

HSSA

History

Newsletter of the Historical Society of South Australia
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No. 135 March 1998

Field trip and lecture

Unique opportunity to view Aboriginal rock art

Heritage consultant Robin Coles will lead a field trip to the Mount Lofty Ranges on Sunday 29 March, giving HSSA members a unique opportunity to view examples of the rock art, shelters and tools of the Peramangk people.

Robin will bring to the tour a wide and thorough knowledge of the Aboriginal sites to be visited. He will also share this knowledge with members when he addresses the Society on Friday 3 April.

Council member Pat Sumerling went on a similar tour last year and describes it as one of the best local field trips she has been on.

The tour takes all day, starting from the War Memorial, Kintore Avenue, at 9.30 am and returning between 4.30 and 5 pm.

A small coach taking only 27 passengers will be used for the trip because of the distance to be covered and the winding nature of some of the less frequented roads.

The bus will leave Adelaide on the Mount Barker Freeway and then proceed to Tunskillo, Mount Torrens, Mount Pleasant and Eden Valley. Passengers will receive a map of the tour on the bus.

The use of a bus rather than individual cars will minimise the impact of vehicles on the roads, some of which are unmade and dusty. The limit on numbers will also lessen the human impact on a fragile environment of the private properties to be traversed.

Reaching the Aboriginal sites will involve walking away from the roads and, while the distances are not long (the longest walk is about 1.5 km), Pat advises members to wear sensible shoes. Members will also need to take a picnic lunch, sunscreen and hat and if there is any chance of a change in the weather – be prepared!

The cost of the day-long trip is \$25, which must be

paid in full at the time of booking. Bookings may be made with Patricia Sumerling (8362 8262) and cheques should be sent to the Treasurer, Avis Huckel, Institute Building, 122 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide, 5000, and made payable to the Historical Society of SA Inc.

May lecture

Classical Adelaide - a new view of the city



How much do you know about the origins of some of Adelaide's better known buildings? Many of them are derived from the Classical style and some are even direct copies of Italian originals.

In an illustrated talk to be given on Friday 1 May, Dr Ann Geddes will guide members around the streets of Adelaide, showing how the 19th century architects included messages in their designs. Her presentation will show you the city through the eyes of a Classics scholar in a way you have not seen before.

Dr Geddes is Senior Lecturer in Classics at the University of Adelaide and is well known for her guided tours through Egypt, Turkey and other parts of the Middle East.

Patricia Sumerling has heard that the tours are immensely exciting and, if you have the time and the fee, Dr Geddes is planning a summer school in Turkey this year which is open to anyone wanting to learn about that country's very rich history.

Newsletter of the Historical Society of SA, March 1998

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

Institute Building, 122 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide
5000 (mailing address only)

Founded 1974

OBJECTS

- To promote the collection, preservation and classification of source material of all kinds relating to South Australian and Australian history.
- To publish historical records and articles.
- To promote the interchange of information among members of the Society by lectures, readings, discussions, field trips and exhibitions.
- To arouse interest in and promote the study and discussion of history, especially that of South Australia and Australia.
- To cooperate with similar societies throughout Australia.
- To do such things as are conducive or incidental to the attainment of any of the above objects.

COUNCIL

Patron: Sir Walter Crocker, K.B.E.

President: Dr R.P.J. Nicol, 8297 9844

Vice-President: Mr M.Keain

Secretary: Ms M. Whitford

Treasurer: Mrs A. Huckel, 8277 2953

Publicity / promotions officer: Ms M. Dunshore, 8381 7429

Journal editor: Dr J.T. Stock, fax 8303 3446.

Members: Dr G. Bishop, Dr S Cameron, Mr S. Dawes, Mr C. Deed, Ms C. Garnaut, Mr J. Loudon, Dr P. Payne, Ms A. Pope, Ms P. Sumerling.

