

HSA

History

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Heysen's home, studio 'a timeless place'

by Stephany Steggart

Stephany came to SA from Queensland and lived in Mannum for some time before returning north. She was secretary of the Mannum Dock Museum and became involved in the restoration of PS Marion. It is also clear that she fell in love with The Cedars

To enter Heysen Road near Hahndorf is to step into one of the landscapes which many identify as Sir Hans Heysen's trademark. A gravel road flanked by gum trees, 'friends' to their master painter, leads the way to the Heysen family home, *The Cedars*. An indefinable haze recalls the artist who often sat, somewhere near here, for hours studying the light, 'a never-failing interest'.

The home of Hans and Sallie Heysen is not far now. The pilgrim shares Sallie's thrill of discovery when she first happened upon her dream home in 1907: 'I found a little house tucked away out of sight in a truly beautiful spot.'

Without assistance from sign or landmark, the visitor is rewarded by self-detection; giant pines and cedars surround an unpretentious, appealing country house; and on a slope beyond, a glimpse of a simple structure – the studio.

Heysen's words to his friend of 55 years, Lionel Lindsay, in a letter dated 13 July 1924, come to mind: 'Isn't there always a wonderful fascination, when climbing a bare grass hill, wondering all the time, what shall I find on the other side?'

Heysen's care and pleasure in creating the studio, more than 80 years ago, is still plain to see. It is built of limestone cut from the Verdun quarries, with foundations of Hahndorf bluestone and roof of French tiles. According to Colin Thiele, Heysen's biographer, 'There was not a place on earth more finely tuned to the spirit of the artist it was to serve.'

Whilst the outward appearance of a Bavarian

chalet is in keeping with its erstwhile occupant's origins, Sue Heysen (second wife of David, the Heysens' eldest son) likens the interior to 'a little chapel'. with its hushed atmosphere, natural light and high red pine ceiling. Heysen explained in an interview for *The Home* magazine (1 December 1921) that 'I can't work if I feel I have a roof on my head.'

All original Heysens hang on the walls, representing his work from 1898 until 1968, the year he died. The effect is awe-inspiring. Not only is proximity to so many precious originals breathtaking, the versatility of this man's creative genius, apart from his famed pastoral scenes, is manifest: still life, portraiture, seascape, etching; in a variety of media – pencil, chalk, watercolour, oil, acrylic, and charcoal.

'I like best to work in charcoal,' Heysen once said, 'I think it is the mother tongue of art; there is nothing between it and nature.' His preference is borne out to

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Tour of 'The Cedars' Home of Hans Heysen at Hahndorf

Sunday 23 March

Coach departs ^{1 PM} 2 pm
cnr North Tce & Kintore Ave
returns at 5 pm

Cost: \$20 members, \$25 non-members
Bookings to Avis Huckel, tel. 8277 2953

ghoti

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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perfection in a charcoal portrait of Sallie, Lady Heysen, dated 1912 and placed prominently in this Alladin's cave of art treasure.

Another portrait of Sallie hangs over the fireplace, where 'The Cedars' is chiselled deeply into the red gum wood of the lintel.

The artist's tools of trade are there for all to see. His last unfinished canvas remains on one easel; on another, a large, European-style work, which Hans wanted destroyed, but restored by David. A heavy wooden work bench, complete with paints, brushes and palettes; an old-fashioned etching press; and a selection of frames, many of them handcrafted by Hans himself – all testify to the life work of an artisan.

Heysen's skill extended to French mounting on good quality parchment, with borders drawn and water coloured. One whimsical practice was to mount two paintings, back-to-back, a reversible art form!

A Heysen story

Whilst the respectful intruder all but tiptoes on seemingly holy ground, curator Alan Campbell breaks the spell, relating David Heysen's story of the group of Persian diplomats who visited in 1986. One was moved to tears and David wondered which of his father's works had caused such emotion. 'That rare and priceless rug on the floor!' was the reply. 'We ought not to walking over it. It belongs on the wall!'

That rug and others adorning the wooden floor are threadbare now. Alan Campbell points out that there was never any indication that protective covers were put down to prevent paint splashes.

On that same carpet, the Heysen children would sprawl to draw on wet days. 'We used to lie on our tummies and paint,' recalled Nora, heiress to her father's vast talents. 'Must have worried the life out of Father, begging for colours and so on ...'

Heysen was essentially a family man. When the studio was built, he ensured that the 'Christmas hook' was embedded in the central rafter to support the annual tree. 'The ritual of the tree in the studio,' writes Colin Thiele, 'went on down the years into legend until even the grandchildren grew up under its gentle aegis.' The hook is still firmly in place.

The descent from studio to house evokes more images of the slim man in jersey and knickerbockers who walked the well-worn track countless times and knew the gentle presence of the wind in the century-old radiata pines.

'He didn't have far to go for inspiration,' remarks Alan Campbell, pointing to a vista of the Adelaide



Many of Hans Heysen's most famous paintings were inspired by the peace and beauty of his home near Hahndorf.

hills. The skies are 'real blue skies' today, such as Heysen described in a letter to Lionel Lindsay as 'a clear, crisp, ringing blue'.

Cows graze where daughter Jo's turkeys once strutted. Those turkeys 'weren't to eat, really, only to draw,' according to Nora Heysen. 'You never ate the models.' The models are immortalised in *The Promenade*, a watercolour dated 1922 (in the house) and *Bronzewings and Saplings*, 1921 (Art Gallery of South Australia).

Pony and toboggan

Studio Hill was also used by the Heysen children for 'furious descents' with circus pony and toboggan. 'I remember that sledge,' Nora told Colin Thiele. 'We'd all pile on, the pink and grey galah sitting on our heads and screaming all the way down the hill.'

Two amiable cats, Max and Alice – white Persians, in the family tradition – join the party at the house. Built in 1872 by Alfred Wheelwright, a pioneer in the district, the house was first called *Blackwood*. The Heysens bought the property in 1912, largely on the proceeds of a very successful Melbourne exhibition. 'It became famous,' writes Sue Heysen in *Heysen Recollections of the Cedars*, 'but above all it was loved and it was their home.'

The Cedars lends credence to sentiments expressed in an article (author unknown) I once read about 'The Old Home': 'It acquires power over the heart with course of time; it comes by degrees to touch the imagination with a sense of life inherent in itself. Its timbers are not dead wood.'

Hans and Sallie's home lives. The successive generations have lived here after them, maintaining it as before. Each room, each piece of furniture, each painting, has familial significance.

Fine furniture, an enviable collection of books and magazines stacked high in shelves and cupboards, music, flowers – and paintings. All the essential

ingredients of a beautiful home abound.

'The beauty of this place,' says Alan Campbell, who gives an excellent anecdotal commentary on the tour of inspection, 'is that everything is still here.'

It is also a nooks and crannies home. Sallie had a favourite bay window in the sitting room for reading; Hans a sketching corner in the *stoep* (a Dutch term for 'pathway leading into the garden').

