

HIS SA *istory*

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Arts emphasis launches lively program for 1997

There is an emphasis on the arts in the Society's 1997 program, especially in the early part of the year.

The first of the lectures, in February, will be given by Hamish Angas on early Adelaide theatres. Hamish works with the State Heritage Branch.

In March, Dr Peter Heyson, grandson of South Australia's best loved artist Hans Heyson, will talk on the preservation of his grandfather's home and works.

To link with Peter Heyson's talk the Society will have a field trip to 'The Cedars', the artist's former home and studio at Hahndorf.

It is music's turn in April when Barry Rowney will talk on the pipe organs of South Australia. Barry is an organist himself, as well as being a heritage architect and lecturer.

Then there is cinema in September, with Dylan Walker detailing the history of film censorship in SA from 1917 to 1929.

Also on the year's program is a quiz night for fund-raising and fun. ABC radio's Carol Whitelock will host what promises to be a great night out. The questions will be on a mix of general knowledge and matters specifically South Australian.

The recent controversy over the possible sale of some of the land surrounding Carrick Hill will no doubt be recalled when the property's acting director, Christine Finnimore, will talk on 'The Art of Selling Land' in May.

Many will want to know the answer to the question being raised by Peter Morton in his June lecture: 'Woomera - what was it all about?' Peter is Senior

Lecturer in English at Flinders University.

Later in the year members and friends can look forward to maritime archaeologist Terry Arnott talking on the history and management of the turret steamer *Clan Ranald* (1900 - 1909), and Associate Professor Brian Dickey talking on Legacy in SA.

Historians Peter Donovan and Bernie O'Neill will talk on the 100-year history of Sacred Heart College, Brighton, in a talk with the intriguing title, 'Chalk and Cheese'.

Margaret Kleinig, a postgraduate student at Flinders University, will give the last talk of the year, in November. Her title is 'She Keeps the Silver in Excellent Order'.

As well as the visit to Hans Heyson's home and studio in March, the Society will present a couple more field trips. In July there will be a stroll around the historic buildings of Adelaide's east end with city historian Patricia Sumerling, and in October there will be a walk around historic Mitcham Village including a visit to the pharmaceutical museum in Allison's Apothecary, Albert Street.

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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.

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Advertising in History SA

The Historical Society of SA is prepared to consider approaches from individuals or businesses wishing to advertise in *History SA* goods and services appropriate to the readership.

Acceptance of the advertising is at the discretion of the Council. The rates are \$100 for a full page, \$65 for a half page and \$35 for a quarter page.

Address material to the Editor, *History SA*,
Historical Society of South Australia Inc., Institute
Building, 122 Kintore Ave, Adelaide, 5000.

Archives on the Net

The Australian Archives are now on the Internet and have a World Wide Web site which includes a database of information about their collection and advice on exhibitions, publications and coming events.

The site also contains information about how to access material and has links to State archives, professional associations and several overseas archives.

Australian Archives' electronic addresses are:

Internet: <http://www.aa.gov.au>;

E-mail: archives@aa.gov.au

Welcome to new members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following new members: Mrs R. Bain, Mr M. Darras and Ms H. Cock-Collins.

Australia's only Lithuanian Museum is in Adelaide

Did you know Adelaide has Australia's only Lithuanian Museum, at 6-8 Eastry Street, Norwood?

Established in the early 1960s, the museum houses items brought from Lithuania and others made in Australia by people of Lithuanian descent.

The first curator was Jonas Vanagas, an amateur historian and founder of the Lobethal Museum who had begun collecting Lithuanian material on his own initiative.

The museum's purpose was to gather and protect Lithuanian material relating to life in South Australia and to help young people of Lithuanian descent to become more familiar with their historical and cultural background. It has also adapted to the changes that have occurred within succeeding generations of the Lithuanian community in SA.

The Lithuanian Museum is open to the public on Sundays from 1-3 pm or by appointment. For a guided tour contact Daina Pocius on 8379 7164 or A. Vitkunas on 8364 0560.

(Adapted from *Community History*, Vol. 6 No. 2)

History SA deadline

The deadline for all material to be submitted for the January 1997 issue of *History SA* is Friday 20 December 1996.

Australian Archives offer cash awards

The Australian Council of Archives has acknowledged the work of 30 historical societies around Australia with cash awards and the presentation of archival storage boxes.

The ACA's Archival Support Program encourages small scale projects for the improved delivery of archival services and for the improved management and accessibility of archives.

ACA president, Ross Gibbs, said the program filled a gap in the sources of funding available to archives in Australia.

'Grants are intended for small projects which would otherwise not be achievable within an organisation's normal operating budget,' Mr Gibbs said.

Organisations keen to be included in the 1997 program should write for an application kit which provides information on the program's criteria for eligibility and assessment.