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

Membership records: Mrs E. Ulbrich, 8278 2576

History SA editor: Mr J. Loudon, phone/fax 8340 3467

Auditor: Mr K. Banfield

To the Editor

Your editor joins the list

Your 1998 program note in the January issue of *History SA* on my forthcoming lecture to the Society calls Colonel Robert Torrens 'the land titles reformer'.

2 October (the date of the lecture) may be too late to disabuse some of your readers, so I ask you to mention sooner, that Colonel Torrens was not a land titles reformer. That was his son's work, the man who became *Sir* Robert Torrens. You aren't the first to make this mistake; you are not even the first millionth to do so; and, regardless of anything I say, you won't be the last.

Peter Moore

Darlinghurst, NSW

1998 subscriptions due

Members are reminded that unpaid subscriptions for 1998 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 2007) \$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.

And a special 'thank you' to those members who not only renewed their membership but included a donation with their annual subscription. The Society runs a very tight ship and the generosity of these members is greatly appreciated.

History SA deadline

The deadline for all material for the May 1998 issue of *History SA* is Tuesday 14 April. It should be addressed to Jim Loudon, Editor, *History SA*, 1 Ashley Place, Ridleyton, 5008.

The material may be typed or hand written (clearly, please!) or on a floppy disc using ClarisWorks 2, Microsoft Word 4 or Microsoft Word 5. Any discs will be returned.

If the material is not accompanied by photographs it can be faxed to 8340 3467.

Advertising in History SA

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

Copy or finished art work, together with a cheque for the appropriate amount (made payable to the Historical Society of SA, Inc.) should be sent to the Editor, Jim Loudon, 1 Ashley Place, Ridleyton, 5008. See the note of copy deadlines elsewhere on this page.

Salisbury marks its sesquicentenary

The year 1998 is seeing a series of events to mark Salisbury's sesquicentenary.

The anniversary will be marked by a year-long program of celebrations which were launched by the mayor at the city's Australia Day ceremony. Events of the widest appeal are being noted in the Diary section of *History SA* as they arise.

Not least of these is a ferret race, being sponsored by the SA Ferret Association at the Ingle Farm Sporting Club on 19 April. It appears that the annual ferret race used to be run as the St Kilda Cup before moving inland.

There are also plans to restore the memorial to 'Wittber's Hop' – the first powered flight in Australia in 1910. The memorial stands just off the Port Wakefield Road at Salisbury.

Souvenir pictorial envelopes stamped with Australia Post approved post marks may be ordered from the Salisbury Philatelic Society, PO Box 336, Salisbury 5108 (tel. 8358 9022 or e-mail rpy@picknowl.com.au). The post marks are the St Kilda Progressive Society crab motif (released in January), the Salisbury wetlands bird motif (8 June release), and the Salisbury Stamp Fair motif (to be released later this year).

More information about the sesquicentenary may be obtained from Bridget Jolly, Cultural Development Officer with Salisbury City Council on 8406 8366 or 8406 8222; fax 8281 5466; e-mail bjolly@salisbury.sa.gov.au

James Potter of the Salisbury and District Historical Society writes:



It all began in August 1847 when John Harvey (left) purchased Section 2191 of the Hundred of Yatala. John was an astute, enterprising young man of 27 and had been in the colony for nine years. He had applied himself to several occupations, including the contract for conveying the mail from Adelaide to Gawler.

In 1848 he took over the licence of the Travellers' Rest (the site now occupied by the Old Spot hotel) at the crossing of the Little Para River. He then took to hawking provisions to the mining populations at

Kapunda and Burra and in dealing in wagons and bullocks for the ore carters.

