

# HSSA

*istory*

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## HSSA the place to buy books for Christmas

It's time to think of Christmas and what better Christmas gift can there be than a good book?

The book tables at the HSSA monthly meetings have an ever-increasing range of titles to interest and entertain, so look no further when you are buying gifts for friends and family.

The latest addition to the stock is a selection of books from Wakefield Press at a 10% discount to members. And if we don't have the title you're looking for, we can get it for you.

History is not the only subject covered in the Wakefield press catalogue. There is also fiction and books on a range of subjects from medieval cooking to geography and travel. Copies of the catalogue are free from the book table.

The Society benefits from a commission on each book sold, so you're helping the HSSA as well as giving pleasure to yourself or a friend when you buy from our tables. Remember – there are only two more meetings before Christmas!

### Position vacant

## Bookstall coordinator

The bookstall which has become such a feature of the Society's monthly meetings, needs a volunteer, or two.

Responsibility for the bookstall involves setting out the books before the monthly meetings at Prince Alfred College, maintaining a record of the books in stock, as well as of sales and finance, liaising with Society treasurer, Avis Huckel, for banking and sending cheques to the publishers, as well as transporting three or four boxes of books to and from

the meetings and storing the books between the meetings.

The work would take about three or four hours a month, plus attendance at the meetings. Of course, if more than one person volunteered, attendance at the monthly lectures could be shared, with only one volunteer having to be present to man the bookstall.

## IN THIS ISSUE



The White Hart Hotel in Hindley Street was vaunted as 'an excellent Family Hotel', which had been erected 'at great expense', affording 'every accommodation for all Classes of Society'. For more fascinating information about Adelaide's historic pubs, see Pat Sumerling's article on page 11.

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## 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

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Consultant: Mr R.M. Gibbs, A.M.

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Auditor: Mr K. Banfield

## Archives Directory now on the WWW

The *Directory of Archives in Australia*, published by the Australian Society of Archivists in 1992, is now on the World Wide Web.

A guide to the location and holdings of more than 450 archival repositories in all States, the directory was developed by the Australian Science Archives Project on behalf of the Society of Archivists.

Each entry includes contact details, access conditions, facilities, acquisition focus and major holdings. Email addresses and URLs are included where available. Users can browse either alphabetically or by location and can search by concept/keyword or limit the search to 'repository name', 'acquisition focus' and 'major holdings'.

More than 300 entries have been updated from the 1992 edition and a completely new section gives quick access to Australian archival resources on the WWW.

National, international and individual finding aids are listed, including a list of more than 250 finding aids to individual collections.

The directory's web site is: <http://www.asap.unimelb.edu.au/asa/directory/>

The Australian Society of Archivists home page can be visited on: [http://www.aa.gov.au/AA\\_WWW/ProAssn/ASA/ASA.html](http://www.aa.gov.au/AA_WWW/ProAssn/ASA/ASA.html)

Address enquiries to Tim Sherratt, Manager, Canberra Office and Head of Information Services, Australian Science Archives Project, tel. (06) 257 7985, Email: [Tim.Sherratt@asap.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:Tim.Sherratt@asap.unimelb.edu.au), or to Kathryn Dan, President, Australian Society of Archivists Inc., tel. (06) 262 1607, Email: [kdan@nla.gov.au](mailto:kdan@nla.gov.au)

### Advertising

*History SA* accepts advertising for goods and services appropriate to its readership. The rates are \$100 for a full page, \$65 for a half page and \$35 for a quarter page.

Copy or finished artwork, together with a cheque for the appropriate amount (made payable to the Historical Society of SA, Inc.), should be sent to the Editor, Jim Loudon, 1 Ashley Place, Ridleyton, 5008.

### Police historians move

With the sale of the former police station in Archer Street, North Adelaide, the SA Police Historical Society now operates from the former traffic services and mess buildings at the Thebarton Police Barracks. The postal address is c/- GPO Box 1539, Adelaide, 5001.

Volunteers attend the Society's office on Thursdays from 10 am to 2 pm. At other times the telephone is either be diverted to a responsible member's telephone or there is an answering machine in operation.

## Twilight meetings survey

# Still time to make your preference known

Up to now, 33 responses have been received to the informal 'twilight meetings' survey. This is 9% of the membership.

Of the responses received, 70% preferred twilight meetings for the months of February, March and November; 15% would be unable to attend; and 15% would be able to attend at either the twilight time or the usual 8pm (calculations are approximate).

Comments included '... earlier meeting ... would ameliorate for disadvantage (to members coming from western suburbs to attend meetings at Prince Alfred College)'. 'Could help people who use public transport'. '... come at either hour to an interesting talk'; '... but not just for summer'; '... can't due to work commitments'.

I would like to thank the members who responded. This is valuable information which will be available to Council for reference when considering future programs.

As planning for the 1997 program is advancing, if other members would like to let Council know their views at this time, I will be happy to receive your notes before 30 September.

— Anne Every,  
Secretary

## October outing

# Tour of Adelaide Oval and Museum

The last HSSA tour for the year will be of the Adelaide Oval and the South Australian Cricket Association Museum on Sunday 20 October.

Adelaide Oval is known as one of the most picturesque cricket grounds in Australia (some say the most picturesque in all the world!) and the famous scoreboard of 1911 and three of its grandstands – the George Griffin Stand (1882), the Sir Edwin Smith Stand (1889) and the Moyston Evans Strand (1912) – are entered in the State Heritage Register.

South Australians have played cricket since the earliest colonial days, the first recorded match having been played at Thebarton on 28 October 1839.

In 1859 six acres of the north parklands were leased and in 1869 the SA Cricket Club initiated the idea of a central cricket ground with a coordinating cricket association. In 1871 the South Australian Cricket Association was formed and the first lease of the present SACA ground was issued the next year.

The first inter-colonial cricket match between Victoria and South Australia was played there in 1875. In 1884 7,000 excited South Australians turned up for the opening day of the historic first Test match against England.

Members and friends joining the tour are asked to assemble at the southern gates of the Adelaide Oval, adjacent to Memorial Drive, at 2 pm. The cost of the tour of the oval and the SACA Museum will be \$8 for members and \$10 for non-members.

## October lecture

# Recalling the war on our doorstep

Military historian and teacher Peter Brune will revive memories of the Kokoda Trail in his talk to the Society in October and will conclude by screening a short film by Damien Parer which won the Academy Award for the best documentary of 1943.

Damien Parer was an Australian photographer who was in Papua with the Australian forces. His pictures became some of the most extraordinary and lasting images of our involvement in World War II.

In July 1942, from a base on the north coast of Papua, Japanese forces advanced south through some of the most difficult terrain in the world by way of a narrow track known as the Kokoda Trail. The Japanese were checked only 50 km as the crow flies from Port Moresby.

In the meantime they attacked from another direction, having landed troops at Milne Bay on the eastern tip of Papua, on 25 August. However, by 6 September the Australian forces had won a convincing victory, marking the first time in the war that the Japanese had been defeated on land.

Then, on 23 September, the Australians began to push the Japanese back along the Kokoda Trail and over the Owen Stanley Range. By late January of the following year Australian AIF and militia together with American troops had recaptured the coastal bases of Buna, Gona and Sanananda. The battles of Milne Bay and the Kokoda Trail marked the turning point in the land war against the Japanese.