The table in the dining room is set with a very early Doulton dinner service and Waterford crystal. The silver cutlery is engraved with the entwined initials 'S & H'. It conjures up a picture of the family gathered for the Sunday roast which 'went right through all our lives', according to Nora.

The red gum supports and nails in the dining room were fashioned from one old tree in the garden. They have mellowed, in Thiele's words, 'to the darkness of old wine'.

Where Melba sang

The piano where Nellie Melba, a regular visitor, sang for her delighted hosts, is still here. Another famous guest, Anna Pavlova, was piqued when Hans refused to part with the large oil painting, *Zinnias and Autumn Fruit* (1923), painted especially for the bare wall above the fireplace. The prima ballerina refused, and returned, a similar painting which Hans sent after her to Europe.

A favourite is the 1913 oil painting, *Sewing*. The simple scene of a youthful Sallie bent over her sewing machine making baby clothes is in keeping with the overall impression of *The Cedars* – a family quietly living out their lives in their rustic retreat. The Newhome sewing machine and the bentwood chair are in the studio, although the setting for the painting was a stable room, still standing, first used by Hans, later by Nora, and also by Lionel Lindsay when he came to stay.

A wedding portrait, in pastel, of Sallie (1904) assumes poignance with the knowledge that her bridal dress is stored in a huge trunk nearby.

Aura of Sallie

Whilst the presence of Hans is keenly felt in the studio, the aura of Sallie is throughout the house. Her bedroom, where four of her children were born and David and Sallie died, has simple tasteful decor. Above the mantelpiece *Lilian and Her Hen* (1914), one of Heysen's favourites, is a tender memorial to the beautiful daughter who died of meningitis at 16 years of age.

In another of Sallie's domains, the kitchen, *Pumpkins and Onions* (1922) recalls plain family fare: homegrown produce in abundance.

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The artist who didn't know which season he liked best – 'It all seems to become more precious and beautiful the older one grows' – was able to appreciate and capture on canvas the changing seasons from a home which invites the outdoors in. Each window has a pleasing aspect, often reproduced on the walls within.

Spring Flowers is exactly that: a bunch just picked from the garden. Amongst its blooms, the white rose, 'Snow Queen', one of Heysen's favourites. He often described the garden lovingly in letters to Lionel Lindsay: 'the roses are still blooming profusely ... "Frau Karl" is magnificent.' On one occasion he sent 'a few roses out of our garden with the Post ... I painted them for you.'

Visitors are free to ramble in the extensive grounds. Against the backdrop of elms, gums, pines, and of course cedars, the immediate garden is a delightful mix of cottage favourites and old world roses.

A pilgrimage to *The Cedars* is an uplifting experience. It is timeless, unspoilt by commercialism, and unchanged by faithful family trustees.

Members of the public may not know much about Sir Hans Heysen or his work but they are glad to have come, and look forward to returning, like so many other welcomed visitors in the past.

Author's notes

1. Whilst most of the information for this article was obtained during two tours of *The Cedars*, Alan Campbell and members of the Heysen family have had the opportunity to read and comment upon the contents.
2. The following bibliography acknowledges secondary sources:
 - Heysen, Hans, *Heysen Recollections of The Cedars*, van Gestel Printing, Adelaide, 1991.
 - Sternberg, Freda, 'A Visit to Heysen', *The Home*, 1 December 1921, pp 16-17.
 - Thiele, Colin, *Heysen of Hahndorf*, Rigby, Adelaide, 1974.
3. For those unable to join the HSSA tour on 23 March, *The Cedars* is open to the public 10 am - 4 pm every day except Saturday. Guided tours are available at 11 am, 1 pm and 3 pm at \$7 per head (\$5 concession). Tel. 8388 7277.

April lecture

Furniture or fittings? Our historic organs

Heritage architect and conservation consultant Barry Rowney will look at some of SA's historic pipe organs – how some have been redeemed and others lost – in his lecture on 4 April.

He will consider the criteria that apply when bestowing the appellation 'historic' on an organ, and the problems these instruments face.

Barry has been an organist for 46 years and is currently the organist at St Oswald's, Parkside, where he considers the organ to be historic but the Organ Historical Trust of Australia (OHTA) doesn't! He says South Australia can boast a fine collection of pipe organs, which is possibly not surprising, given its history in early religious affairs. Although early models were imported from Britain and Germany, there was a number of local and interstate organ builders, some of whom achieved a high reputation for their work.

'Unfortunately the stock is rapidly diminishing,' says Barry, 'despite the vigilant efforts of the local branch of the OHTA. Time and ignorance, functional requirements and economic pressures are all aiding and abetting the demise of the State's collection of the "king of instruments". And the Government doesn't help much either!'

Barry Rowney will give his lecture after the AGM, which will begin at 7.45 pm on Friday 4 April at the Prince Philip Theatre, Prince Alfred College.

May lecture

Colonial paintings – art or advertising?

Christine Finnimore will suggest that we often view colonial art as historical documents, as ways of retrieving what the early South Australian landscape looked like, when she addresses the Society at its meeting on 2 May.

But should colonial art be viewed in this way? How accurate was the artwork's representation of a landscape when artists were trying to reconcile a variety of conflicting social claims within accepted art conventions?

In her lecture, 'The Art of Selling Land', Christine will examine some examples of South Australia's colonial art within the historical context of the colony's urgent need for land sales and emigrant labour.

Christine studied visual arts at Flinders University and history at the University of Adelaide. She was History Senior at Wilderness School, Research Officer at Old Parliament House, then Curator at the Migration Museum. In 1996 she was seconded from the History Trust to Carrick Hill, where she is now Director.

Christine Finnimore's talk on 2 May will begin at 8 pm in the Chapel of Prince Alfred College, adjacent to the building in which the Prince Philip Theatre is situated. Served will be served in the theatre.

Coming events

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.

16 March: Fort Glanville Open Day presented by Fort Glanville Historical Association, from 1 pm. Also 20 April and 18 May.

18 March: Australian Society of Archives (SA Branch) – Review of the Archives Act 1983. Lecture Theatre, Institute Building, Kintore Avenue, 4.30 pm.

19 March: Oral History Assn Members and Friends Night – Viv Szekeres, Director, Migration Museum, on work in progress for the 'Twist of Fate' Exhibition. Chapel, Migration Museum, Kintore Ave, 7 pm.

23 March: HSSA tour to Hans Heysen's home and studio, Hahndorf. Bus departs cnr North Tce and Kintore Ave 2 pm. Details page 1 this issue.

23 March: Vintage and Veteran Motorcycle Club Rally, National Motor Museum, Birdwood.

23 March: Enfield Historical Society Family Day with stalls and entertainment. Regency Park, 10 am - 4 pm.

4 April: HSSA meeting – Barry Rowney, heritage architect and organist, 'Furniture or fittings: pipe organs in South Australia'. Prince Philip Theatre, Prince Alfred College, 8 pm. (AGM at 7.45 pm)

5-7 April: Royal Geographical Society tour of Fleurieu Peninsula.