The kits are available from the Australian Council of Archives, Suite 4, 12 Ellingworth Parade, Box Hill, Victoria, 3128. Tel. (03) 9890 3530.

Rescuing history of technical high schools

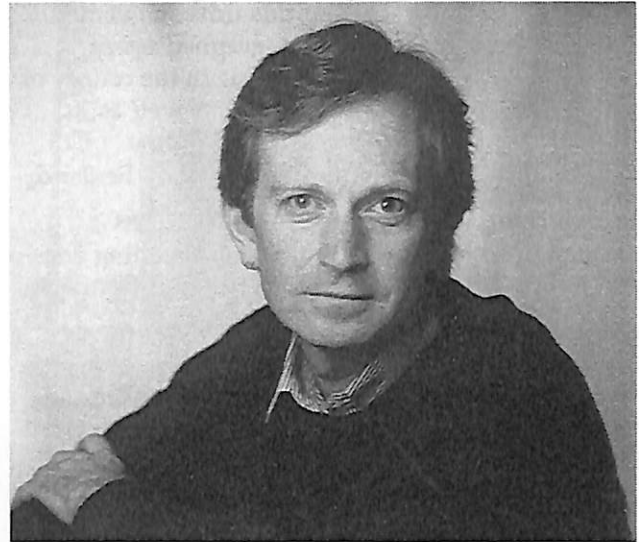
A Technical High Schools Research Project is putting together a picture of the schools from their beginning after World War I to their demise after the Karmel Report of the mid-1970s.

It is envisaged that the completed project will be placed in the Mortlock and National Libraries.

The group working on the project is seeking contributions from former parents, principals, students, teachers, volunteers and school council members telling how people were affected by changes as they occurred in the schools.

Readers of *History SA* who can contribute information to the project are asked to write to the Technical High Schools Research Project, PO Box 734, 340 Seaview Road, Henley Beach, 5022. giving the name of the technical high school or schools, period of attendance, and an address and contact number.

GEOFFREY BISHOP



Geoffrey Bishop joined the HSSA Council last year. He comes from a background in agricultural science and presently works as an education officer with the Landcare program in Primary Industries South Australia.

He first became interested in historical research when he was researching his book, *The Vineyards of Adelaide*, published in 1975. Geoffrey has written a total of eight books and has had numerous historical papers published.

His main areas of interest are horticultural and viticultural history, as well as local and family history.

Geoffrey's main historical involvement has been with the East Torrens Historical Society, established in 1982. He served as president for ten years and is presently the group's vice-president. One of the groups' initiatives during this time was to convene a regional history conference.

Geoffrey is presently editing Lucy Hayman Hines' *Environs of Norton Summit* (1937) for publication and he is participating with Taylor Weidenhofer in the Yorke Peninsula Heritage Survey.

ANNA POPE

Anna Pope, who joined the Council of the Historical Society in 1994, is a freelance historian who specialises in architectural and cultural history.

She completed an Honours degree in architectural history at the University of Adelaide in 1989. She then moved to England for three years where she

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worked as a listed building surveyor for English heritage. During this time she visited and photographed every listed building in the county of Bedfordshire, as well as in the districts of East Cambridgeshire and Fenland.

Since returning to Australia in 1994, Anna has continued to work with built heritage, spending one and a half years as historian for Danvers Architects.

In March of this year Anna established her own consultancy. Current projects include heritage surveys of the city of Elizabeth and the town of Gawler and conservation management plans for several interstate lighthouses. Anna also teaches part-time in the University of Adelaide's Architecture Department.

Outside of her historical activities, Anna devotes a lot of time to music, performing regularly with the Adelaide Chamber Singers and Corinthians XXXII. Her other interests include reading, writing, attending theatre, photography, calligraphy and illumination.

Coming events

The holiday season is upon us and diary entries are few.

If you have a meeting, a dinner, an outing or any other historically oriented event you would like to bring to the attention of readers, please submit the details to *History SA* for publication.

Until 8 Dec.: National Museum of Australia exhibition, *The Rubbery Years*, Peter Nicholson's cartoons and rubbery figures of people and events of the past 15 years. State History Centre, 59 King William St, Tues. - Sat., 10 am-4 pm.

Resources Week '96

1 Dec.: Underground tour of Australia's oldest metal mine, Wheal Watkins St, Glen Osmond. 2 pm, 3 pm and 4 pm. Bookings necessary, tel. Jayne on 8366 4224.

Guided tour of **Kapunda mine trail and museum**. Meet at Bagot's Fortune Centre, Hill St., 2 pm. Bookings required, tel. (085) 866 2101.

Guided tour of **Moonta State Heritage Area**. Meet at Moonta Mine Museum, 1.30 pm.