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(from page 3)

Peter Brune's lifelong love of military history stemmed from an interest in his father's time as a member of the AIF 7th Division in Tobruk. But he sees military history as more than a record of battles lost and won.

His accounts are not only records of armed conflict but reflect the personal, medical and political aspects that are often overlooked.

His book, *Those Ragged Bloody Heroes*, about the war in Papua first appeared in 1992. It is now in its seventh print run and still selling, much to Peter's delight.

A sequel, *Gona's Gone*, has since appeared and a third book in the series is in the pipeline.

A teacher at Seaford Primary, Mr Brune is finishing his PhD in history at Flinders University with the battles of Buna, Milne Bay and Sanananda as his theme.

But just in case he should become categorised as nothing but a campaign historian, Mr Brune is looking forward to researching the story of Ralph Honner next year for a book on the ten best Australian military commanders for publishers, Allen and Unwin.

*Mr Brune will give his talk – Papua 1942 – on Friday 11 October at the Prince Phillip Lecture Theatre, Prince Alfred College, Kent Town, beginning at 8 pm.*

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### November talk

## A different kind of assimilation

Nick Ganzis, speaker at the Society's November meeting, is a devotee of Greek language, history and literature, and has done much to maintain Hellenic culture in SA.

A lecturer at the University of Adelaide, his research interests include the Greeks both in Australia and in his parents' homeland of Asia Minor. He is currently working on a bilingual history of modern Greece.

Born in Townsville of Greek parents who arrived in Australia as refugees from the Asia Minor disaster of 1922 (CHECK), he was educated at Adelaide High School, Adelaide University and the University of Thessaloniki.

Mr Ganzis believes the Greek people of SA have established an institutional and structural

framework which appears to provide a sound basis for the maintenance and even development of Greek culture. However, despite the change of Australian policy from one of assimilation to one of multiculturalism, the historic and demographic shifts in the State's Greek population, together with its deep institutional conservatism and the overwhelming influence of the dominant Anglo-Celtic-Australian-American culture have produced a situation which is likely to result in assimilation of a nature that may well be very different from that envisaged by the policymakers of the late 1940s and the 1950s.

*Mr Ganzis will give his talk – Greeks in South Australia Prior to World War II – at the Prince Phillip Lecture Theatre, Prince Alfred College, Kent Town, beginning at 8 pm.*

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## Directory of Burra folk

A newly published directory of more than 3,500 men, women and children who lived in the early townships of the Burra Burra mine would be a valuable resource for people researching their family history and for those interested in the early European settlement of SA.

Compiled by Jennifer Carter, the *Burra Directory* records the births, deaths and marriages, as well as the incidents which made up the fabric of everyday life for the German, Cornish, English, Irish and Scots miners and their families.

The book, of 137 A4 pages, is available from the Shalimar Press, PO Box 219, La Trobe University, Victoria 3083, at \$28.50 plus \$3.50 postage and packing.

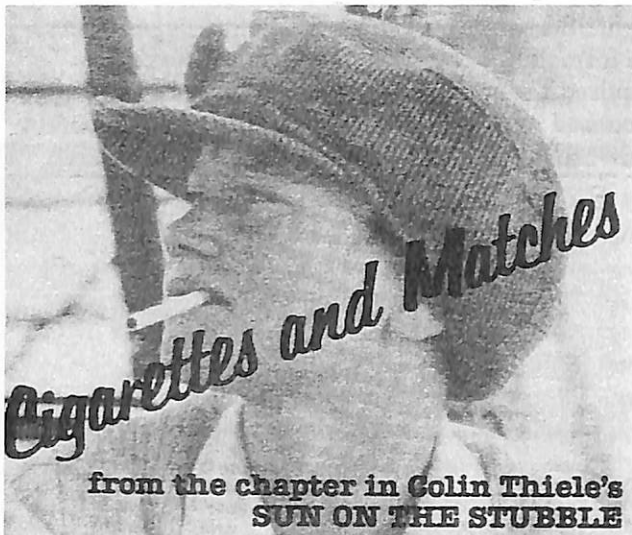
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## Mining history updated

The SA Department of Mines and Energy has updated its published history with a new book by professional historian Bernard O'Neil.

Published to mark the centenary of the creation of the Department of Mines in 1894, it details trends in the SA mining scene from 1944 to 1994 – five decades not covered in Mr O'Neil's earlier work, *In Search of Mineral Wealth*. He makes extensive use of interviews with past and present employees and others central to the department's history as he focuses on individual contributions since 1944.

The history retails for \$39.95 plus \$8 postage and packing within Australia and is available from the Department at PO Box 151, Eastwood, 7597.



The recent miniseries *Sun on the Stubble* on ABC-TV has revived interest in the 1979 film *Cigarettes and Matches* based on a chapter from Colin Thiele's book. A young drama teacher, Jerry Elder, made the short 16mm film with friends and colleagues at Kilburn Primary School. Since then, Jerry Elder has worked on a number of other films and currently he runs the Old Adelaide Photographs service in Gay's Arcade.

## Try history on film for something different

Filmart at 17 Labrina Avenue, Prospect, has films and videos which could interest historical associations looking for something different for their meeting nights.

The material can be reserved for any time and sent to any location and projection services can be organised. Hire terms are negotiable.

Filmart also sells Australian films made for either cinema or television in new or as-new video format (VHS only).

For information and advice about available titles ring David Donaldson on 344 7055 any time. Filmart also has a selection of photographic prints of South Australia from 1910-14.

David Donaldson was the director in the early days of the Sydney Film Festival and still retains his passion for the twin activities of locating films and screening them.

A former TAFE lecturer, David uses film and video in training seminars for local groups. For example, *Fort Ticonderoga* shows how a local community can make current use of an historic site, while *Staying Up Front* uses a trucking case study to analyse the personal, family and business pressures in a small enterprise.

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## Cold comfort revival on Waite campus

A century-old refrigerator and cold room in the basement of Urrbrae House on the Waite campus of the University of Adelaide is again up and running.

The plant is recognised as the country's earliest known application of late 19th century commercial refrigeration practice for domestic use. It was dismantled, refurbished and rebuilt over a period of two years by volunteers from South Australian refrigeration engineering companies and suppliers as a contribution to the development of the Waite historic precinct.

The system was originally installed in 1895 and, according to an early catalogue, was the first domestic contract for Wildridge and Sinclair of Sydney. The original colour-washed layout drawing prepared by the firm survives in the Waite archives.

The ammonia compressor was made by the Linde British Refrigeration Company under the design supervision of German academic and industrialist Professor Carl Linde, who had introduced the ammonia machine in 1876.

The system was originally designed for use on passenger ships and the compressor reflects the transition from steam to electric power. The cast iron bed-plate and crankshaft have provision for the mounting of a steam cylinder to power the machine but in the Waite installation an electric motor and flat belt drive were used. The original 32-volt d.c. motor has disappeared but has been replaced with an a.c. motor c. 1905 that was used to drive another Linde refrigeration compressor in a butcher's shop at Broken Hill.