6 April: Burnside Historical Society tour to Victor Harbour and Port Elliot. Enquiries to Secretary, Elaine Smyth (8332 8019).

6 April: Steam and Traction Rally presented by Booleroo Steam Preservation Society, Booleroo Centre Oval.

7 April: Friends of Lutheran Archives meeting - Brian Andrews, architectural historian and recipient of 1994 Churchill Fellowship, 'German Landscape: the distinctive spires of SA's Lutheran churches'. Lutheran Laypeople's League, 175 Archer St (upstairs), North Adelaide, 7.30 pm.

10 April: Australian Society of Archives (SA branch) – Anne-Marie Schwirtlich, 'A Memorandum of Understanding for Access to Commonwealth Records of Aboriginal People'. Armoury Building, SA Museum, 6 pm.

11 April: Uniting Church Historical Society – Rev. George Potter on the influence of the Order of Knights and Girls Comradeship in the life of the Methodist Church in SA. Westbourne Park Uniting Church, Sussex Tce, Westbourne Park, 8 pm.

21 April: Burnside Historical Society AGM followed by a talk on the history of three of Burnside Council's parks and gardens. Burnside Community Centre, 8 pm.

2 May: HSSA meeting – Christine Finimore, Director of Carrick Hill, 'The Art of Selling Land'. The Chapel, Prince Alfred College, 8 pm, followed by supper in Prince Philip Theatre.

17 May: HSSA Quiz Night hosted by Carol Whitelock. Cambridge Room, Unley Community Sports Club, 39 Oxford Tce, Unley, 7 pm. See back page for details.

19 May: Burnside Historical Society meeting – Pat Sumerling, 'Hotels of South Australia'. Burnside Community Centre, 8 pm.

New in the Mortlock

Church, local and shipping histories are among recent acquisitions to the Mortlock Library.

The church material includes a history of the Anglican parish of Yankalilla 1857-1996, another on the life of Coonalpyn Congregational-Uniting Church 1921-1996, and *Immanuel, God With Us* by Hartley Hage, marking the 150th anniversary of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Light Pass.

Of wider interest are *Teamwork* – J W Reddin's history of the State's early wine industry and the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of SA; Geoff Gask's 1995 publication, *Adelaide in the 1920s and 1930s*, which includes a history of its main streets; and *Playford's South Australia: essays on the history of South Australia 1933-68*, edited by Bernard O'Neill, Judith Raftery and Kerrie Round.

The history of the Adelaide bushwalkers since their establishment in 1946 is another new acquisition.

Local histories include *The History of Unley and Goodwood* by John Blacket (1992), oral histories from the Elizabeth community under the title *Elizabeth: from dusty plains to royal names*; and K K Nelson's history of Marion Bay, Inneston and Stenhouse Bay from 1922-1939.

Early shipping news can be found in *Ships of the Inland Rivers*, described as an outline history and details of all known paddle ships, barges and other vessels trading on the Murray-Darling system, compiled by Ronald Parsons (1990); the compilation by Dulcie Love and Shirley Kalisch of ships from Germanic ports to Port Adelaide 1837-1886; and *Sailing to Australia: shipboard diaries by nineteenth century British emigrants* by Andrew Hassam.

Remarkably modern views on 'the sacrifice of matrimony'

by Geoffrey Manning

In 1928 Adelaide Hope, a latter-day feminist with a possible antipathy to the male of the species, wrote an informative article for the *Mail* of 16 June, entitled 'Compensating Women for Sacrifice of Matrimony'. In it she also addressed the subject of 'equal pay' and ventured an opinion or two on society which, even to day, bear repeating.

Owing to the conditions of civilisation a certain proportion of males are acquiring feminine characteristics, and vice versa. To realise this one has only to see the hefty sports-loving girls and to read of the amazing competition of women in intellectual occupations hitherto considered possible to be grappled with only by the masculine brain.

On the other hand, there are thousands of young men choosing the soft jobs of the cities in preference to any sort of labour out back – even where that labour is rendered interesting by scientific knowledge which leads to remarkable production, or by the spice of adventure to all opening up of the new country.

It is this clinging to the 'black-coated' billet, with its moderate remuneration which prevents, or at any rate delays, these men from marrying and thus forces girls to fight with them in the labour market. The men are often pushed out because the girls are willing to accept less pay for the work which they probably do as well, if not better.

This naturally rouses the indignation of the superseded, who never think of looking within themselves for a possible fault. Occasionally, one with more perspicacity than most asserts – probably in a press letter – that if employers had to pay a woman the same rate as a man they would choose the latter.

But this is by no means certain. Women have so entrenched themselves in the business and professional worlds, into which the exigencies of four years of war impelled them, that even if given this final justice of equal pay for work well done, few of them would be likely to be dismissed merely for the sake of putting in a stranger of the opposite sex.

That if such equality of reward were to become universal it would lessen still further the matrimonial chances of the bulk of city men is undoubted. No ordinary woman employee could

perform her daily task in office or shop and look after home and children at the same time.

Once a woman has tasted monetary independence it is hard to give it up. During the war thousands of married women obtained that independence. Small though it might have been, they drew their own allowance for every child they possessed, and had the sole right to spend it – wisely or unwisely.

If the foundation of homes and the rearing of families be more necessary to the welfare of the country than the intellectual development or the economic independence of woman as a whole, some way will have to be found by which the wife and mother who has left her outside work for marriage may still maintain her financial independence.

This can be done only in two ways. Either the husband must give to the wife as her right such a portion of his income as would approximate that which she has lost by marrying him, or the State must step in and compensate her for the loss in consideration of the fact that it needs her children to increase its own wealth and importance.

Doubtless there are thousands of instances today in which married women do not feel restricted and pinched – in which the bulk of the pay of the husband is handed over to the wife for her wise use. Nevertheless, the fact remains that the younger generation of both sexes is fighting shy of marriage, although equality of pay is comparatively rare as yet.

But there is nothing surer than it will gradually come about. Then it will be quite common for the income of the bride to have exceeded that of her husband or, at any rate, to have been so near it that marriage would involve the two, with possible additions, living upon half of the combined amount of their previous incomes. Such a sacrifice as this cannot possibly help but lessen the attraction of matrimony.

The natural instinct of the normal woman for home and children will not assert itself as strongly as in the past, when women had few mental interests to employ them and when the thought of such freedom as they now possess was an undreamed of thing ...

On 19 October 1929, a far-sighted editor of the *Advertiser* published a prophesy on the future of marriage:

Divorce by consent becomes law, and drunkenness,

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1997 AGM on 4 April

The 1997 Annual General Meeting of the Historical Society of SA Inc. will precede Barry Rowney's talk at the meeting to be held on Friday 4 April at the Prince Philip Theatre, Prince Alfred College, Dequetteville Terrace, Kent Town, at 7.45 pm. The agenda for the meeting and the minutes of the 1996 Annual General Meeting are published below. It is suggested that members bring these to the meeting.