1 - 6 Dec.: Mines and Energy SA is also offering self-guided walking tours of the following mining heritage sites:

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Almada mine, Scott Creek Conservation Park, Dorset Vale Rd (near Cherry Gardens);

Barossa goldfield, north entrance, Para Wirra Recreation Park, Allendale Rd, Cockatoo Valley;

Blinman copper mine trail, 1 km north of Blinman;

Inneston historic site with ruins and gypsum mine, Innes National Park, Yorke Peninsula;

Jupiter Creek gold diggings, Rubbish Dump Rd, Echunga;

Kapunda mine trail and museum;

Sleeps Hill Quarries, High St, Belair;

Moonta Mine State Heritage Area;

Talisker Mine Trail with ruins of silver mine, South Rd, 3 km from Cape Jervis.

There are also self-guided drive and walk trails of **Burra mine museum and town**. Guided tours by arrangement. Bookings on (088) 892 1154.

For information and brochures on all these tours tel. 8274 7500.

20 Dec. - 3 Feb.: *Eyes on the Ball*, travelling exhibition from Waverley City Gallery, Melbourne, showing how artworks can reflect social themes and issues in sport, like national identity, community spirit, club loyalties, masculinity, mateship and racism. State History Centre, 59 King William St, Tues.-Sat., 10 am-4 pm.



State History Centre's new home upgraded

The ground floor of Edmund Wright House – home of the State History Centre – has been upgraded and now features a display on aspects of SA history with objects from the collections of local museums.

There is also cultural tourism information with a focus on historical walks in Adelaide and country towns, and guides, maps and books can be bought.

Researchers can arrange to see the Centre's collection of 14,000 photographs dating from 1890-1960.

The ornate former banking chamber – a rare survivor of Adelaide's 1880's boom – is used for touring exhibitions from the National Museum of Australia.

The address is 59 King William St, Adelaide, and the postal address is GPO Box 1836, Adelaide, 5001. Tel. 8226 8555 or fax 8226 8559.

Sustaining the Burra community

Look down to the village nestled amongst bare yellow hills, rich green European trees tracing the creek valley, and rows of Cornish 'bluestone' cottages. See the stark and strangely beautiful mining landscape, the mine chimneys standing mute like monuments, and hear the sounds of a modern township with mining operations somewhere beyond the old open-cut. This is Burra, 'Australia's premier historic copper mining town' and a small agricultural centre 156 km north of Adelaide.

Much of the extraordinary character and wealth of our cultural heritage is to be found in country towns like Burra. All of them, however, now find themselves at the crossroads of late 20th century economic and social change.

For Burra, richly endowed with 19th century buildings and a strong tourist market, striking the balance somewhere between economic development and conserving the town's special character is crucial to its survival. It has been described as the 'jewel in the crown' of South Australia's heritage resources. In common with other rural settlements in South Australia, however, Burra is also facing regionalisation of its services, amalgamation of its local council, a downturn in the State's economy and a gradual drifting away of its young school-leavers. Yet this historic town sustains a steady local economy and a viable and active community.

Burra began as a private copper mining town in 1845, during Australia's earliest mining era. The mining boom ended in the 1870s followed by a period of decline, then revival as an agricultural service centre. By the 1970s Burra's 19th century copper reserves had translated into an immensely rich heritage resource, comprising an array of mining structures and sites, miners' cottages and public buildings. People came to see Burra.

Isolation, a small population and the widespread use of local stone as building material combined to preserve a town worth seeing. Burra witnessed an incredible growth in heritage awareness and conservation activity over the next two decades. The National Trust played a defining role. Formed in 1965, the local branch developed as both advocate and commercial business operator, managing a large number of properties and introducing the innovative 'Burra Passport' historic sites key system as a major source of income.

Rigorous research, advocacy and publications

Newsletter of the Historical Society of SA



provided by individuals like historian Ian Auhl, helped people to understand and interpret the significance of the history all around them. Burra began to capitalise on the trend in Australia towards heritage awareness and conservation. In 1978 the District Council of Burra Burra commissioned the first and arguably one of the best heritage conservation studies in South Australia. The study, by Ian Auhl and Lester, Firth and Murton Pty Ltd, is still used today to guide development planning. A year later the Australia ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) charter for the conservation of places of cultural significance was born at a meeting in Burra. This standard of conservation practice is now known as the 'Burra Charter'.

In 1980 the township was entered in the Register of the National Estate. Over the years individuals campaigned passionately to save important structures like the school bell tower and Paxton Square, a significant complex of 33 cottages built between 1849 and 1852 by the Burra mining company. Some residents, opposed to a redesign of Market Square in the 1980s, lay down in front of the bulldozers to protest.

New residents snapped up bluestone cottages to renovate and resell at higher prices. They showed how derelict buildings could be restored and reused and the market value of historic residences rose accordingly. Burra's 'discovery' also coincided with success in obtaining Commonwealth conservation grants. According to local heritage adviser Douglas Alexander, Burra was 'in the right place at the right

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time', with the right groundwork having been done by the Council, the Trust and committed individuals.