The plant was recommissioned at the opening of a national conference of the Australian Institute of Refrigeration, Airconditioning and Heating held in Adelaide in April. Its importance was further recognised by a plaque as part of an Australian Institution of Engineers' program that recognises significant historic engineering works and the engineers who created them.

### Welcome to new members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following new members: Mr G. Franklin, Ms L. Height, Miss A. Hoyle, Mr K. Oastler, Mrs B. Wearing, Mr B. van der Wel and Ms A. Woodcock.

## The parklands

# Cultural heritage or cultural problem?

The recent release of the *City of Adelaide Local Agenda 21 Environmental Management Plan* (1996) and controversy over proposals for Victoria Park Racecourse have reopened the debate about the role and purpose of the Adelaide parklands. More particularly, how they fit within the cultural heritage of South Australia.

As a community, we recognise that parklands associated with both Adelaide and numerous country towns are unique to South Australia and derive from the ideas of Colonel William Light and George Woodroffe Goyder. But how they are located within our cultural heritage is unclear. No parkland or parkland town in South Australia has been recognised by the Australian Heritage Commission as being part of Australia's cultural heritage. The Commission recognised the concept of parklands in its enquiry into *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees* (1991) but has made little attempt to consider the significance of parklands to South Australia until the recent *Theoretical Frameworks for Design Landscapes in South Australia* (1996) raised them as a designed cultural landscape unique to this State.

UNESCO (1995) perceives that cultural landscapes fall into three main categories, of which the first is the most relevant here:

- (1) The most easily identifiable is the clearly defined landscape designed and created intentionally by man. This embraces garden and parkland landscapes constructed for aesthetic reasons which are often (but not always) associated with religious or other monumental buildings and ensembles.

This definition raises the problem that a historically or socially significant parkland with clear design intent and purpose is part of our cultural heritage. The dilemma is that by registering a parkland on the State Heritage Register and placing it under the approval umbrella of the Heritage Act 1994 necessitates that any action by a corporation will require State Heritage Branch consent.

It is very hard to dispute that the Adelaide town plan and its associated parkland ring is not of state and national if not world significance. Architectural, planning and landscape architectural historians and critics, ever since Ebenezer Howard used the design in 1902 as a model for his garden city philosophy, have agreed that the design is unique and has international standing.

Light and Kingston variously are attributed with the formation of the design but Gawler expressly acquired the parkland in the name of the Crown as 'a proposed reserve of land for public purposes', thereby endorsing the design and its theoretical concept.

But the parklands hold more significance than simply survey and acquisition. The colonial parliament through the *Municipal Corporation Act* of 1861 required corporations 'to fence or otherwise enclose, level, drain, form walks and carriage drives through and over the parklands', permitted corporations to 'construct dams and reservoirs', and required the City of Adelaide to conserve the parklands 'for the supply of water for the public use'. Parliament restated the public recreational purpose of the parklands. It was under the vision of Sir Edwin Smith that the SA Conservator of Forests, John Ednie Brown, was commissioned to propose a planting design for the parklands in 1880 and the Corporation variously undertook to implement the design and planting strategy – much of which exists in the south and north parklands today. The first planting design, if not landscape design project, in South Australia.

Consequently, the Adelaide parklands hold more significance than simply its survey. The question is how best to protect its cultural design heritage while respecting the dynamic nature of vegetation and landscapes. Placing the parklands on the State Heritage Register may result in more problems than a creative landscape management plan might provide. The *Adelaide 21 Strategy* (1996) has highlighted the necessity for action to reinvigorate the parklands but this needs to be achieved in such a way that permits sensitive and creative recreational opportunities and conserves the historical footprint and interest of the parklands.

The same question and dilemma is equally applicable to all parklands surrounding towns created under the Goyder administration in South Australia between 1861 and 1898.

– (Dr) David S. Jones,  
Senior Lecturer  
(Landscape Architecture),  
University of Adelaide.

## HISTORY SA DEADLINE

The deadline for all material to be submitted for the November 1996 issue of *History SA* is Friday 18 October.

## Booklet to help you hit the river boat trail



A booklet on the remains of paddle steamers, barges and other vessels, and structures related to shipping on the River Murray from the 1850s to the 1940s has been published by the State Heritage Branch.

It serves as a helpful guide to the River Boat Trail, starting at Goolwa and Milang and proceeding upstream through Meningie, Murray Bridge, Mannum, Blanchetown, Morgan and Waikerie to Loxton, Berri and Renmark.

Signs in many of the river towns give historical information and a plan of the adjacent section of river, indicating the locations of historic boats and other sites.

Many of them are cared for by the Heritage Branch and are declared under State legislation as historic sites or historic shipwrecks, in acknowledgment of their role in SA history.

In raising public awareness, the River Boat Trail aims to encourage greater appreciation of their value and encourage support for their conservation.

Copies of the River Boat Trail booklet are available at \$5 a copy from the Natural Resource Information Centre, 77 Grenfell Street, Adelaide (tel. 204 1912); SA Tourism, 1 King William Street, Adelaide, regional tourism centres along the Murray and regional offices of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. For more information about historic boats and sites along the river call the State Heritage Branch on 204 9111.

## Wreck was truly 'Pandora's box'

The 'reconstruction' of the wreck of the 18th century British warship *HMS Pandora* is the subject of a fascinating exhibition at the Maritime Museum, Port Adelaide, until 27 October.

The *Pandora* was a 24-gun frigate which the British Admiralty sent into the South Pacific to locate the *Bounty* and bring to justice the mutineers who had seized her and cast Captain Bligh adrift.

Fourteen of the mutineers were captured in Tahiti after the arrival of the *Pandora* in March 1791. They were locked in a makeshift prison erected on the quarterdeck and referred to as 'Pandora's box'.

After a fruitless search around several other islands in the area for the remaining mutineers, Captain Edwards decided to head back to England. While sailing westward, the *Pandora* ran aground on 29 August 1791 was holed in the uncharted waters of the Great Barrier Reef, where she sank. Thirty-one crew and four mutineers perished.

The *Pandora* lay undisturbed and largely forgotten for almost 200 years until her discovery in 1977. Then began an exciting era in Australian maritime archaeology.

The Queensland Museum has been excavating and researching the ship since 1982, bringing to light evidence of how men lived and the hardships they experienced on a late 18th century naval vessel. Her voyage and subsequent events are uncovered in log books and diaries, sketches and maps, official accounts and published stories.

## New in the Mortlock

An account of the Cornish in South Australia and a report on *Anookanilla*, the former vice-regal residence in Victor Harbor, are among recent acquisitions to the Mortlock Library.

There is also an account of the overland telegraph line 1870-72 published by the Institution of Engineers and *No Need to be Afraid*, a history of Italian settlers in South Australia by Desmond O'Connor.

The archival collection now has material relating to Captain Charles Harvey Bagot and his family and papers and personal effects of Dr John Bray, including illuminated addresses, legal opinions, typescripts of proceedings, and ceremonial dress. (More on page 16)

## 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.

Because of pressure on space in *History SA*, from this issue on we will only publish events relating to specific dates and not collections, museums, historic houses, etc. and so on that are open regularly throughout the year.

**Until 27 October:** Exhibition of finds from the wreck of an 18th century British warship: *Pandora: piecing together the puzzle*. Maritime Museum, 126 Lipson St, Port Adelaide, 10 am-5 pm.