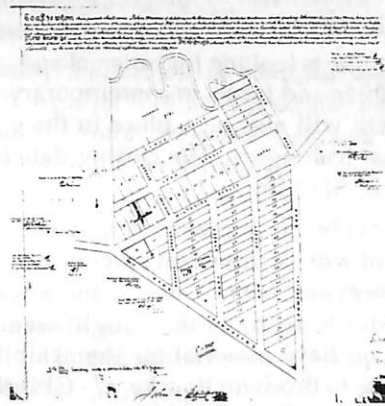
The location of the Little Para River was such that it was the extent of a day's journey by bullock wagon from Adelaide or Port Adelaide heading north, and as the river had no bridges, it had to be forded. John saw the commercial potential of establishing a town on the banks of the river to provide an overnight stopover and to supply provisions for north bound travellers. The location of Section 2191 suited his purpose and he soon had it subdivided and laid out in half-acre town allotments. The town so formed he named Salisbury after the city of the County of Wiltshire, England, where his wife Ann was born. The first sale of allotments was in June 1848 on the eastern boundary of the Section. He also built a hotel, the New Road Inn, which was opened for business at the same time as the sale.

The town was soon established with tradespeople and as the land was taken up for farming along the river and across the plain, Salisbury became the centre for servicing the district from the foothills to the coast.

The railway from Adelaide reached Salisbury in December 1865 and extended to Gawler the following year. The facility caused a decrease in the road traffic through Salisbury but by this time the town was well established and could survive on local trade. Within ten years of the first land sale, five churches had been built and there were four hotels.

In the 1860s a citrus industry was developed along the Little Para River flats, covering some 200 acres and this flourished for the next hundred years.

World War II brought dramatic changes to the demographics of Salisbury when a munition factory was established just north of the town. The population trebled within a few months and, following the end of the war, the increase continued until in this 150 Jubilee year it totals 118,000 people.



The plan for the township of Salisbury lodged by John Harvey in 1854.

State Conference will show the fun in history

Noted writer and broadcaster Tim Bowden will be the star turn at the State History Conference to be held at Port Adelaide in May.

'History as Entertainment' will be the theme of the conference, which will include historical entertainments and tours along with the skills-based workshops and debates.

The conference begins with a reception on the evening of Friday 15 May at Edmund Wright House, Adelaide, followed by two days of activity at the Port Adelaide campus of the Douglas Mawson Institute of TAFE.

For many, a highlight will be the train trip from the Port Dock Station at the Railway Museum to Adelaide and return, complete with commentary and picnic lunch.

A special direct bus service will run from the city to Port Adelaide and return on both days.

Registration forms and a brochure will be available from mid-March from the History Trust of SA, GPO Box 1836, Adelaide, 5001.

Enquiries to the Conference Coordinator Jenny Palmer 8226 8556.

Crochet past and present sought for Brisbane exhibit

Artists and crafts people throughout Australia are invited to submit examples of contemporary crochet for a juried exhibition in Brisbane next year.

The exhibition is being sponsored by the Crafts Council of Queensland and curated by Bronwin Bourke, who is also researching a book on the history of crochet in Australia since 1800. The book is expected to be published in time for the centenary of Federation in 2001.

Bronwin says she is looking for unusual and interesting fibres and forms in contemporary crochet, although there will also be a place in the exhibition for traditional techniques. The closing date for proposals is 30 May 1998.

Referring to her book, Bronwin says, 'Any information of work carried out by your readers, their family members and friends, or any other relevant facts, no matter how trivial they might seem, is of interest.' If you have material for the exhibition or the book, write to Bronwin Bourke, c/- GPO Box 1867, Brisbane, 4001; tel. 015 037 215.

Prof. Dickey tells the Legacy story

Members will recall that Associate Professor Brian Dickey of Flinders University shared the results of his research into Legacy in South Australia at a talk he gave to a meeting of HSSA last August.

His research has since resulted in a book, *A Generation of Legacy Service: South Australia and Broken Hill since 1945*, which is available from the book table at the Society's monthly meetings.

Reviewing it in the *Advertiser* in January, Chris Brice wrote,

While the book traces the post-World War II history and achievements of Legacy, which Dame Roma Mitchell describes in her foreword as 'a shining light in the area of service', author Dickey also looks to the future.

With time, the role of Legacy has changed. In the first years after World War II, the children were the central concern of the club. But as the children, known as wards, grew into adulthood, the focus moved to the widows of veterans.