Agenda

1. Opening
2. Apologies
3. President's Report - 1996 year.
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Elections
6. Any Other Business

1996 AGM minutes

The Annual General Meeting of the Historical Society of South Australia Inc. was held at the Chapel, Orphanage Function Centre, 181 Goodwood Road, Millswood, on 12 April 1996 at 7.45 pm.

1. **OPENING:** The President, Dr Robert Nicol, declared the meeting open at 7.55 pm.
2. **APOLOGIES:** Ron Gibbs
3. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:** Moved M.Keain/Vercoc that the minutes of the AGM held on 7 April 1995 be accepted. Carried.
4. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT - 1995:** The President presented a report on the activities of the Society during 1995.

The Society continued with its by now traditional range of activities conducting a successful lecture, tour and publications program. I think it is worth noting that the lecture program in particular goes from strength to strength and now as a matter of course regularly attracts 100 people - a very high percentage of the Society's total membership. An active and involved membership is one of the Society's great strengths which has allowed it to weather difficult economic times.

The 1995 lecture program consisted of:

- 3 February: Paul de Pasquale, 'Italo-Australian View of the Australian Character'.
- 3 March: Associate Professor Donald Langmead, 'Accidental Architect: the life and times of George Strickland Kingston'.

7 April: Phillip Knight, 'Colonel Light Gardens: its early development'.

5 May: Patricia Sumerling, 'Walter Watson Hughes and the Moonta and Wallaroo Mines'.

2 June: Dr Noris Ioannou, 'The Barossa Folk: Germanic furniture and craft traditions in Australia - a celebration'.

7 July: Dr Geoffrey Bishop, 'The Toilers in the Hills: people, myths and hard work that made East Torrens'.

4 August: Simon Royal, 'History and the media'.

1 September: Kath Crilly, 'Buried treasure: opal mining in South Australia'.

6 October: Christopher Menz, 'Morris & Co. in Adelaide'.

3 November: Susan Lawrence, 'Out of Sight, Out of Mind: the archaeology of South Australia'.

It is a matter of particular pride to me that the annual lecture program continues to provide such a varied and fascinating range of speakers and topics covering the history of South Australia - and that the society continues to be one of the chief promoters of and avenues for new research and its dissemination. For this I pay tribute to the speakers themselves, to Council members for their suggestions and their networks of contacts, and to general Society members who continue to make valuable suggestions arising out of their own interests and knowledge.

Other events and field trips consisted of:

28 February: a successful twilight tour of the Adelaide Zoo.

10 October: another twilight tour, this time of Artlab and its quite extraordinary conservation work which is so important to South Australia's cultural heritage.

9 November: a tour of the Queens Theatre site.

On 2 September the Society held its Annual Dinner at the Private Schools Club on East Terrace. We were honoured to have as guest speaker Justice Catherine Branson of the Federal Court who spoke on 100 years of female suffrage in South Australia. Her speech was later published in the 1995 issue of the *Journal* of the Society.

This would be an appropriate point to particularly thank the Treasurer, Avis Huckel, who has, in effect, become the Annual Dinner coordinator. A great deal of time and effort goes into the successful organisation of the dinners. I think Avis is probably now one of Adelaide's most knowledgeable people when it comes to appropriate venues, menus and costs.

Publications continued to be an important aspect of

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the Society's annual activities.

The *Journal* is now back on schedule, thanks to the assiduous work of editor Dr Jenny Tilby Stock and the technical advice and contribution of her husband, Dr H M P Stock. The *Journal* continues as a significant national publication in the field of Australian history and for that I would like to thank the editor and the many contributors. I hope members also like the new-look cover designed by the Council to reflect more clearly the fascinating contents of the *Journal*.

The new-look newsletter, *History SA*, has continued to go from strength to strength, attracting numerous contributions and even some controversy in the pages of the letters column. It also continues to attract much favourable comment as a prime example of what a good newsletter should be – and I extend my thanks to editor Jim Loudon, who has single-handed and often unsung, been responsible for the renaissance of the newsletter.

Sales of volumes 1 and 2 of the *Insights* series continues to grow and planning for volume 3 is now in hand with a Council sub-committee soon to report – at this stage I can tell you that the proposal being worked on is a volume dealing with women in South Australian history. Ideas for volumes 4 and beyond would be most welcome.

The year saw the production, again through the excellent editorial work of Jim Loudon and with financial support from the FAHS, of the 1994 State History Conference proceedings.

Membership of the Society remains healthy, as is reflected in the strong support given to the annual program. I know I always say I would like to get the total number up further but the fact is that the last six years in South Australia have hardly been propitious for expansion. In those circumstances I believe we have done well to hold our level of membership and to continue with our successful program. And with the success of the Endowment Fund, the long-term future of the Society is as safe as it can be. Perhaps membership growth will simply have to wait for better times and for the day when we can afford paid staff, as is the case with most other State historical societies.

I should also report on our continuing watching brief on the way the ever-increasing government cutbacks are affecting the historical movement. In particular, the Council took an active role in the protests over the closure of Old Parliament House and the relocation of the State History Centre. This included a meeting between the Minister, the Hon. Diana Laidlaw, and a deputation from the Council. She was clearly surprised by the extent of the public

protests. Old Parliament House did close, but one small victory was the relocation of the State History Centre to Edmund Wright House rather than, as originally proposed, to a far less prominent or accessible site behind the State Library. The Society played a small part in the overall protest but it did show that this is one of the few ways of winning any concessions in the steady stream of government cuts.

The Society also continued its active membership of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies – and I continued as Vice-President of the Federation.

This leaves me finally with the task of thanking all those who have assisted with the work of keeping the Society on an even keel during 1995. Particular thanks must go to the new Secretary, Anne Every – it takes time to come to grips with such a position and Anne has done a sterling job. I might add that she has also asked me to thank the Council members for helping her so warmly to ease into the job. Avis Huckel has continued to keep the books in order and for that we owe her much. Keith Banfield has once again audited the books – being auditor is perhaps the least glamorous task, but at least once a year I get the opportunity to offer Keith my genuine appreciation. The books show a healthy financial position. Once again we have been able to resist pressure to increase subscriptions. We have by far the lowest cost subscriptions of any of the State historical societies.

Marcia Dunshore has developed her new job as Society Publicity Officer with quite extraordinary zeal and success, having now mounted numerous exhibitions throughout the city and suburbs promoting the Society's work. She has also done much to boost attendance at meetings by the development of a successful series of special interest promotional flyers.

I would also like to thank Enid Ulbrich and Ila Hollands for their work, month after month, in providing the supper for which the Society has become all but famous. I can report that one member came up to me at a meeting last year and said, 'This is the best supper in Adelaide.' I am sure he is not the only one who thinks so.