**16 September:** Dr Leith MacGillivray, *Exploring Naracoorte and Penola*, introduction to Burnside Historical Society trip planned for October. Burnside Community Centre, 8 pm.

**16 September:** Constitutional Foundation Centenary Forum, *The Bill of Rights*. Institute Building, Kintore Ave, 6.30 pm.

**18 September:** Peter Moore, *History of Largs Bay Sailing Club*. Port Adelaide Historical Society at the club, north of Largs Pier Hotel, Esplanade, Largs Bay (this meeting only), 8 pm.

**19 September:** Royal Geographical Society of SA Brock Lecture, Rod Cramer, *The Calvert Reenactment*. Institute Building, Kintore Ave, 7.30 pm.

**21 September:** Oral History Workshop. State Library, North Terrace, 9.30 am-4.30 pm. Enquiries to Beth Robertson, 207 7349.

**21-22 September:** State History Conference, *Ripping Yarns: history and story telling*, State History Centre, Edmund Wright House, King William St. Enquiries and bookings to Claire West, 226 8555.

**22 September:** Uniting Church Historical Society history walk through North Adelaide. From Christ Church, Jeffcott St, 2 pm.

**25 September:** John Campbell on *Lochend*, Campbelltown. Enfield and Districts Historical Society, Enfield Community Centre, 7.45 pm.

**25 September:** SA Genealogy and Heraldry Society AGM. 201 Unley Rd, Unley, 7.45 pm.

**29 September:** Salisbury Historical Society tour to Victor Harbor. From Folk Museum, Ann St, Salisbury, 8.30 am. Bookings to June, 250 3258.

**3-4 October:** Cultural Heritage Conference. Lincoln

College, 45 Brougham Place, North Adelaide. Enquiries to Dr Helen MacDonald, Philosophy Department, Flinders University, 201 3198.

**4 Oct.-24 Nov.:** *Wings in the South* exhibition with log books and other memorabilia of famous SA aviators, including Sir Ross Smith and Sir Keith Smith. State Library, North Tce.

**4 Oct.-8 Dec.:** National Museum exhibition, *The Rubbery Years*, Peter Nicholson's cartoons and rubbery figures of people and events of the past 15 years. Edmund Wright House, King William St, Tues. - Sat., 10 am-4 pm.

**6-7 October:** *Spring Symphony*, an exhibition featuring costumes, music and colonial dancers. Old Government House, Belair National Park, 10 am-4 pm.

**10 October:** Campbelltown Historical Society dinner, Community Centre, 2 Newton Rd, Campbelltown, 8 pm.

**11-13 October:** Burnside Historical Society tour to Naracoorte and Penola. Enquiries to Alan Cross 333 2748.

**16 October:** Oral History Association of Australia (SA) meeting. History Trust rooms, Institute Building, Kintore Ave, 7.30 pm.

**17 October:** Dr Greg Holland, *The Aerosonde and Other Projects*, Royal Geographical Society dinner meeting, 5.30 pm.

**11 October:** Peter Brune, *Papua 1942*. Historical Society of SA, Prince Phillip Theatre, Prince Alfred College, Kent Town, 8 pm.

**20 October:** Historical Society of SA tour of Adelaide Oval and SACA Museum

**21 October:** Dr Helen Jones, *Discovering Women in SA History*. Burnside Historical Society, Burnside Community Centre, 8 pm.

**21-24 October:** Royal Geographical Society tour of Kangaroo Island. Enquiries 207 7265.

**25-28 October:** The rooms of Ayers House, North Terrace, decorated with roses for the Australian Rose Festival, 10 am-4 pm.

**26-27 October:** Local history conference, *History: rites, rights and writings*. Kinross Wolaroi School, Orange. Enquiries to Mari Metzke, Royal Australian Historical Society, History House, 133 Macquarie St, Sydney, 2000. Tel. (02) 247 8001, fax (02) 247 7854.

**1 November:** Nicholas Ganzis, Senior Lecturer in History, University of Adelaide, *Greeks in South Australia Prior to World War II*. Historical Society of SA, Prince Alfred College, Prince Phillip Theatre, Kent Town, 8 pm.

**2-3 November:** Victorian garden and heritage rose display, Old Government House, Belair, 11 am-5 pm.

**12 November:** Campbelltown Historical Society meeting, 2 Newton Rd, Campbelltown, 8 pm.

**20 November:** Mayor Stock of Port Adelaide/Enfield on the amalgamation of this new council area. Port Adelaide Historical Society meeting, Semaphore Library, 4 Semaphore Rd, Semaphore, 8 pm.

**21 November:** Borvin Krackman, *The MFP's Contribution to the Adelaide Community*. Royal Geographical Society dinner meeting, 5.30 pm.

**23-24 November:** Victoriana Fair, Yankalilla. Enquiries to Valerie Lillington, 085 58 2501.

**27 November:** Michael Moran, *Design and Material Use in Headstones is 1836-1936 in the Copper Triangle, Barossa Valley and Fleurieu Peninsula*. Genealogy and Heraldry Society, 201 Unley Rd, Unley, 7.45 pm.

## Yankalilla celebrates in Victorian style

One hundred and sixty years of settlement at Yankalilla is being celebrated in high Victorian style over the weekend of 23-24 November.

Everyone is being urged to attend in appropriate costume begged, borrowed, hired or left over from the State's sesquicentenary of 1986 or the national bicentenary of 1988.

And if all those possibilities fail, Sylvia Green is running classes for making Victorian-style costumes (tel. 085 58 2640).

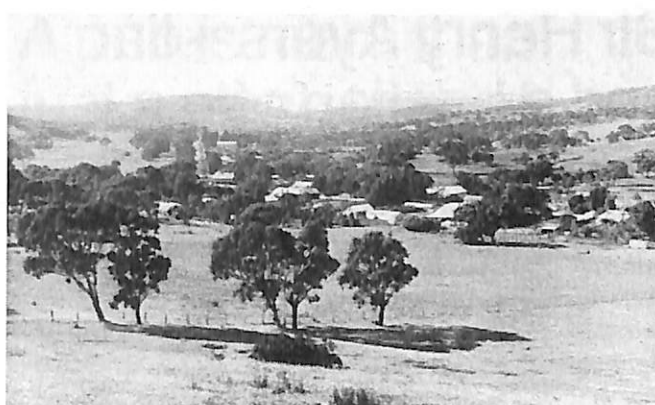
The festivities start with an old time music hall on Friday night, 22 November, with Claire Leahy as manager, and a bush dance compered by Bob Magor.

From 10 am Saturday all the halls and ovals along the length of the main road from Yankalilla to Normanville and the beach will be alive with displays, demonstrations, entertainment, stalls and purveyors of food recalling the Victorian times.

There will be a sandcastle competition on the beach and everywhere people will feel they have stepped back in time.

On Saturday night there will be a grand masked ball – wear Victorian ball costume with a mask or fancy dress suitable to the time. – and a repeat of the old time music hall.

Sunday will be another full day of different kinds of entertainment.



Yankalilla township in 1924 (State History Centre photo)

For visitors wanting to stay overnight there is a wide range of accommodation available, ranging from camp sites to hotel rooms. Call the Victoriana Fair convener/secretary, Valerie Lillington, for a list, tel. 085 582501.