Today, there are about 12,000 widows on the club's books - around 80 of them from World War I. The total number is expected to peak in five to seven years at perhaps 13,000 - including widows of those who served in Korea, Malaya, Vietnam and other armed conflicts in which Australians have been involved.

Legacy has also extended its role to the care of the dependents of servicemen killed in 'hazardous service or training for war', for example the 1996 Blackhawk helicopter disaster.

As the widows increase, the number of veterans, and therefore Legatees, decreases. They know, says Dickey, 'that their generation of service is coming to an end, for time has caught up with them.' Yet there are 'at least another 20, even 30, years of hard work ahead for those who survive, always assuming the nation can avoid war and its inevitable costs.

To this end, Legacy has widened its membership base to include younger men, those with Reserve service and former Legacy wards.

Meanwhile, 'the World War II generation can pass on the task, conscious of a job well done'.

1997 AGM on 3 April

The 1998 Annual General Meeting of the Historical Society of SA Inc. will precede Robin Coles' talk at the meeting to be held on Friday 3 April at the Prince Philip Theatre, Prince Alfred College, Kent Town, at 7.45 pm. The agenda for the meeting and the minutes of the 1997 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 – 1997 year
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Elections
6. Any Other Business

1997 AGM Minutes

The Annual General Meeting of the Historical Society of South Australia was held at the Prince Philip Theatre, Prince Alfred College, Kent Town, on 4 April 1997 at 7.45 pm.

1. **OPENING:** The President, Dr Robert Nicol declared the meeting open at 7.55 pm.
2. **APOLOGIES:** Dr Pauline Payne, Ms Joan Ramsay.
3. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT - 1996:** The President presented a report on the activities of the Society during 1996.

After so many years as President, I fear my annual reports have become somewhat repetitive. However, it is important that our activities are formally recorded each year. It is also important to note that the Society continues to prosper despite the apparently never-ending difficult economic circumstances which South Australia faces. This is almost solely the result of the long-term support of a group of enthusiastic and committed members who recognise the value of recording and disseminating our history.

Once again, the value of the Annual Lecture Program was reflected in high attendance and active questioning of speakers.

The 1996 lecture program consisted of:

- 2 February: Sally Ann Nicholson, *The Emerging Sphere of Private Hospital Nurses*.
- 1 March: Associate Professor Peter Howell, *Playford, Politics and Parliament*.

12 April: Yvonne Reynolds, *'Saucy Sarah, Rarely Sober' – Sarah Francisco (1839 -1916)*.

3 May: Rosemary Michell, *The Folk of North Terrace*.

14 June: Colin Harris, *Beyond Goyder's Line – History of the SA Pastoral Country*.

5 July: Enid Robertson, *Wittunga Garden – From a Family Point of View*.

2 August: Hon. John Bannon, *The Crucial Colony*.

6 September: Tony Brooks, *Catherine Helen Spence – The Forgotten Woman*.

11 October: Peter Brune, *Papua 1942*.

1 November: Nick Ganzis, *Greeks in South Australia*.

The venue for the Annual General Meeting on 12 April was moved to the Goodwood Orphanage and a large crowd attended. Given the recent sale of the property, it was a fine opportunity for members to inspect this significant heritage building.

Other events and field trips comprised:

21 April: Bus tour of Kapunda and district held in association with Kapunda Historical Society.

23 June: Bus tour to the Gawler area led by Yvonne Chamberlain and including a visit to *Para Para*, the historic former home of pioneer Walter Duffield.

30 October: Tour of Adelaide Oval and the SACA Museum, including the historic Bradman Room.

Our thanks go to the speakers and tour guides who between them ensured yet another successful year for the Society, and also to Council members and office holders who put so much effort into organising all the events so well.