Burra also established one of the State's first advisory services with the help of the National Estate Grants Program. Since then, the community's level of acceptance of heritage conservation has increased. In part this is attributed to the tangible outcomes of some high profile conservation work such as the Burra Mine project, driven by the Burra Burra District Council and residents and employing local tradesmen. More recently Burra was declared a State Heritage Area. Douglas believes, however, that Burra should take care not to over-restore its heritage, to resist 'the urge to shake off the dust' and not to lose the experience of authenticity that is at the heart of Burra's appeal.

Elizabeth Robertson, National Trust chairperson, observed that there is simply no need for Burra to recreate its heritage.

Burra's particular character, however, lies not only with its physical heritage. Elizabeth describes a certain energy that comes from this community's long-term sense of connection with the place. She says that, whilst heritage conservation may focus on conserving the bricks and mortar, the community also needs to be maintained and sustained 'because if you don't, then all you have is buildings'. Without the long-term residents, the social clubs and the different viewpoints 'the spirit would dissipate'.

This community of less than 2,000 people now sustains 16 bed and breakfast businesses, five hotels, a motel and the 33 Paxton Square cottages.

The realisation that the town's heritage is an asset has come gradually and not without conflict. For many local people the marriage of heritage and tourism has been a process of discovering the treasures in their own backyard. For others, there is concern about the need to spend precious local funds on tourist amenities.

Robyn Page, chair of last year's 150th anniversary celebrations and former councillor, suggests that Burra needs to plan for the future of its heritage. In particular, she sees opportunities for Burra's young people to tap into the research and job potential offered by its heritage. 'Our past has helped us shape where we're going', she says.

Tim Horsnell, the outgoing Mainstreet coordinator, considers that residents have become anxious about Burra's tourism becoming too big, too driven by market forces. He sees the promotion of 'sites of excellence', providing models of best heritage

practice, as one way forward.

Richard Holbrook, chair of the local Mainstreet program, sees further opportunity for businesses to benefit from the heritage image but agrees that Burra is likely to remain a 'sustainable town' by maintaining its small but steady economic activity. Certainly, there is some consensus that the town simply cannot cope with major growth in visitor numbers. What then is its future?

For the Council's planning officer, John Brak, one of the greatest challenges is to maintain Burra's character, to 'make use of what the town has got'.

Like it or not, tourism, mining and entrepreneurial small businesses appear to be the main forces most likely to sustain the town. In addition, there is the regeneration of the town's commercial centre, the possibility of an industrial estate, and the fortunes of the surrounding farms.

Burra is moving cautiously into a new era. Council amalgamations may mean Burra is no longer the centre of its own district council; regionalisation may mean travelling further afield for services. In the end, however, the Burra community is learning to capitalise on all of its assets – it has, after all, survived 150 years of 'new eras'.

– Joy McCann

(This article is reprinted from *In Place*, the bulletin of the Australian Heritage Commission, September 1996. Joy McCann is a Senior Conservation Officer with the Heritage Commission in Canberra. Educated in Adelaide, she moved to Melbourne in 1982 and since 1990 has worked in various history and heritage-related positions.)

'Community History' – telling how it's done

Historical societies, museums and individual researchers will find plenty to interest them in *Community History*, the quarterly journal of the State History Centre.

The emphasis is on 'how to do it' – from writing and publishing a local history, or planning and scripting an exhibition to the accessioning of collections, interviewing techniques and marketing, plus news, lists of new resources, and reviews of books and exhibitions.

An annual subscription costs \$20 (including postage) and is arranged through the State History Centre (CH), GPO Box 1836, Adelaide, 5001. Cheques should be made payable to the State History Centre. For more information call 8226 8553 or fax 8226 8559.

Search for new approach to national heritage protection

The Australian Heritage Commission has been consulting community groups, among others, on proposed new national approaches to heritage protection and earlier this year issued a discussion paper to stimulate discussion on the issue. It proposed eight key principles for heritage protection.

The Chair of the Heritage Commission, Ms Wendy McCarthy, said the eight principles underpinned options for the way in which a national approach to heritage conservation could best be achieved.

Ms McCarthy said these included sharing between the three tiers of government the responsibility for maintaining effective heritage values, policies, standards and strategies.

She said the new directions discussed in the paper included:

- integrating State and Commonwealth heritage registers, with the Commonwealth concentrating on places and issues of outstanding national importance and the States focussing on places of State and local importance;
- increasing focus on protecting the heritage values of Commonwealth-owned properties;
- refining the National Estate Grants Program, which would focus strongly on identifying, conserving and presenting places of outstanding national importance.