Valerie would also like to hear from people who would like to participate by having a stall, putting on an entertainment, or arranging a display or demonstration. Volunteers are also needed both now and over the weekend to help with the organisation.

## Essential reference for oral historians

The NSW branch of the Oral History Association has published a book listing published works based on oral histories as well as works on oral history method and theory.

Compiled by Jane Wilton, *Oral History in Australia – a list* could be a place where people could begin an involvement in oral history, a checklist for people already involved, and a survey of the range of oral history activities in Australia.

Ms Wilton says in her introduction, 'The concern ... is to provide examples of the different ways in which oral histories have been used to inform and shape history making, community arts' products and other documentary and creative endeavours.'

The list will be updated and Ms Wilton urges oral historians to let her know of publications which may have been admitted from the first edition.

The price to OHAA members is \$10 and \$12.50 a copy for non-members. Both prices include postage and packing. Orders should be sent to the OHAA (NSW), c/- Oral History Program, State Library of New South Wales, Macquarie Street, Sydney, 2000. For more information call Rosemary Black (02) 230 1697.

## Sir Henry Ayers – liar and a bastion of the propertied class?

*Historians and biographers have all but extolled universally the public service proffered by Sir Henry Ayers to South Australia and present him as a statesman and munificent benefactor, but Geoffrey Manning believes that many newspaper comments from both the public and newspaper editors during Ayers' lifetime suggest a different story may be waiting to be told.*

The following opinions are presented as a random, unbiased selection and it must be noted that none of them are appreciative of either the late Sir Henry's alleged perspicacity or pretensions to bonhomie.

In 1848 he was accused of 'grinding the faces of the poor' when, as Secretary of the Burra Mining Co., he upbraided the local mine manager and accused that worthy of being a fool to pay ore dressers 30 shillings a week – 'If you cannot procure men at 21 shillings I will send you as many as you require, for there are hundreds of men starving in Adelaide ...'

The editor of the *Register* made the following comments on 8 October 1869, p. 2f:

It was said, among other unpleasant things, that the Ayers' ministry had been 'hardly more successful as critics than as constructors'. Their Treasurer has given us posthumous evidence that the remark was far more true than we could have ventured to suspect.

### Put power before conviction

A correspondent to the *Register* on 28 December 1875 at page 5e opined:

After watching (his) career for many years I have come to the conclusion that he has always been a waiter upon other people's enterprises, having as far as is publicly known never done anything to assist in developing the resources of SA. So also in politics, he is a waiter upon other people's ideas ... like most men of detail, he is deficient in any work requiring originality of thought, or boldness of conception ... As to land reform, anyone who has studied our Parliamentary proceedings must know that Sir Henry Ayers held out against liberalising our system until resistance was no longer possible if he would win or retain office, and then life-long convictions gave way to love of power ... (also see *Register*, 30 December 1875, p. 6b.)

This expressed opinion is given further credence, for on 14 June 1876, page 5f, another correspondent, under the heading 'Hansard – a cure for sciatica', said:

I laid my hand on Hansard and began to read the speeches of Sir Henry Ayers to satisfy myself of his consistency and in less than 20 minutes was comfortably asleep. I slept fully six hours, so powerful had been the dose; result – sciatica all but gone and I am now quite free from the plague. It has been spitefully said that Sir Henry Ayers is not a consistent man, but this is a libel. Hansard proves the very reverse of this. It is therein shown that during the whole of his career he has ably and consistently opposed every move forward, every progressive tendency, until the exigencies of office have compelled him to respect public opinion ... He has told us that public opinion must be totally disregarded when the question affects the propertied class ...

Had the Legislative Council not been blinded by their overweening conceit they would have seen, when the Bill was before them, how necessary were the (land) transmission clauses to prevent a possible or even probably injustice being done ... yet the Council, led on by Sir Henry Ayers, poohpooed the whole thing ... Without their opposition the law would have been altered to meet the case in point ... (*Advertiser*, 25 February 1876, p. 2f)

If they read (his) speech ... they will rise from the process with an unsatisfied feeling. He has stated very little that they can understand, that is worth understanding, and, as a matter of fact, very little which will help them ... He has told them much indeed that they did not know before, and much more than they will care to receive at his hands when they understand the full force of his benevolent intentions on their behalf. His speech was evasive in all its moods and tenses ... what the country has got is a baby of Sir Henry Ayers, which can neither walk nor talk, nor be brought into any useful condition by its nurses ... his only wish is to make the Bill workable. If it ever becomes so his share in it will be very small indeed. With all his ingenuity ... he has only succeeded in spoiling it ... the ill-considered mash ... owes its present state to Sir Henry Ayers himself. (*Advertiser*, 21 September 1876, p. 4d)

We deem it most pernicious that one man should have such an all-powerful sway over either branch of the legislature as Sir Henry has acquired, and in proportion to the strength of his position and the extent to which it was abused, was necessarily the vigour with which an

independent Press exposed and discussed such a disastrous condition of things. As a private member, Sir Henry Ayers, if he chooses, can be of some service to the country and may to some extent make atonement for his past errors. (*Advertiser*, 26 July 1977, p. 4e)

#### 'Untruthful statements'

On 8 March 1877 at page 6a the *Register* reproduced a letter from James P. Boucaut protesting against Sir Henry Ayers' untruthful statements, while on 9 March 1877 at page 6b it was said:

The sooner the present government gets out of office the better for the working class and the country at large ... Sir Henry Ayers ought to lose (his seat) ... let's have some better men in ... not men who profess one thing and do another; we have had enough of them ...

The editor of the *Register* on 18 July 1877 at page 4e offered the opinion that:

Unless different tactics are speedily adapted he will find his co-members in such open revolt that he will be utterly unable to carry on the business of government ... and will be forced into an ignominious retirement from the leadership of the Council – a position for which he has of late shown so little aptitude.

Again, on 22 August 1877, at page 4b, the editor said:

(He) is capable of descending to a lower deep of political juggling than the lowest deep which it was thought he had reached.

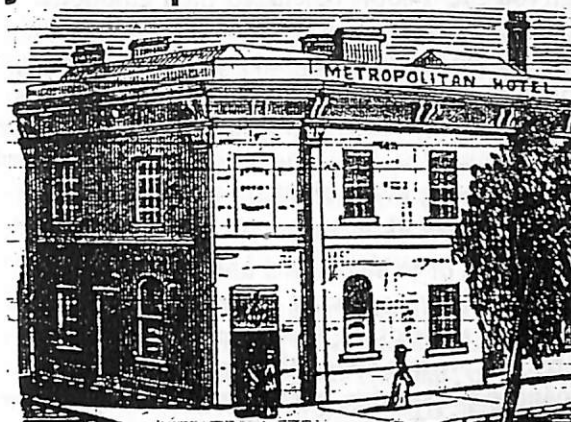
A concerned voter informed the *Register* on 25 August 1877 at page 7b that in his opinion Sir Henry Ayers had:

Not been true to any principle he started with, except that the labouring classes shall pay the taxes and property go free.