The Annual Dinner was held on 17 August at the Masonic Hall on North Terrace after a fascinating tour of the building and its historic collections. We were also honoured by the presence of journalist and writer Max Fatchen, who gave us some lively and entertaining reminiscences of his life. Thanks and appreciation for the organisation of this event are again extended to Avis Huckel.

The Society's publications continued on track and through the efforts of *Journal* editor, Dr Jenny Tilby Stock, and *History SA* editor, Jim Loudon, seem to reach an even higher standard each year. Members can be justly proud of both publications as the principal means of disseminating research and information about the history of South Australia. Sales of volumes 1 and 2 of the *Insights* series continue to go well, necessitating a reprint of both issues. It is hoped that a volume 3 will soon be forthcoming.

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Membership continues to be held at a reasonable level, with a small growth in total numbers. Once again I can report that, with the success of the Endowment Fund, we have been able to keep subscription rates under control. Falling interest rates may, however, necessitate some review of the Society's investment policy if long-term plans for the Fund are to be achieved.

The Society's Council continued its support of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies. I attended several executive committee meetings during the course of the year, and at the 1996 Annual General Meeting I was reelected Senior Vice-President. These meetings provided valuable opportunities to exchange ideas and share experiences with our colleagues interstate.

On the more general historical front, the loss of Old Parliament House Museum was at least in part compensated for by the move of the State History Centre to Edmund Wright House. A planned major refurbishment of the building should allow for the establishment of a major community historical centre and resource. With the agreement and cooperation of the History Trust, the Society will move its own records and its Council meetings to Edmund Wright House once the refurbishment is complete.

Among others who should be thanked for their unstinting efforts on behalf of the Society are the following: Ron Gibbs for keeping an ever-watchful eye on the Endowment Fund and the reinvestment of income; Keith Banfield for his continuing work as Honorary Auditor; Marcia Dunshore for her energetic work as Publicity Officer; Enid Ulbrich and Ila Hollands for providing their justly famous suppers; and the staff of Prince Alfred College for their continuing support of our monthly meetings.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT: The President commented that the Society continues to compare favourably with other Societies.

Avis Huckel, Treasurer, was thanked by the President for the preparation of another comprehensive Report. The President then presented the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 1996, which were audited by Mr Keith Banfield, CPA.

Moved: M Keane/J Loudon that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 12 April 1996 and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 1996 be adopted. Carried.

Moved: R. Nicol that Honorary Life Membership be conferred on Enid Ulbrich, who served as a member or office bearer on Council virtually since the inception

of the Society. Carried by acclamation.

Moved: R. Nicol that Honorary Life Membership be conferred on Ila Hollands who has given unstintingly of her time during the greater part of the life of the Society but is best known for her partnership in preparing and providing the well appreciated suppers at lecture meetings, following an offer to bring a plate of scones to a meeting. Carried by acclamation.

5. ELECTIONS: The President declared all positions vacant and read out the nominations which had been received by the closing date. They were:

President	Dr Robert Nicol
Vice-President	Mr Maurice Keane
Secretary	Ms Anne Every
Treasurer	Mrs Avis Huckel
Council Members	Dr Pauline Payne, Ms Patricia Sumerling, Mr Jim Loudon, Mr Sean Dawes, Mrs Anna Pope and Dr Geoffrey Bishop.

There being no more nominations than 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 VCouncil,

6. OTHER BUSINESS: There being no other matters notified to the Secretary, the President closed the Annual General Meeting at 8.15 pm and introduced the evening's guest speaker, Mr Barry Rowney.