The Endowment and Life Members Fund continues to grow which I think augers well for the long-term future of the Society. I must thank Ron Gibbs for his invaluable work in overseeing the Fund and its investments. In 1995 he achieved an average rate of return in excess of 8%.

Finally, I can report an important new development in the form of the Society's first major sponsorship. It comes from Santos and provided for the printing of many more copies of the annual program than usual,

enabling a much wider distribution. The sponsorship came about through the efforts of Jim Loudon, for which all members should be grateful.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT: The President commented that the Society continues to function in a healthy financial condition, at the lowest cost compared with similar societies. Council is looking at other means of raising funds rather than increase subscriptions.

Particular mention was made of the corporate sponsorship of Santos for the printing of the 1996 Program. Appreciation was expressed to Jim Loudon for successfully negotiating this sponsorship and to Santos for the financial support provided to the Society.

Ron Gibbs was thanked for looking after the Endowment Fund and Life Members. The President outlined the financial position and interest earned by the Endowment Fund.

The President thanked Avis Huckel, Treasurer, for the comprehensive Report which had been prepared and presented the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 1995, which were audited by Keith Banfield, CPA.

Moved H. Angas/A. Pope that the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 1995 be adopted. Carried.

6. ELECTIONS: Dr Robert Nicol; Vice-President, Hamish Angas; Secretary, Anne Every; Treasurer, Avis Huckel; Council Members: Dr Pauline Payne, Enid Ulbrich, Patricia Sumerling, Jim Loudon, Sean Dawes, Maurice Keain, Anna Pope, Dr Geoffrey Bishop.

There being no more nominations for the positions vacant, the President declared those members elected. The members present responded by acclamation and the President extended his thanks on behalf of the new Council.

The President extended a warm welcome to Dr Geoffrey Bishop as incoming Councillor and expressed appreciation of the valuable experience which Dr Bishop brings to Council.

7. OTHER BUSINESS: There being no other matters notified to the Secretary, the President closed the Annual General Meeting at 8.10 pm and introduced the evening's guest speaker, Ms Yvonne Reynolds.

Certified Correct, *Robert Nicol*, President, 4 April 1997.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT for year ended 31.12.96

At 1 January 1996 the Society's funds (excluding the Endowment and Life Members Fund) totalled: \$12,611.62

During 1996 the Society received:

Subscriptions:

Ordinary	5976	
Family	2024	
Country	1220	
Pens./student	1350	
Corp./Institution	525	
Affiliate	450	
Term/Life	<u>770</u>	
		12,315

Grants:

History Trust of SA	2000	
FAHS	<u>3000</u>	
		5,000

Donations:

Publications: 144

<i>History SA</i>	2	
<i>Journal</i>	268.70	
Books	<u>1620.45</u>	
		1,891.15

Activities:

Mtgs, sem, dinner:	2417	
Field trips:	<u>1762</u>	
		4,179

Interest (excl. End/Life) 404.85

Miscellaneous 150

24,084

36,695.62

During 1996 the Society spent:

Publishing:

<i>History SA</i>	2935.65	
<i>Journal</i>	5176	
Books	<u>5189.20</u>	
		13,300.85

Publicity 736.70

Activities:

Mtgs, sem., dinner	2597	
Field trips	<u>1422</u>	
		4,019

Treas./Sec. expenses 350

Postage	1,259.31
Govt/bank charges	251.06
Insurance	651.40
Miscellaneous	164.24
	<u>20,732.56</u>

At 31 December 1996, the Society's funds (excluding the Endowment and Life Members Fund) totalled: \$15,963.06

At 1 January 1996, the Society's Endowment and Life Members Fund totalled: 40,314.66

During 1996, the Fund received net interest: 3,588.51

At 31 December 1996, the Society's Endowment and Life Members Fund totalled: \$43,903.17

(signed) *Avis Huckel*, Hon. Treasurer
1 February 1997.

After examination of the accounts and records presented to me, together with explanations received, it is my opinion that this Financial Statement fairly presents the financial position of the Historical Society of SA Inc. for the year ended 31 December 1996.

(signed) *Keith Banfield CPA*, Hon. Auditor
3 February 1997

1997 subscriptions due

Members are reminded that unpaid subscriptions for 1997 are now due.

The fees are: ordinary members \$30, family \$35, students/pensioners \$22, country members (more than 50 km from the GPO) \$25, associated societies \$32, institutions \$35, term members (for ten years to end of 2006) \$250, life members \$600.

Cheques or money orders should be made payable to the Historical Society of South Australia Inc. Payments may also be made by Visa, Bankcard or Mastercard using the subscription renewal notice. If you have mislaid your notice, another one is available from the Society. The address is: Historical Society of South Australia Inc., Institute Building, 122 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide, 5000.

On your Council

ANNE EVERY: a 'newcomer' still – after 25 years



Anne Every will soon complete her second year on Council, as Secretary. As a freelance professional secretary, specialising in academic word processing, Anne brings to Council skills which complement those of the Councillors who are professional historians.

A relative 'newcomer' to SA, with an interest in anything historical, Anne joined the Society to hear about the establishment of the State and the developments that have led to the social traditions which prevail today.

Anne grew up in Sydney but has lived for lengthy periods in New Zealand and New Guinea. She arrived in Adelaide in 1972, where she has been mainly occupied with bringing up three children – now grown up. Creditable mature-age tertiary study led her to return to the work force in legal and patent attorney practices.

Two years ago Anne stepped into the role of small business person. This challenge has been rewarding in that she has seen her client list grow, although it requires long hours to provide the after-business hours service which students and academics often need. A particular pleasure is meeting students from around the world.

Not only does Anne enjoy a city business life but also a country town life from her home at Aldinga Beach. Until recently she was active in the Friends of Aldinga and Willunga Library's book discussion group and a committee member of the local residents association.

MAURICE KEAIN: history a major force in his life

An interest in history led Maurice Keain to join the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia (SA branch) in the late 1950s when the RGS had a Historical Division. Later, Maurice became a member of the RGS Council and remained on it for about 16 years. He was also a member of the Geographical Heritage Committee and is still on the Society's Library Committee.

In the 1960s Maurice joined the National Trust and was for a time a member of the youth group committee and served on the Marble Hill Committee for some 15 years, during which the ruins of the former Governor's summer residence were consolidated and preserved and the coach house and caretaker's residence were restored.



Another of Maurice's interests is numismatics. He joined the Numismatic Society of South Australia in about 1960 and was Secretary for three years in the early 60s. He has served five terms as President and has been a member of Council for most of the past 30 years.

He was editor of the *Australian Numismatic Journal* from 1964-71. He is also a member of several other interstate and interstate numismatic groups and is currently Vice-President of the Numismatic Association of Australia. Maurice is a Fellow of the SA Society and has been awarded the Paul Simon Memorial Award for services to numismatic organisations in Australia.