The editor of the *Register* again expressed concern at Sir Henry's apparent self-interest and lack of political aptitude – see September 1877, page 4d:

We are constrained to come to the conclusion that he is only glorying in his shame when he in effect boasts that he has been for the last twenty-one years what he is today ... We are afraid Sir Henry Ayers will require only a very small piece of paper upon which to inscribe all the work originated and carried out by himself for the good of the country. (author's emphasis)

## A pub is more than just a place to drink



Last year you may have read my mini-histories of individual hotels in the city of Adelaide, of which there are many more to come. In the meantime, I thought it timely to give an overview of hotel history. In 1992 a version of it was published in the Australian Hotel Association's monthly magazine now known as *Hotel SA*.

The social history of pubs in South Australia is rich and diverse but considering how important the pub has been in South Australian society, there are very few substantial histories to delve into. For some time I have been filling the gap by researching into this area and collecting material with a view to future publication. In this article I will write of some background information regarding numbers of hotels at given times and of the services and happenings found at Adelaide's pubs from 1837.

Adelaide's official date of settlement was December 1836 and by the following year it could boast 14 pubs. By 1846 this had increased to 63. With the success of the gold rushes in other colonies the total number of pubs was 100 in 1854. Strangely, it took nearly another 50 years to peak at 128 in 1900. As the city population declined from 43,000 people after 1915, so did the number of pubs. There are now less than half that total left operating in the city today, with only 64. Thirty-six are in the West End, 17 in the East End and 11 in North Adelaide. The city lost several recently when the Oriental became a back packers' hostel and the Earl of Zetland was demolished a few months ago. It is quite possible that more could lose their licences in the city and worse still, be demolished.

Pubs, as with churches, can be viewed as one of the most important places in British and Australian society. Think about it, you could go along to the

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local vicar or priest and have a chat about your problems, but for many the publican was held in just as high esteem. People discussed their emotional and financial problems down at the local with the publican or the barmaid. Pubs were generally cosy, friendly and a place where one met one's friends, or made new work contacts and contracts. It was a place for entertainment, a drink and a bite to eat. If none of these things were available there was not much point going there at all.

Until recently, or to be precise, until pokies were legalised, pubs were having a particularly stressful time, as was most of the hospitality trade. But the industry has always coped through difficult times and managed to survive, even though some places are lost on the way. To stay solvent, pubs have always had to be up with the prevailing trend whatever it may be – poker machines, karaoke, rock bands, topless waitresses or specialty food. Some pubs survive simply because they may be the only one in a certain area or may be servicing a regular local clientele such as in a tiny country town without any competition. Very recently, on Saturday 4 May 1996, the Tivoli Hotel in Pirie Street was the first pub to put its concerts on the Internet, thus demonstrating that for most pubs, to be in the forefront of the trend is to catch the trade. As I will now explain, nothing has really changed since 1837.

What follows are some of the happenings found at city pubs since 1837. Some of them have had several name changes and many more have long ceased to exist, but in this article all those mentioned are or were in the city of Adelaide.

#### Turtle soup or tripe supper

Food of course is most important and the pubs have always provided it in some form. For most of the 19th century, many pubs provided what was known as 'an ordinary', which was literally an ordinary lunch to be had from noon each day. Some had weekly 'free and easys' which included food and entertainment in the form of singing, pianos and violins, usually around 7pm. Food such as real turtle soup was to be had in 1850 at the Exchange Hotel in Hindley Street, while more humbly, a tripe supper was on the menu at the Black Swan (now the Centralia), on North Terrace in 1851, if that was your fancy.

Although pubs were never much larger than about eight rooms until after the 1850s, many provided balls and dinners which were accommodated, it seems without difficulty, at such places as the Adelaide Tavern, the Royal Oak and the Heart and

Hand in 1838. The Royal Admiral could claim to seat over 100 in its dining room in 1839. In 1873 the Blenheim (now the Tattersalls) boasted an ice-cream and a soda water apparatus. Several pubs such as Coltmans in 1839 and Mr Deacon's on North Terrace in 1837 provided a coffee house-like atmosphere. In case you're wondering, the first gay pub was the Exchange Hotel towards the end of the 1930s and the wonderful old 'South', the South Australian, was the second.

#### Lotteries popular

Grand lotteries throughout the 1840s were popular, as they are now. For a guinea you could take part in an exclusive lottery in which usually no more than a 100 tickets were sold. Prizes were for a solid gold watch, jewellery or a work of art. Lotteries such as these were held at the Adelaide Hotel in 1838, the Temple Tavern in 1846 and the Red Lion in 1853.

Exotic animals were a sure drawcard and at the Union Hotel, Waymouth Street, in June 1849, you could pay a shilling to see a rare black tiger and, for free, you could see 'a guyutici' at the Napoleon Hotel in 1853, but I haven't yet discovered what kind of animal that was. In Port Adelaide monkeys and parrots were common, having been acquired from sailors. There was even a baby elephant, brought from the gold-fields, that was owned by three different pub owners in the early 1850s. It sadly died of neglect at Gawler.

Pubs offered all kinds of services such as transport. You could catch a coach from the Rising Sun in Kensington to the Red Lion in Rundle Street for 6d in 1849. From the Sydney Hotel in 1840 a fly wagon on market days even went as far as Oxenbury Farm at Willunga. The Royal Admiral in 1854 provided transport twice daily to and from Port Adelaide for 2/- outside or 3/- travelling within the coach. From the Sydney Hotel in 1840 a hearse could be provided or a funeral organised anywhere in South Australia.

What is a pub without its indoor games? The Victoria in Hindley Street offered a billiard room, the Devon Arms (later the Earl of Aberdeen) in 1853 and the Horse and Jockey in 1854 provided skittles and quoits. At the Rainbow in Victoria Square in 1845 there was a racquet and fives court and in the same year the Napoleon in King William Street had an American bowling alley. The Tivoli, which catered for a German local clientele in Pirie Street, throughout the 19th century, had a German bowling alley known as 'Torming'. The Colonel Light (now known as the Heritage Hotel) provided circus-type acts in its notorious entertainment hall from 1869

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when the notorious Samuel Boddington took it over (see *History SA*, May 1996.)

In 1849 the Joiners Arms in Franklin Street, once called the Bush Club, acted as a job agency with a register for men looking for work in the building industry. Any man could add his name to the list.

Apart from all the wonderful things you could do at the city pubs there were a lot of other things that happened at them which are worth a mention. For some reason, pubs were favourite places for suicides, murders and fires. What follows is only a sample.

In 1860 at the Young Queen, one person slashed his throat. This happened also at the London Hotel in 1870 and the Newmarket in 1880. A throat-slashing suicide in the parlor at the Rob Roy in 1870 was described as a 'frightful spectacle'. At the recently demolished Somerset Arms in Pulteney Street, suicide was by laudanum in 1880. Strychnine was used by Dorothea Gors, wife of the landlord at the Aurora Hotel in 1860. Female servants and barmaids seduced by publicans or their sons were not unknown to hide foetuses down the privy. Murders happened too, such as at the Adelaide Hotel in 1865, when Bridget Astley was murdered by her publican husband. At the Golden Rule in Pirie Street in 1906 a wife took an axe to her husband. In 1969 the lady publican of the Exeter Hotel, Mrs Josephs, was murdered by her barman who had only recently migrated from England. After serving his sentence, he was deported.