Certified Correct, Robert Nicol, President, April 1998.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT for year ended 31.12.97

At 1 January 1997 the Society's funds (excluding the Endowment and Life Members Fund) totalled:

\$15,963.06

During 1997 the Society received:

Subscriptions:	
Ordinary	4195
Family	1620
Country	675
Pens./student	986
Corp./Institution	367
Affiliate	391
Term/Life*	1000
	9,234
Grants:	
History Trust of SA	2,000

Donations:	61	
Publications:		
<i>History SA</i>	21	
<i>Journal</i>	297.52	
Books	1,378.05	
		1,696.57
Activities:		
Meetings,		
Quiz, Dinner:	3378	
Field trips:	<u>1431</u>	
		4,809
Interest (excl. End/Life)		906.48
Miscellaneous		<u>100</u>
		<u>18,807.05</u>
		34,770.11
During 1996 the Society spent:		
Publishing:		
<i>History SA</i>	3097.25	
<i>Journal</i> (Jan. '98)	5176	
Books	<u>239</u>	
		8,512.25
Publicity		583
Activities:		
Meetings,		
Quiz, Dinner	2770	
Field trips	<u>680</u>	
		3,450
Treas./Sec. expenses		400
Postage		1,176.52
Govt/bank charges		252.15
Insurance		737.80
Misc. (incl. purchase of fax machine & printer)		<u>1,843.76</u>
		<u>16,955.48</u>
At 31 December 1997, the Society's funds (excluding the Endowment and Life Members Fund) totalled:		17,814.63
At 1 January 1997, the Society's Endowment and Life Members Fund totalled:		43,903.17
During 1997, the Fund received net interest:		3,497.60
At 31 December 1996, the Society's Endowment and Life Members Fund totalled:		<u>\$47,400.77</u>
	(signed) <i>Avis Huckel</i> , <u>Hon. Treasurer</u>	
	23 February 1998	

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 1997.

(signed) *Keith Banfield CPA*, Hon. Auditor
18 February 1998

New members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following new members: Mrs J. Bell, Mrs C. Birch, Assoc. Professor G. Goodwin, Mrs A. Herraman, Miss B. Hoskin, Ms M. Kleinig, Dr R. Myhill, Mrs A. Painter and Mr I White.

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.

15 March: Celebrations to mark 40th anniversary Electric Transport Museum, St Kilda, 11 am to 5 pm. Double-decker bus from Victoria Square, Adelaide, 10.45 am. Bookings essential. Ph. 8258 1335.

22 March: Salisbury and Districts Historical Society excursion to Hahndorf. Departs from Salisbury Folk Museum, Ann St, Salisbury, 9 am. Bookings to June Stephens, 8250 3258.

28-29 March: Medieval Festival with jousting, archery, dancing, music, village sports, astrology, crafts and food. National Motor Museum, Birdwood.

29 March: HSSA field trip to explore rock art of the Peramangk people in the Mt Lofty Ranges. Departs War Memorial, Kintore Avenue, 9.30 am, returns 4.30-5 pm. Bookings to Pat Sumerling 8362 8262; cheques to Avis Huckel, Treasurer, Historical Society of SA, Institute Building, 122 Kintore Ave, Adelaide, 5000.

3 April: HSSA AGM 7.45 pm, followed by heritage consultant Robin Coles on *History and Art of the Peramangk People of the Mt Lofty Ranges*. Prince Philip Theatre, Prince Alfred College, Kent Town, 8 pm.

19 April: Salisbury and District Historical Society walk around Salisbury. 2 pm from Folk Museum, Ann St, Salisbury.

1 May: Dr Ann Geddes, senior lecturer, University of Adelaide, *Classical Adelaide*. Prince Philip Theatre, Prince Alfred College, Kent Town, 8 pm.

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3 May: Patronal Festival at St John's Anglican Church, Salisbury. Period dress; damper and billy tea, 10 am.

15 May: Opening Reception for State History Conference, Edmund Wright House, King William St, Adelaide, 7 pm.

16-17 May: State History Conference, *History as Entertainment*, Douglas Mawson Institute of TAFE, Port Adelaide. See story page 3 this issue. Enquiries to Jenny Palmer, at History Trust of SA, 8226 8556.

Exhibitions

A Twist of Fate: An exhibition and interactive experience about refugees. Migration Museum, Kintore Ave, Mon-Fri 10 am - 5 pm, weekends 1 - 5 pm, Until 30 July.