With the founding of the Historical Society of SA Maurice was one of the first to join. He has been a member of Council for about ten years, two of them as Secretary, and he is currently Vice-President. Another of his activities has been the sale of Wakefield Press books which has been of financial assistance to the Society.

An interest in family history led Maurice to be one of the first members of the SA Genealogical & Heraldry Society. His four-year membership of its Council ended in 1996. The Society's purchase of the old Unley Institute Building – despite reluctance on the part of some – was the highlight of his time on Council. He still helps in the Society library.

Maurice's other interests have included sport, particularly tennis. Again he has accepted responsibility by being on club committees. After playing competitively in local associations he became an umpire and for almost 20 years he umpired in various SA tennis championships, together with ten years at the Australian championships and three Davis Cup ties. He recalls that only at a few of these tournaments did the umpires even have their expenses paid!

Several local history groups, including Spalding Archives and History Society and the East Torrens Historical Society include Maurice among their members. He has also taken an active role in the

Catholic church.

Maurice has written and published two books: *From Where the Broughton Flows: a history of the Spalding district* (1976) and *The Bibliography of the Hawthorn Press* (1996). His own library is very extensive, being particularly strong in South Australian history (particularly local histories), Australiana, the history and biography of the Catholic church in Australia, tennis and numismatics.

For more than 35 years Maurice has worked as an organiser with the Shop Employees Association, where he has seen many changes as the retail world has evolved from one of service shops to the self-selection of goods. Industrially, the years have seen improvements in retail employees' working conditions.

In 1973 Maurice was awarded an Imperial (now Commonwealth) Relations Trust bursary to travel to Britain to examine the retail industry and the British way of life.

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The sacrifice of matrimony'

drunkenness, invalidism, desertion and penal servitude are recognised legal causes. The Bishops are so enraged they go on strike and leave their Sees, but since no one takes any notice of them, they return to work within a fortnight.

In 1966, companionate or trial marriage (helped by a royal experiment) became legal and in 1971 the first laboratory-grown child comes into the world. But physiological fitness cannot make up for lack of affection and parental care, and most of the children died in their fifth year. ... Not till 1981 does sterilisation of the unfit begin.

The monogamy that was never altered when forced upon society has become the majority's voluntary choice. For it is found that a trial marriage robs the permanent one of its glamour and is conducted as a cynical expectation of failure ... By 2030 promiscuity has become a fifth-rate pastime practised by lethargic people of small mental capacity or occupation.

To the Editor

Concern as Monarto buildings lose their heritage status

I write with some concern regarding the transfer of gazetted State Heritage buildings to local heritage status. Such a move, if made, would reduce the

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importance of these buildings, and may in time, at the whim of local government, see the buildings removed from Local heritage status, sold and demolished in the name of progress. The buildings that have been classified as of State or National heritage have received that classification after much deliberation, so why change the register? One wonders whether this is limited practice only applying to particular locations, to more recent heritage studies, or if it is occurring right across South Australia. Is it occurring more often than not, and kept under wraps. Can we prevent such events occurring?

In our local area two such buildings classified on the State Heritage register have been recommended for de-listing, to be reduced to local history significance. These are the Monarto Council Chambers and the Presbyterian Church and cemetery (1873).

The first, the Monarto Council Chambers, is a National Trust listed building built in 1885 of bluestone. It was the seat of local government for 50 years.

Monarto has a very chequered local government history which perhaps makes it unique in its own right. Firstly, from its establishment in 1847 the Monarto District fell under the control of the Nairne Council until it severed ties in 1882. From this time until the chambers were built in 1885 at Monarto, the Monarto District Council met in the local Methodist Church. This Council continued in operation until 1935, when a merger with Mobilong Council occurred.

The Monarto Council building was acquired under the Monarto Development Commission and again became a separate entity. With the demise of the Commission, the building and district fell back under the District Council of Mobilong (1982) which had merged with the Corporation of Murray Bridge to form the District Council of Murray Bridge. Since 1990 this Council has become the Rural City of Murray Bridge and with local government amalgamation in progress, it is set for another name change in the near future.

It is interesting to note that the particular wards of the Monarto area represent the first main settlements. For example, the area known as Bondleigh was so named because the owners John and George Dunn named the area after their birthplace in Devon, England.

East Callington was just one of several settlements which eventually became the Callington we know today. This area is of importance to the State's mining and economic history and the South Australian Company's stock operations.

Preamimma was the name of the holding and homestead of Robert Sweet McDonald but is probably better recognised for the Preamimma Mine.

Monarto South became important in 1886 with the extension of the Nairne to Murray Bridge railway line, which eventually became the Adelaide to Melbourne line. This station was the first outside Adelaide to have its own electricity.

Rockleigh has historical connections with district benefactor John Downing, who served on the Monarto District Council in its first term. Others to serve in the Council's period of government included members of the Downing, Dunn and McDonald families.

The influence of these people in the local government area they served and in their seat of government surely is of significance and importance locally and to South Australian history. Surely such history cannot just be swept under the carpet, in time to be forgotten.

The building is in excellent condition, having been restored during the Monarto satellite city project. It is located in a prominent position, surrounded by other historic buildings. In 1982 it was listed on the State Heritage Register.

The second building is the Presbyterian Church, which was built on land donated by the Rev. Alexander Law, who conducted services here from 1873 - 1902 and, while owning the land, travelled from Mt Barker to conduct the monthly services until 1877, after which he devoted himself to the Monarto area. The church was a place of worship for some 85 years and may have continued to serve the community had the satellite city gone ahead.

The cemetery adjacent to the church consists of nine unmarked graves. The earliest dates from 1878. The cemetery is also the final resting place of Rev. Law, his wife, their children and several parishioners. The declassification of cemeteries and the lack of respect for early graves are not causes for pride.

Perhaps there are many other areas and buildings considered now to be of lesser importance and being progressively removed from heritage lists. I believe these buildings and the early history they represent should be valued more highly. The effort put into their construction and the materials used represented a pioneering feat which cannot be duplicated today. The importance and connection to the State's settlement, to our pioneers and our social, religious, industrial and economic history before Federation should not be undermined.

C. Jones
Historian,
Monarto Historical Heritage Group.

Post Office records a mine for personal, local history

The SA office of Australian Archives is doing its part to make Commonwealth records more widely accessible and will be providing *History SA* with details of what is available.

This month's offering lists postal records for South Australia and the Northern Territory which provide a particularly rich source for genealogical and local history research.

Access to Commonwealth records is governed by the Archives Act 1983, which provides for a statutory right of access to records 30 or more years old. Some information is exempt if it would adversely impact on foreign relations, defence or the revenue; or would comprise an unreasonable disclosure of personal affairs.