Fires were frequent and there were several in a short time at the Supreme Court Hotel in 1898. Other fires were at the Cumberland Arms in September 1886, the Colonel Light in December 1905, the Royal Oak in May 1885, the Shakespeare in January 1901 and the Criterion in May 1903. One wife who obviously didn't like her husband or his pub, the Earl of Aberdeen, set it alight four times in 1880. As can be seen, a pub is more than a place to drink. In future articles, perhaps I will look at how they were built, what else went on in them, as well as at some of the interesting people who either ran them, drank in them or stayed in them.

– Patricia Sumerling (c)  
August 1996

#### References

Coroners' Reports, McLellan, J. *Adelaide's Early Inns and Taverns*, c. 1941; Mortlock Library of SA (MLSA) PRG 195 McLellan's Hotel collection; MLSA D5522 (misc); JL (Bob) Hoad, *Hotels and Publicans in South Australia*, 1986; The late John Lee, a Sydney gay historian gave information about the gay hotels in Adelaide; the many events happening at the pubs came from SA newspapers too many to list individually.

## Piecing together the school at Grassy Flat

Every now and then some historical records survive in spite of someone's better (or poorer) judgment. Some years ago a trunk of East Torrens records were rescued from the local dump by an observant resident. The records had been stored for many years in an iron shed at the rear of the old council chambers. When this structure was demolished the trunk and its contents went off to the rubbish tip.

Amongst the bundles of correspondence were papers relating to the building of a school at Grassy Flat in 1868-69 (Grassy Flat is about 1km east of Norton Summit). Stories regarding the early school at Norton Summit have been confusing and as the building no longer exists, it was difficult to ascertain with any certainty what site these papers related to. The mystery was largely solved by Mrs Olive Golder of Teringie, whose family owned the old Grassy Flat school from 1930. She made a sketch of the house's floor plan and it matched that in the documentation. All this only took six years!

This then is the story the papers relate.

The first school at Norton (originally Norton's) Summit was in the home of the teacher Mrs Mary Norton at Grassy Flat, Welbourne Gully (pt Section 1111). Mrs Norton started a school in about 1853 and ran it from her home and the Grassy Flat Chapel. Mrs Norton was well-educated and it is believed that she was a governess in England to the Hack family, a Quaker family prominent in the early years of the colony of South Australia.

Mary Norton retired from teaching in February 1868. The need for a public school at Norton Summit was raised with the Education Board Office by Thomas Playford, Chairman of the District Council of East Torrens, in November 1865. The secretary of the board, Edward Wickes, indicated its support. The cost of the new schoolhouse and residence was put at £380, of which half would need to be raised locally.

It was only after Mrs Norton's resignation that plans were made for the new school. Tenders were called for the new residence and later the schoolhouse, so it is probable that the Grassy Flat Chapel continued to be used as the schoolhouse.

A site in Welbourne Gully was favoured as the new location, not far removed from Mrs Norton's property. Public subscriptions were called for and by January 1869, 29 subscribers had promised £39/1/- and John

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Baker of Morialta had renewed his promise of 1865 to donate £25. The extant papers do not reveal how the balance was achieved. The largest donors apart from Baker were Thomas Playford and Wm J. Turner.

Things moved quickly from here. Tenders for the residence were called in early September and the following were received:

Samuel Nation, Woodforde £144/1/-  
D.R. Jones, Stepney £144/13/10  
Wm B. Martin, Magill £198/19/-  
John Anderson, Ashton £152/10/-  
David Deans, Lower Mitcham £153/5/-  
Thomas Hill & Wm Yeatman £168/10/-

The tender from Samuel Nation was accepted by the District Council on 8 September 1868 and the building was completed by the middle of December.

Tenders for the schoolhouse were called in May 1869. The tender of Thomas Hill and William Yeatman for £169/15/- was accepted with work to be completed by the middle of August. Mr Hill wrote to the Council on 19 August stating that the work was done and requested that 'Mr Playford and the D.C. inspect it'.

A floor plan for the residence exists (and a rough copy of the specifications and plan in Thomas Playford's hand), but none for the schoolhouse. The residence was a four-roomed stone building with timber shingles on the roof. The schoolhouse comprised a single room, also built of stone, and it may have had a timber kitchen attached. The kitchen is not mentioned in the specifications; it may have been built at the same time as the two rooms share a common fireplace.

Following Mrs Norton's resignation, the position of teacher was advertised and five applications were received:

John Osborn, Adelaide  
Thomas Carling, Harrogate  
Samuel Davie, Burton School, Salisbury  
Samuel Reynell, Hamilton  
Thomas Chartres, Kensington

The position was offered to John Osborn but he declined, having another position at Golden Grove. Samuel Reynell accepted the posting with his sister-in-law, Miss Wilson, as his assistant. Reynell was a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, and had some excellent references. He took up the position in April 1869 but only remained at Grassy Flat until the end of the year.

Council advertised for a replacement in February

1870 and received four applications:

J.L. Morris, Buchsfelde, via Gawler  
Joseph B. Berry, Stirling East  
Thomas Guy Vaughton  
W.J. Hipwell, Lyndoch

The papers do not reveal who was appointed.

The Grassy Flat school land was transferred from the Council to the Council of Education under the Education Act in March 1876.

Little has yet been researched regarding later teachers at Grassy Flat but it is known that Thomas Kennedy was appointed on 4 April 1881.

It would appear that by 1905 conditions had deteriorated at the school. There were four reports in 1905 regarding insanitary conditions and in April 1907 the head teacher's family had diphtheria.

The District Council was offered a site for a new school in November 1907 for a reasonable £100. The offer came from the ever-supporting Thomas Playford.

The new school (on pt Section 1082) was built during 1908 and comprised two classrooms and a residence. A further classroom was added in 1912 and the school was extended again in 1922 and 1936, the last extension being a wood-working room. The Norton Summit School still operates from its hilltop position and is an important part of the local community.

What of the Grassy Flat School? Its fate after 1908 is not known with any certainty, but some years later it was leased from the Education Department by the Methodist Mission and used as a chapel. The church did not have a resident preacher but visiting preachers came from Adelaide to take services.

It was then used as a private residence by William Hank and his family. In 1930 it was leased by Mrs Eliza Collins (nee Mason) and her family lived there for the next 26 years. The last residents were Mr and Mrs Barry Dearman. The building was vacant until it was demolished in about 1971 following a further change of ownership.

The original Norton house has also been demolished. The only tangible link with the early days of schooling at Norton Summit is the ruins of the Grassy Flat Chapel (which also has close links with the Rev. Thomas Playford) in the Grassy Flat cemetery.

Sources: D.C. of East Torrens records; Mrs Olive Golder; Mrs Nancy Baldock; GRG 18/1/1905/6 & 137; GRG 18/1/1906/45,244 & 289; GRG 19/1/1907/56.

- Geoffrey Bishop (c.)  
August 1996

To the editor

## What chance of history repeating itself?

Following is the Bathurst Federal Convention report of 1896 reprinted from the *Register* of 18 January 1897 (p. 6). It would be nice to think that history could repeat itself and that 'the great body of the people' will, once again, be given an opportunity to express its views on the federal/republican issue.

