is privately held Hills Face Zone land. Proposals by one landowner, V. Wylie, who owns Brown Hill itself, have included subdivision and, more recently, a vineyard on the summit. This could mean Brown Hill will become Green Hill. It would also involve the

extraction of large volumes of water from the creek and the leaching of herbicides and fungicides from fortnightly spraying, with unknown environmental effects. Interestingly, the upper part of the creek has flowed all summer since one of the last remaining market gardens in the valley ceased operation last year.

Natural heritage of the reserve includes a hollow river red gum estimated to be over 400 years old and known as 'Monarch of the Glen'. Aborigines and early colonists are known to have sheltered in this tree, and a family lived in it as recently as the 1950s.

Native vegetation still found in the park includes large areas of kangaroo and iron grass, as well as sheoaks, several types of gum tree, wattle, fern, rush and sedge. The native birdlife is quite varied, including black ducks, herons, kookaburras, currawongs, crows, owls, kites, kestrels, sulphur-crested and yellow-tailed black cockatoos, rosellas, lorikeets, honey eaters, thornbills and blue wrens. Koalas are sometimes seen, as well as lizards and snakes. If any creature is prevalent it must be the white-backed magpie, many of which stand along the roadside like caretakers.

Anyone interested in helping to ensure a better future for the park is invited to join the Friends of Brownhill Creek. Ring 272 9978 for information or simply send a \$5 subscription payment to the Friends of Brownhill Creek, PO Box 209, Park Holme, 5043.

Marcus Beresford,
Vol. Publicity Officer.
Friends of Brownhill Creek.

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JUST A REMINDER

Annual Dinner: Chandelier Room of the Masonic Centre, 254 North Terrace. Saturday 17 August at 7 pm. Guided tour of the Hall of Fame before the dinner. Bookings to Rob Nicol (297 9844) until 2 July; Avis Huckel after that date. Story page 1.

Bus Trip to Gawler: From outside the Institute Building, 122 Kintore Ave, at 9.30 am on Sunday 23 June. Picnic lunch in Pioneer Park. Bookings to Pat Sumerling, 362 8262. Story page 3.