Titanic - voyage of discovery: An interactive CD ROM gives access to the most comprehensive collection of information ever compiled about this maritime disaster. Maritime Museum, Port Adelaide, daily 10 am - 5 pm, until 27 April.

Cargo for the Colony: Includes four-metre long rudder and huge anchor from the merchant ship *Sydney Cove*, which sank off northern Tasmania in 1796. Also objects recovered from the wreck site. Maritime Museum, Port Adelaide, daily 10 am - 5 pm, 3 May to 31 July.

150 Years of Salisbury: Worked by members of Salisbury Art Society. Salisbury Institute, Wiltshire St, Salisbury, 16-18 May. Enquiries 8250 1818.

Adelaide can claim Claret Ash as its own

by David Jones

Adelaide's cultural landscape is rich in a diversity of exotic and indigenous plant species. Many of them have been used in our gardens, parks, parklands and streets to provide shade, colour, smell and display. But there are very few species that we can associate as being truly Adelaide species. The hybrid rhododendrons (*Rhododendron sp.*), camellias (*Camellia sp.*) and roses (*Rosa sp.*) propagated in the Hills gardens and in the Plains nurseries and gardens are one group; others are the 'Chellaston' almond trees (*Prunus dulcis* 'Chellaston'), the Pink Kurrajong (*Brachycton acerifolius x carpae*) and the Claret Ash (*Fraxinus oxycarpa* 'Raywood').

The Claret Ash, with its rich red wine colour from late March onwards, is an ornamental tree that has

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RAY NURSERY

Bridgewater, Sth. Australia

CLARET ASH (*Fraxinus Raywoodii*) - Finest novelty for years: Glorious crimson-claret Autumn foliage, lasting two months. Grafts. Strong plants, 3 ft. 10/-.

BLUE CEDAR (*Cedrus atlantica glauca*) - The true blue variety of the Atlas Cedar. Hardy anywhere. Grafts. 7/6 and 10/- each.

GOLDEN CEDAR (*Cedrus Deodara aurea*) - The Golden Deodar: Keeps its color throughout the year. 7/6 and 10/- each. Grafts.

GOLDEN RETINOSPORA (*Retinospora obtusa crispata*) - Lovely Golden Conifer for cool districts. Far finer than *Cupressus Lawsoniana aurea*. 5/- each and 7/6. Cuttings.

IESCHENAUZIA (*hiloia major*) - Exquisite W.A. shrub, with azure blue flowers, quite hardy in dry hot positions. 2/- each, £5 per 100.

CATALOGUE ON APPLICATION.

This advertisement for the Ray Nursery appeared in The Garden Lover magazine (Melbourne) in 1929.

its origins in Adelaide. You can see it today in every capital city and most country towns and it is a distinctive species in the streets of Canberra's suburbs of the 1930s and 40s.

Origin dates back to c. 1910

The origin of the species dates back to around 1910 when Adelaide opal dealer Tullie Cornthwaite Wollaston, who was starting to develop a plant nursery and retirement residence on his property at Bridgewater called 'Raywood', observed and acquired from Sewell's Nursery at Aldgate a plum-coloured foliage form of Ash amongst a row of Ash seedlings. Reputedly the seedlings had either Austrian origins, either Narrow-leafed Ash (*F. angustifolia*) or the European or Golden Ash (*F. excelsior*) or from the North American species, the Manna Ash (*F. ornus*). The Desert Ash (*F. oxycarpa*) is a subspecies of the Narrow-leafed Ash.

Wollaston's gardener, John Gates, planted the seedling at 'Raywood'. Gates progressively grafted the seedling first onto Manna Ash stock, a species of the same size, and then onto Golden Ash stock.

The colour of this species prompted Wollaston to propagate and successfully sell the specimen from his Ray Nursery at Bridgewater in the 1930s and 40s. This enabled its dissemination and propagation by other Adelaide nurseries. He also sent cuttings to Messrs Notcutt of Woodbridge, Suffolk, England, around 1926, and the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew

obtained specimens in 1927-28 from Messrs Notcutt and Wollaston following a visit to Adelaide and 'Raywood' by the Director, Dr Arthur W. Hill, in 1927. Hill recorded this visit in an article in the August 1928 edition of *The Gardeners Chronicle*.