It is interesting to note that this People's Convention had five years to make what I consider to be some very sensible amendments to the 1891 Draft Bill; e.g. the right to elect the Senate and the statement that,

It is admitted by all that to entrust any Government with funds over and above the amount necessary for its expenses is unwise, the existence of a large surplus being always liable to cause extravagance and to lead to unjustifiable expenditure.

The way current politicians seem to be going about giving themselves the power to decide what they think the voters want – without any debate – doesn't give the people any chance to make sensible amendments or to instil safeguards as happened 100 years ago.

As a descendant of Sir Henry Parkes (on my mother's side), I'd like to offer a referendum suggestion: that the people decide what we are going to pay the politicians and to put strict controls on how they spend taxpayers' money.

What do readers think?

– Kath Crilly,  
Glenelg.

### The *Register* report

Mr Thomas Machattie, President of the People's Federal Convention held in Bathurst last November, writes expressing the hope that all the metropolitan daily newspapers in Australia will publish to-day a letter which he forwards, so that a simultaneous appeal may be addressed to the public on the federation question.

Two changes in the Draft Bill of 1891 emphasized the opinion of the People's Convention that so far as possible, the Government of the new Commonwealth should be kept in the hands of those who had given practical proof of their devotion to Australian interests. The term of citizenship making a man eligible for election to the Senate was fixed at ten instead of five years, and for election to the House of

Representatives at five instead of three years. Whilst suggesting these changes as safeguards to Australian interests, the Convention showed itself fully alive to the importance of the Imperial connection. By an almost unanimous vote a resolution taking the appointment of the Governor General out of the hands of the Queen and providing for his choice by popular ballot was negatived. In many other ways the delegates assembled took care to show their appreciation of the benefits which Australia receives through being under the protecting aegis of the greatest Empire in the world.

'Whilst making no concessions to an untimely and ill-advised Republicanism, the Convention was actuated by a thoroughly democratic spirit.

'After a lengthy debate, the mode for the appointment of the Senate provided by the 1891 Draft Bill (viz. choice by the various Senate Parliaments) was disapproved of, and an amendment suggested giving the great body of the people the power to elect the Senate.

'The financial clauses of the 1891 Draft Bill were altogether remodelled. Perhaps no portion of the work of the great National Convention over which the late Sir Henry Parkes presided was so much criticised as that embodying provisions for the garnering and spending of the federal revenue. The Bill provided for the collection by the federal authority of a revenue far in excess of any possible requirements, and for the distribution of the surplus in a manner which many condemned as unfair. It is admitted by all that to entrust any Government with funds over and above the amount necessary for its expenses is unwise, the existence of a large surplus being always liable to cause extravagance and to lead to unjustifiable expenditure.

'The Bathurst Convention approved of a scheme by which the federal revenue and the federal expenditure would almost exactly balance. That the basis of Australian federation should be as large and complete as possible – that it should provide for the creation of a real Australian nation, not a mere makeshift Government liable to be vexed and thwarted at every turn – was the emphatic opinion of the Bathurst Convention. Better no federation at all than a semi-impotent one, to which every jarring incident would threaten disruption – that was the spirit actuating its resolutions.

The Draft Bill of 1891 was therefore amended in many ways to make federation more real and complete. The control of the railways, a power left in the hands of the State by the National

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Convention, was by the Bathurst body recommended to be vested in the Federal Government. At the same time, whilst declaring for the handing over to the central authority of every function necessary for its maintenance as a dignified and complete Power, nothing that would trench on the rights of the constituting States was recommended. A worthy and powerful federation, States perfectly autonomous as regards their own affairs – these were the two ideals aimed at. It will rest with the people, and with the people's representatives at the Statutory Convention, to declare how far those ideals have been realized by the amendments made to the Draft Bill of 1891 by the People's Convention of 1896. I may express the hope that the report of the proceedings of the Convention, which has been prepared and will shortly be published, will be of service to the members of the Statutory Convention. It now remains only to congratulate the promoters and members of the Convention on the success of the work they have done for the good of the great national policy, and to urge upon the electors of the Australian Colonies that they still further carry on the movement and by their lively interest in the subject and by a judicious selection of the members of the Statutory Convention, bring the great idea of unity to a successful consummation.'

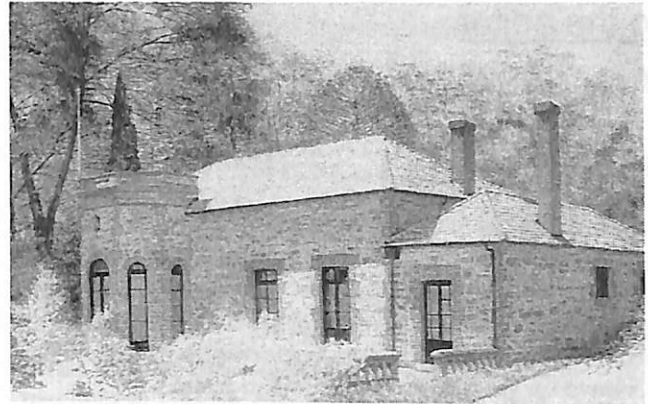
## Old Govt House to celebrates with Spring Symphony

The servants quarters at Old Government House, Belair, have been treated for salt damp; the inside walls have been plastered and painted; drainage work has been undertaken to protect the stone walls, and the contents have been refurbished – all in all a cause for celebration.

And celebration there will be. The building is again open to the public and on the Sunday and Monday of the October long weekend, from 10 am to 4 pm, the friends of Old Government House will present a *Spring Symphony* in the house and grounds.

In each room of Old Government House itself (pictured) Kay Goldsmith and Deborah McKeown will display appropriate costumes dating from the period 1860-80, when the house was used by the State Governors as a summer residence.

Helen Scarborough, of Mitcham Historical Society, will prepare another display of costumes in the



Old Government House – a hills residence where the vice-regal family could escape the heat and dust of the city.

servants quarters.

Outside, the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra under Mike Kenny will perform on Sunday 6 October and on Monday 7 October *Die Lustige Kapelle*, or the Fun Band, will play. Colonial dancers will entertain on both days. There will also be a trading table, a raffle and food suitable for light lunches.

Entrance to the house and garden is \$4 (\$3 concession) and use of the car park costs \$3.

The mid-Victorian garden and its heritage roses will be open for viewing from 11 am-5 pm on Saturday and Sunday, 2-3 November, as part of the Australian Rose Festival. The roses represent an authentic collection of those grown in England in the latter half of the 19th century. They include species roses and early forms and hybrids from Europe, the Middle East, China and North America.

There will be musical entertainment by the Melodians and the Flute Society during the afternoon of both days.

(picture from Page and Ingpen, 'Colonial South Australia', Boronia, 1985)

## More from the Mortlock

As well as the acquisitions noted on page 7 of this issue, the Mortlock Library has received more material from former State Governor, Dame Roma Mitchell, including speeches, letters, discussion papers and a transcript of her valedictory address.

Among other recent additions are *Those Ragged Bloody Heroes: from the Kokoda Trail to Gona Beach* published by Allen & Unwin in 1992 and written by Peter Brune, speaker at the Historical Society's October meeting, and *Schoolbells Ringing*, about early schools in Port Adelaide. Written by Errol Chinner, this is a recent publication of Hourglass Books, Port Adelaide.