Ms McCarthy said the Minister for the Environment, Senator Robert Hill, had asked the Commission to prepare an options paper which, following wide consultation, would examine the process of identifying places of outstanding national importance.

She said the Commission would continue to develop a national and comprehensive database of heritage places. Improved access to the database would be available through the Internet.

'Mechanisms to protect heritage places in general will be discussed with the States and Territories,' she said, 'This could lead to the Commonwealth developing agreements with the States and Territories for identifying and protecting heritage places, using standards which will meet the objectives of the Australian Heritage Commission Act.'

Fidelia recorded SA's first moments in verse

Poems and Recollections of the Past by Fidelia Hill, the first woman, and the first South Australian, to publish a volume of poetry in Australia, has been reprinted in a facsimile edition by the Barr Smith Press.

Fidelia Hill arrived in South Australia on the *Buffalo* with Governor Hindmarsh at the end of 1836. A close personal friend of Colonel Light, Fidelia Hill was 'the first white lady' at the site of Adelaide and several of her poems record fascinating details about the first moments of the colony.

In the preface to her book she notes that the poems were written in the context of 'severe reverses of fortune'. These hardships and the determination with which she faced them, are discussed in an introduction by Dr Philip Butters of the English Department in the University of Adelaide.

Copies of the volume of poetry are available from the office of the University Librarian at the Barr Smith Library, University of Adelaide. To have the book posted, send \$25 plus \$3 postage (\$6 for overseas) to the Barr Smith Press, Barr Smith Library, University of Adelaide, Adelaide, 5005, Tel. 8303 5370; fax 8303 4369; Email rchoate@library.adelaide.edu.au.

Mrs Norton & Grassy Flat School

Did she fall or was she pushed?

Geoffrey H. Manning

I read with interest the article on the Grassy Flat School in the September issue of *History SA* and in particular the statement as the 'retirement' of Mrs Norton as teacher. A reading between the lines of comments made at the public meeting held on 1 February 1868 suggests that she was, by virtue of public opinion, forced to relinquish her teaching duties.

At the meeting the chairman of the local council, Thomas Playford, reported he had waited upon the Board of Education and discussed the need for a new schoolhouse and teacher's residence, together with the Council's desire to have both a male and female teacher attached to the school. He also requested

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that if this could not be accomplished, the education grant be withdrawn. Assuredly this suggests a measure of dissatisfaction with Mrs Norton's teaching capacity.

Mrs Norton expressed the opinion that she was unhappy with this proposal and declared that the small amount of school fees accruing to her made it impossible for her to engage a schoolmaster. From inspectors' reports, the Board of Education declared that Mrs Norton's school was well conducted and she was a 'careful and painstaking teacher' and it had decided that it would 'not be justified in withdrawing her licence'.

At the public meeting several parents spoke out against her:

Mr Bishop said he had taken his children away because Mrs Norton could not teach them after they had arrived at the age of seven or eight years.

Mr G. Story had five children at home who ought to be at school but owing to their making no progress he had taken them away.

Mr W. Merchant declared that he had been dissatisfied ever since the teacher had been there and he considered that the education question had been greatly neglected.

Following a memorial to the government about the quality of teaching and teaching facilities in the district, in June 1869 the East Torrens District Council obtained land on the south corner of section 1111 and in September of that year a schoolhouse and master's residence were completed 'as a result of subscriptions raised amount the residents, supplemented by the district council and government grants'.

As to the selection of teachers, it is apparent that the local citizens were closely involved for, in 1870, a report says: 'out of the 14 applicants for the mastership of (the school) Mr Thomas Pierce, late of the Barossa goldfields, has been chosen by a committee of inhabitants ...'

In 1906 Mr G. Story, 'the veteran district clerk', drew the attention of the authorities to the need for a new school in the district. At that time three teachers were teaching 100 scholars in five classes in a single room not more than 30 feet by 18 feet. The school was 'in a well', having been built on the side of the gully, below road level. When the new Norton Summit School was opened by the Governor in 1908 the Grassy Flat building was described as being 'an antiquated structure, dark, badly ventilated and far too small'.

Some further background history to the area follows: Two memorials in the General Registry Office – Book 29 Folio 313 and Book 85 Folio 398 – show 'Robert Norton of Grassy Flat' purchasing section 1111 in February 1851 and selling a small portion, near the northern boundary, in May 1855 for Baptist church purpose. This land lies on the eastern side and adjacent to what is now known as Norton Summit. Mrs Robert Norton (1804-1881), who had been a governess in England, volunteered to start a school at Grassy Flat in the new chapel.

When the foundation stone of the Norton Summit Baptist Church was laid in August 1882 it was stated that the original Grassy Flat church 'belonged to a church under the pastorate of Rev. Thomas Playford and had subsequently been used by the Baptists'.