Archives are not like library material in that a record item is unique and is maintained in the order in which it was created (most usually in numerical order rather than by subject or function). However, the Australian Archives item level database (ANGAM – Australian National Guide to Archival Material) is good news for researchers wanting to access the holdings.

ANGAM comprises nearly 2 million items. Originally designed to identify records which had been made available for public use, it is increasingly being supplemented by items highly relevant to researchers. It can sort by keyword or a range of Boolean searches may be undertaken. However, despite the size of the database, it comprises only a very small proportion of the 174 kilometres of records of enduring value held by the Archives.

The records described in this first article are closely linked administratively and it may be possible to use several items from each consignment to get a comprehensive picture of individual post offices or localities over a significant date range. While there is some overlap in the information, each item documents a particular function, subject or administrative action.

Archives' Internet site at

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

provides administrative information on the series cited, the agencies creating the records, and links to legislation and functions performed. In addition, it gives examples of other record holdings and Archives' publications, together with links to other archival web sites.

Australian Archives would be interested to have readers' comments on the format and usefulness of the

material below, so make your views known to the Editor, Jim Loudon, 1 Ashley Place, Ridleyton, 5008 (tel 8340 3467) and he will pass them on to the Archives' SA office.

SA and NT postal records held by Archives Australia

Documentation of SA and NT staff appointments, opening and closing of post and telephone service offices, establishment of new postal services and communication facilities (eg 1902/3868 opening of Pacific cable and 1903/3440 direct connection of Adelaide to Eastern Extension Telegraph Co.); registration of newspapers (eg 1908/12507 *Owen's Weekly*) and resident applications for the establishment of postal or telephone facilities (eg 1908/1848 petition for Moody Post Office). NB There is an overlap between this series and D959/D960 below. Cited as Australian Archives South Australian office (AASA) D957; ranges from 1901-1914; 375 items.

Records dealing with the establishment, abolition and staffing of new positions for named offices for post and telegraph services in SA and NT. They also deal with conditions of service (eg S1919/2673 leave to officers who have joined the Australian Imperial Forces). The series reflects the changing nature of post and telegraph work over 50 years. Cited as AASA D958; covers 1912-1953. The 1358 items are mostly suitable for search by geographical location.

Administrative records relating to policy (eg A1941/57 air mail matter from Palestine; A1919/1623 press messages from London; A1926/968 memorandum of agreement Eastern Australia and China Telegraph Co.), procedures (eg A1914/5115 telegraph systems creed; A1915/3090 enquiries re wounded soldiers; A1963/458 royal visit 1964), opening of buildings (eg A1942/413 postwar building program), telephone lines (eg A1915/3523 Pacific cable), fees (eg A1936/2437 customs clearance fees) and accounts for stamps (eg 1943/50 stamp selling machines). This series overlaps D957 to some degree and some citations from the Northern Territory may be expected. Cited as AASA D959 and ranging between the years 1895-1966; 1256 items.

Records dealing with SA/NT official and private telephone line construction and connection (eg B1912/3993 Friedrichwalde-Marrabel telephone line construction; B57/151 private lines at Maitland; B1936/3838 eight photos of personnel and camps and copy of Sir Charles Todd's report of 1884; B1939/1624 *Adelaide Advertiser - Melbourne Argus* lease of telegraph morse channel 1929-1947; B1949/2123 military post and telegraph offices operative

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between 1941 and 1946). It also deals with the opening and closing of post offices (see also D597) (eg B1939/187 Butler telephone and telegraph facilities established 1939, withdrawn 1941) and the provision of telephones (eg B1959/1777 Kangaroo Island portable telephone service and governing conditions) and letter delivery services (eg B1951/2229 letter delivery at Port Augusta). This series is suitable for searching by place name. Cited as AASA D960 and dated between 1913 and 1964; 1057 items.

Documentation of many aspects of the conveyancing of mail in SA and NT (eg C1923/1941 carriage of mail by the Darwin-Emungalan railway reduced due to closure of Darwin meat works, effect on mail services out of Katherine; C1936/578 postal facilities at Belair 1935-1937 for Centenary Boy Scout Corroboree). The records have often been reregistered so the file number does not necessarily reflect the date of the contents (eg C1951/1170 Happy Valley - Adelaide mail service 1923). The series also documents the establishment and cessation of letter receiver services. Dated 1914-1964, the series is cited as AASA D961 and has 711 items suitable for searching by location.

Precommissioning and history records of SA and NT post offices with details of acquisition, alteration, maintenance and disposal (eg PC8022/5 Birdwood post office and residence transferred from SA 1884, sold 1970; PC8037/5 Brooklyn Park post office acquired 1951; new post office opened 1964, incorporates newspaper cuttings and photographs; PC8156/5 Leigh Creek residence built 1953, alternations, repairs and maintenance), Suitable for searching by either place or person name, the series comprises 307 items and is cited as AASA D5079 with dates from 1979 but only the portion predating 1 January 1967 is available for public use under the 30-year rule.

Telephone engineering files dealing with subscriber services, telephone exchanges and metropolitan branch organisation between 1960 and 1989. A significant number of items deal with administrative aspects of the Engineering Branch. The records are controlled in a multiple number sequence which gives some degree of access by subject (eg SEAB 8/3 Darwin after cyclone Tracy; SEAD 4/24 Prospect exchange fire damage) or function. Archives hold about 30 metres of records but only a few have been entered on the database. Good descriptive consignments lists without contents date are available. Again, only the portion between 1960 and 1 January 1967 is available under the 30-year rule. Cite as AASA D1037.

Rowland Rees designed more than the Summertown Institute

by Geoffrey Bishop

Some time ago I was asked what I knew about Rowland Rees. Not a lot, really, was my response. He designed the Summertown Institute; his wife Ada laid the foundation stone and they did not live in the Uraidla-Summertown area. What else would you like to know?

The reason for the question was that the East Torrens Community Arts Association was soon to take over the Institute Building) as its home and had decided to name the centre after Rowland Rees.

The Summertown Institute was built in 1884; Mrs Rees laid the foundation stone on 12 September of that year. It is a fine building of local sandstone and probably its best feature is the superb timber ceiling. The building was in constant use in its early decades for meetings, wedding receptions and other family functions. Bazaars, table tennis and the local literary society met there. As with many country institutes, use of the building has fallen off in recent years. The building is owned and maintained by the District Council of East Torrens.

Getting back to Rowland Rees: engineer, architect, Member of Parliament, educator and art lover. He was a son of Rowland Rees of the Royal Engineers and later Mayor of Dover, and was born at Gibraltar on 25 September 1810. He was educated in Hong Kong and at Wesley College, Sheffield, where he was awarded an open scholarship and a large number of prizes. Rees studied engineering and architecture with Thomas Baker and subsequently served his articles in the office of Henry Edward Kendall and Thomas Hawksley.

After practising his profession in England for a number of years, Rees emigrated to South Australia, arriving on Christmas Day 1869 on the *Duke of Sutherland*.