Under a heading 'School for Norton's Summit' the following appeared in the press of 1884:

A deputation awaited on the Minister for Education (Hon. E.T. Smith) on Monday morning to ask for increased school accommodation for the neighbourhood ... The present school which was situated on the borders of Baker's Estate, was in a poor condition and the accommodation was so limited that some of the children were taught in the porch, which was exposed to the cold winds in winter.

The deputation thought it would be advisable to shut up the present school and erect a new one at the reserve opposite section 994 ... near the Marble Hill Road ... The teacher's residence was so very damp that the master had been compelled to take up his quarters on the plains.

The school was peculiarly situated. The Marble Hill and Mrs Baker's estates were adjacent and as only a few people resided upon them, the progress of the school was retarded ... If it were decided to continue the school on the premises in use, it was imperatively necessary that they should be drained and that additional playgrounds should be obtained. The drainage was so bad that even in summer time the earth beneath the school floor was damp and muddy, and during the play time the youngsters were confined in a small yard or to the roads ...

Sources and Notes

Register, 4 February 1868, 12 March 1870, *Advertiser*, 8 May 1884; Certificate of Title, vol. 129, folio 1688; State Records Office, GRG 18/11/82. Further information on churches and schools in the district is in the *Register*, 25 April 1882, p. 5, 19 September 1906, p. 6, *Advertiser*, 19 December 1908, p. 14, 30 March 1925, p. 12 (school reunion), *Chronicle*, 3 and 10 June, pp 47, 48 (history of the district).

Yacka story wins South-East prize for community history

Australia's only awards for books on community history were presented at a dinner held as part of the State History Conference in September.

The awards, which are given every other year, are an initiative of South East Book Promotions, a cooperative of writers and historians from the South East of SA.

The major award, for a book of more than 30,000 words and known as the Bank SA Christina Smith Award, went to SA writer Julie-Ann Ellis for *Hard Yacka: the story of a mid-north town*.

The judges described *Hard Yacka* as 'a finely wrought synthesis' which combined anecdotes and an incisive historical account. They praised the way the writer dealt with the community's response to the broader economy and the effect of two world wars.

Ms Ellis said, 'I wrote Yacka's history because I believe a close examination of the notion of community is an important undertaking in community history - whether of communities of place, or purpose or culture or of a community redefining itself, as in the Yacka case, to meet the need for a sense of identity - and offers a society a chance to examine and understand itself.'

The runner-up was *Beecroft and Cheltenham: the shaping of a Sydney community*, written by the local history group.

Seven other books were shortlisted, including *At the End of the Road: government, society and the disposal of human remains* by SA Historical Society president Dr Rob Nicol.

The Australian Council of National Trusts' Ebenezer Ward Award of \$500 for a book of under 30,000 words went to Georgina Keep and Genie Wilson of Sydney for their book *Lauriston Park: the forgotten village* which tells how the development and expansion of Mascot airport swallowed up a community. Runner-up was a history of Bringalbert, western Victoria.

There were almost 100 entries for the two awards. The judges were writer and historian Jenny Palmer, Lecturer in American Literature at Adelaide University, Barry Westburg, Adelaide bookshop proprietor Jacqui Cookes, and the Associate Professor of History at Flinders University, Brian Dickie.

New in the Mortlock

Recent acquisitions to the Mortlock Library include:

- videos on Colonel William Light and the restoration of the Botanic Gardens Palm House, both made this year by the SA Film Corporation;
- an HMV recording from the 1920s of Peter Dawson singing *The Floral Dance*;
- the historical statistics of Sturt District Cricket Club from 1897-98 to 1995-96;
- a video history of the defence science operations at Salisbury;
- a brief outline of the history of the SA Embroiderers Guild;
- *For Faith and Freedom: the story of Lutherans and Lutheranism in Australia 1838-1996* by Everard Leske;
- 'a souvenir of the unique occasion of the first full demonstration of television in Adelaide' published by the Shell Company of Australia.
- from the Adelaide Camera Club an acquisition described, with refreshing candour, as 'a set of historical notes from which it is hoped that a more complete history will eventually be written by someone with more skill'.

New in the oral history collection are six hours of tapes by Bob Caldicott, *I'm Speaking to You: the jottings and reminiscences of a broadcaster*.

Letters please!

History SA welcomes Letters to the Editor. Please drop us a line about matters historical. brickbats or bouquets, bearing in mind that if the letters are too long they may be subjected to some editing.

Send your letters to the Editor, *History SA*, c/- Historical Society of SA Inc., Institute Building 122 Kintore Ave, Adelaide, 5000.

Adelaide Hills sketch book

Tom Dyster and Margaret Raymond have put words and sketches together for another of their books on the Adelaide Hills.

By Castle, Cottage and Chimney is available from Margaret at 88 Queenscroft St, Chelmer, Queensland, 4068 or Tom, c/- PO, Wistow, 5251, at \$15.95 plus \$2 for packing and postage.

Artist and author first worked together on *Return to the Adelaide Hills*, published in 1986.

Essay competition and plaque for Penola pioneer

The Penola branch of the National Trust will acknowledge district pioneer Thomas Arnaud with a commemorative plaque to be unveiled in Church Street during the Penola Festival next June.

Thomas Arnaud was Clerk when Penola District Council was established in 1869. He was later elected auditor and then councillor.

Although Mr Arnaud designed the Woods-McKillop schoolhouse and bore office in many community organisations, there is little documentation about his life.

The National Trust of SA is also holding a competition for the best essay (minimum 3,000 words) on Arnaud, with a first prize of \$500. Entries close on 28 February 1997. Information about the competition and the conditions of entry are available from the Penola Branch, National Trust of SA, PO Box 261, Penola, 5277, or call Andrew Eastick, phone or fax 087 365 077 or mobile 018 854 143.

SA Icons: a search for the State's historical best

South Australian Icons – a project to compile information about the best of the holdings of SA museums, galleries, historical societies, universities and libraries – was launched in May.

Participants in the project can select up to 100 of the most notable items from their collections and information on each is entered on a computer database together with visual images. The material can be accessed at the State History Centre in Adelaide.

The Centre is coordinating the project, which is being funded by the Australia Foundation.

Criteria for the selection of objects relate mainly to their historical significance, be it to the State or the world!

To receive an information package on the SA Icons project contact Paul Masourek at the State History Centre, GPO Box 1836, Adelaide, 5001. Tel. 8226 8555 or fax 8226 8559.

Inneston – ghost of a gypsum town

SA Mines and Energy will have the Inneston historic site open every day for self-guided walking tours of the ruins and the gypsum mine from 1 - 6 December as part of Resources Week '96. By a happy coincidence Geoffrey H. Manning had submitted the following article which intending visitors might use to heighten their appreciation of what remains of the former town.. For information and brochures about the Inneston open days call (088) 854 4040 or (08) 8274 7500. For more Resources Week '96 activities see Coming Events on p. 4.

Background

Before the Great War of 1914-1918 the gypsum resources of South Australia were not worked to any great extent but the cessation of supplies from overseas prompted some local companies to get their product on the market.

The history of gypsum production on York Peninsula commenced in the early 1870s when a miscellaneous lease was granted in the Hundred of Melville over an area covering portion of Lake Fowler. Until 1898 this lease changed hands on several occasions when the Castle Salt Company became the proprietor; it retained the salt lease and transferred the gypsum leases to other companies.

Mr W.S. Douglas took up lease no. 81 in 1874 over a lake to the east of Yorketown. The lease passed to Mr A. Tooche in 1883 who sold it to South Australian Plaster of Paris, Cement, Salt and Chemical Manure Co. Ltd – it proved unsuccessful and was liquidated in 1886.

In 1889 the Australian Gypsum and Whiting Co. Ltd of Melbourne took up leases at Marion Bay 50 miles south of Edithburgh, where it proceeded to build a jetty and lay a tramline to the gypsum fields, which were only a short distance from the shore. After spending about £70,000 it went into liquidation in 1898 when its property was taken over by Mr A.R. Hassell, who held the leases for over 20 years and supplied rock gypsum to the manufacturers of plaster and for other purposes.

Gypsum had a number of uses in the first half of the 20th century. A small percentage was added to the clinker prior to the final grinding in the manufacture of cement. Raw gypsum may be used as a fertiliser; when finely ground it can be used for filling the pores on paper and it was an essential ingredient in the manufacture of paint, kalsomine and crayons. Its main use, however, was in the production of plaster

of Paris and whitening; the latter was used as a domestic cleaning agent and by soap manufacturers. Commercial painters used it, as did aerated water manufacturers for the generation of carbonic acid gas.

Inneston

From about 1915 a village flourished amidst the dense scrub at the bottom of Yorke Peninsula, its very existence being supported by the manufacture of plaster of Paris derived from gypsum deposits in a local lagoon. The creation, according to a contemporary newspaper report was due to the 'genius of one man':

Visitors to Cape Spencer are comparatively few; but it is surprising that so little is known about this model settlement – an industrial organisation that knows no labour disputes, where the masters and men mingle as equals, where foremen are unknown, where a fair task is allotted to every man and where the principal of a fair deal is put into practice ... Cooperation has brought satisfaction.

Although the whole settlement is controlled by the promoters, no restrictions are placed in the way of other business people and traders who may desire to enter. They have not come. The men belong to the union. Masters and men live together in complete harmony, ministering to each other's welfare – an inspiring example to other industrial organisations, a monument to the enterprise and humanitarianism of the founder, and a credit to Australia.