In February 1870 Rees entered into partnership with Thomas England, MLC. Messrs English and Rees had their offices in Temple Chambers, Adelaide, and built houses at Glenelg, Glen Osmond and Adelaide. Their commissions at New Glenelg included houses for pastoralist Clement Sabine and William Saunders. They also made alterations to Walter Duffield's house Para Para at Gawler.

The partnership was dissolved in 1873. Rees largely practised on his own from this time although he did undertake work with Daniel Garlick and in 1879 formed the firm Rees & Hornabrook. Rees established his reputation over the next few years

with projects such as the Kadina Wesleyan Church and schoolhouse (1873), Yelta Wesleyan Chapel (1873), Mission House, Moonta (1874), Clarendon Wesleyan Church and courthouse (1875) and Downer House (now part of St Mark's College) built for Sir John Downer in 1876-77.

On 23 November 1870 Rees married Ada Caroline Sandford, a daughter of solicitor William Matthews Sandford of Lower Mitcham. The couple had two sons, Rowland and John.

Around 1871 Rowland Rees' interest turned to Parliament. He was elected to the House of Assembly on 7 April 1873 as the Member for Burra, having defeated a skilled contender, Ebenezer Ward, editor of the *Adelaide Register*. It was far from a gracious defeat for Ward sued Rees for libel. He was unsuccessful in his action.

Rees was the member for Burra until his defeat in the election of March 1881. He unsuccessfully contested a by-election for Yatala that same year and in June 1882 was returned as the member for Onkaparinga, which he represented until 1890. His political career ended in 1894 after he unsuccessfully contested a by-election for the seat of East Torrens.

During his years in Parliament Rees was known as a fine orator. He defended his fellow architects on a number of occasions and in 1889 introduced an unsuccessful Bill for the registration of architects.

Other areas he took an interest in during his parliamentary career were waste disposal, education and the rights of women. In 1875 he expressed concern about the discharge of raw effluent into the sea and the pollution this was causing. In 1883 he argued for the right of women to sue for divorce and to have a tertiary education.

Rees was a strong supporter of the Education Act of 1875, advocating free education and curriculum reform. A statement by Rees at the passing of the Act later gave Colin Thiele the title for his history of education in SA: 'It is possible we were now sowing as it were grains of mustard seed which would grow into the large tree.' Rees served briefly as Minister for Education in the Morgan ministry.

Rowland Rees' interest in education continued throughout his years in Parliament. In 1884 he raised the need for a School of Industrial Design. Two years later he was appointed to the Government's Technical Education Board and visited a number of technical education centres in Victoria in 1888. The outcome was the establishment of the SA School of Mines and Industries in 1889. Rees advocated that technical education should be available to both male and female students: he was not successful in this matter.



The Summertown Institute building in Greenhill Road, Summertown.

— photo by Dick Leeton

Rees' architectural career continued during his years in Parliament. He undertook a host of building commissions both in Adelaide and in country areas. He became well known for his 'ebullient detailing'. As with other architects of the time, there are many buildings that are attributed to Rees because of their style but without any definite proof. Buildings which he did design include Glenelg Wesleyan Church (1876), Lobethal woollen mills (1883), George Catchlove's residence, Strangways Terrace, North Adelaide (1882), National Bank, O'Connell Street, North Adelaide (1884), Fulton's foundry, Kilkenny (1885-6) and Johnson's industrial building, King William Street, Adelaide (1884), which cost about 16000 pounds and is French Renaissance in design.

He is also known for his hotel designs, some simple and other elaborate. They include the Huntsman (1882), British (1883), Oxford (1884), Cumberland Arms and the Newmarket (1884). He also did alterations for the Rising Sun at Kensington and the Terminus at Port Wakefield. Rees also designed many institute buildings, including those at Kadina (1874), Burra (alternations 1874), Jamestown (1876), Victor Harbor (1877), Two Wells (1877 - 'a neat institute'), Hallett (1879) and Summertown (1884).

Holdfast Bay railway

In 1878 he successfully tendered for the construction of the Holdfast Bay railway line and was supervising engineer for the project during 1879-80. In 1888 he became Vice-President of the South Australian Institute of Architects.

Projects attributed to Rees include the 1880s section of Bray House, Hutt Street, Adelaide; Tivoli Hotel, Adelaide; J H Finlayson's house, Stanley Street, North Adelaide; and alternations to John Rounsevell's residence in Hutt Street.

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In February 1882 Henry de Johncourt Patterson joined Rees' firm. Among Rees & Patterson's best work was St Peter's Town Hall (built in 1885 but now substantially altered) which 'showed his style in designing ebullient Italianate facades'.

Rees had a strong interest in art and from 1884 to 1896 was a member of the Board of Governors and the Fine Arts Committee of the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery. He was one of the selectors for the purchase of paintings by the gallery in 1880 and 1888.

Rees' architectural career declined from the mid-1880s, possibly because of financial difficulties he faced. In 1896 Rees moved to Western Australia and set up practice there. He returned to Adelaide in 1903 and died, aged 64, at Parkside on 13 October the following year. He was buried at St Jude's Church of England, Brighton, the next day.

In 1885 George Loyau wrote of Rowland Rees,

... he has practised his profession with much success ... he has taken a very active part in public affairs and has always been especially active in connection with education, fine arts, the schools of painting and design.

Sources

Australian Dictionary of Biography Vol. 6 1851-1900 (1976) pp. 15-16.

Biographical Index of South Australians 1836-1886 (1986) p. 1338.

Aeuckens, A (1989), *The People's University*, pp. 1, 5, 7, 8; Coxtton, H, Playford, J and Reid, R (1985), *Biographical Register of the South Australian Parliament 1857-1957*, p. 187.

Jensen, E and R (1980), *Colonial Architecture in South Australia; Heritage of the City of Adelaide* (1990).

Thiele, C (1975), *Grains of Mustard Seed*, p. 15; *Observer*, 15 October 1904.

New members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following new members: Ms J. Carter, Mrs J. Golley, Mrs I. Gorman, Mr K. Hay, Ms C. Hayton, Dr D. Heysen, Ms J. Mencil, Dr J. Nicholas, Mrs J. Petchell, Mr T. Schaeffer, Mrs W. Whitford, Ms J. Wills.

Inside, did you miss ... ?

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Have fun and learn lots!

HSSA QUIZ NIGHT

7 pm, Saturday 17 May
Cambridge Room,
Unley Community Sports Club,
39 Oxford Tce, Unley

Hosted by 5AN's Carol Whitelock. There'll be lots of prizes to be won and a great night is assured, so get a team of 8-10 people together and book now!

You will need \$7 for entrance to the night, 20c pieces for other games, a pen, supper to share, and your thinking cap.

The Society will provide tea and coffee but the licensed bar must be used for alcoholic drinks.

Make your booking with Anna Pope on 8272 1836 before 2 May.

Also, if you have prizes you could donate, please call Anna asap.

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