Its foundation was undertaken by an enterprising man, W.R.D. Innes, who began to exploit gypsum deposits in the vicinity of Cape Spencer in 1913. By horse and dray locomotion he made his way through scrub country and camped in a valley overlooking the Althorpe Islands and beside a gypsum lake. He enticed his brother, J.A.S. Innes, away from his Victorian farm and, later, his son, Hector, joined the firm which was to become the Peninsula Plaster Company after experimental work had been carried out in Melbourne.

Great determination and ingenuity was displayed in creating and nurturing the industry; for example, soundings and tide movements were recorded every day for two years before the site of a jetty was decided upon in Stenhouse Bay, which was named after a director of the Peninsula Plaster Company. At the outset the gypsum was shipped over a cliff face by a chute until the jetty was erected at a cost of £11,000. At this time the government, in its wisdom, levied jetty dues for the company's privilege of shipping from a place erected and maintained at its

own expense!

At first the gypsum was shipped to Melbourne for treatment but by 1916 the manufacture of plaster was commenced at the lake and by 1927 the factory was operating 24 hours a day every day of the week and over the period 1916-1917 300,000 tons of gypsum were extracted. The raw gypsum was blasted from the deposit and transported on a ropeway to a dump from which it was fed into a hopper. It was then crushed, washed and calcined in six kettles and delivered in bags as plaster of Paris to the jetty along a narrow gauge tramline, the hauling being done by an oil-driven tractor.

In the early days of the settlement the workers were housed under canvas but as the company flourished, it built substantial stone houses and gave them to the married men, rent free, while bachelors were supplied with quarters for board and lodging at nominal rates. A community hall was erected and fitted with a piano and gramophone and a post office and school were built at company expense. By 1927 there were 80 men on the pay-roll and at that time few communities in South Australia could match the number of motor cars per head of population.

The residents lived well; 'only the best quality goods (were) demanded and the store (sold) up to six hundred-weight of chocolates per month' (*sic*).

Although the settlement was within 80 kilometres of larger peninsula towns it was isolated except by sea communication. To ease this situation the company established its own mail, telegraph and postal services. Mr Innes constructed nine miles of telephone line and, later, handed it over to the Post and Telegraph Department only to be advised that his company was to be charged for using it and he was asked to 'investigate the most trifling irregularity in the service' conducted by the company clerks.

The supply of bread and meat was unsatisfactory so one of the workers was appointed to the position of both baker and butcher. Bread was made at set intervals and cattle were obtained from the company's herd of some 200 beasts and killed three times a week. He sold his produce over the shop counter, ran his own car and had his 'rooms fitted with an elaborate wireless set and other devices'.

The settlement had its own general store, fully stocked, where items were sold at reasonable prices, and a chemist, while sporting enthusiasts were provided with a cricket and football oval, croquet ground and golf links. Electricity was provided to all houses and commercial buildings; an agency for two banks was conducted by company clerks while in the

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mid-1920s arable land within the leasehold was planted with barley, thus 'all of the 14,000 acres (*sic* – other reports state 200 acres as the total holding) held in the lease (was) being tested for its full productivity'.

Until 1927 the settlement was known simply as 'the camp at Cape Spencer' but following a parliamentary visit in October 1927 members of the party decided that the town should have a name 'and it was named with due ceremony after its founder ...'

The town wasted away and by 1973 it was uninhabited and it is now included in the Innes National Park. While the community hall was demolished by the park authority to prevent unauthorised occupation of the premises by itinerant campers, the impact of the town on the environment within the park remains today – woodcutters' tracks wend their way through the scrub in all directions where native timber was cut to feed the stream-powered boilers at the gypsum works. This prime heritage site was neglected until 1992 when an enthusiastic group, including former residents, commenced a rehabilitation program for the remnants of this unique town.

Sources

R. Lockhart Hack, *The Salt and Gypsum Industry of South Australia*; *Advertiser*, 26 October 1927, p. 16c, 5 February 1992, p. 22; *Observer*, 5 November 1927, p. 22e; *West of the Peesey*.

Rare photos in history of Port Adelaide bridges

No less than 16 bridges have played a vital part in Port Adelaide's history and their story is detailed in *Spanning Time and Tide* by Ron Ritter.

Ron is the historian with Port Adelaide Historical Society, which has copies of his book available at \$18.95 for the soft cover and \$24.95 for the hard cover. Postage is an extra \$5 in each case.

The 114-page book is fully indexed and contains many rare photographs of the bridges that have spanned the Port Adelaide River.

For copies of *Spanning Time and Tide* write to the Port Adelaide Historical Society, PO Box 254, Port Adelaide 5015, enclosing a cheque or money order for the appropriate amount.



**Wishing all
members
a happy Christmas
and
a prosperous
New Year.**