Wollaston's first catalogue, dated 1928, records the availability of this species: *Fraxinus Raywoodi* (Claret Ash), a new and fine foliage tree. Strong plants ten shillings and sixpence.' The 1929 catalogue records: 'Claret Ash (*Fraxinus Raywoodi*) – finest novelty for years: glorious crimson-claret Autumn foliage, lasting two months. Grafts. Strong plants, 3 ft. 10/- each.'

Hardy street tree

The colouration of this cultivar is most likely due to a mutation. However, its grafting onto Golden Ash stock, a hardy urban street species extensively used in Europe, has enabled a hardy specimen and street tree receptive to Adelaide's Mediterranean climate and alkaline soils.

The original specimen, since removed, grew to about 12 metres on Wollaston's property 'Raywood'. The property was sold to Alexander Russell Downer in 1932 and renamed 'Arbury Park'.

If we are looking for heritage trees in Adelaide, with a significant horticultural contribution, then the Claret Ash is a prominent exemplar.

Footnote: Information about landscape designers and significant gardens in SA would be welcomed by the author. Address material to Dr David Jones, Senior Lecturer in Landscape Architecture, University of Adelaide, 5005. Tel 8303 4589, fax 8303 4377.

A day in the life of ...

The headmaster

By Geoffrey Manning

He leaves his home at 7.30 am and upon arrival at the school starts on his pupil teachers and monitors for they have lessons every morning upon the subject of 'The Principles of Teaching'. At 'first bell' at 9.15 he makes his way into the yard for the morning 'fall-in' and inspection and from 9.20 until 9.30 he is occupied in an observation lesson; that is, a talk about the weather and noting the clouds in the sky, the direction of the wind, rainfall (if any) since the previous morning, reading of the barometer and thermometer. This lesson is usually concluded by making a simple forecast of the possible weather for the next 24 hours. Then one boy is told to copy the *Register* weather map on a large map, which is always kept hanging in the shelter shed.

Parents are interviewed between 9.30 and 10 and he

allows himself an hour a day to attend to correspondence. He calls upon each class once a day and often takes a whole lesson, thus enabling him to know the weaker pupils and at the same time allowing time for teachers to get on with their endless correction work. He leaves for home at about 5.30 and scarcely a single night passes without further work connected with the school; he carefully looks over work prepared by pupil teachers and plans his work for the ensuing day.

At the school there are two grades of assistant. A chief assistant (male) takes precedence over everyone else in the school except the headmaster; he teaches a class and has innumerable other duties. The assistants are responsible for their classes and at lunch times are rostered as to 'yard' duty while the children play. On Saturday mornings they are kept busy making teaching models, apparatus, relief maps and so on.

Nearly every teacher is engaged in some university work and also in a systematic course of reading on the subject of education. Much time, too, is taken up with cadet work. Most of the teachers are ladies; they are born teachers but the work tells on them. Managing large classes and working in hot, stuffy atmospheres with little rest from the time of starting till night, must in the long run undermine their health. It is not the class that beats the teacher, it is the number in them – it is a blot on the school system when you have an assistant teacher controlling 70 pupils. Tackle that size class for a year and a holiday at the conclusion is essential.

The undertaker

A story is told about our local undertaker and he is still trying to live it down. A short time ago he was commissioned by the relative of a deceased to obtain the body from the public hospital and convey it to their residence preparatory to placing it in its last resting place. The undertaker sent one of his men along to take the necessary measurements and then set about making the coffin. Having accomplished so much he went to the hospital and the corpse was delivered; but the coffin was too long and after the body was taken to the residence one of the women of the house fainted, while another screamed.

The undertaker was as innocent as the corpse but a further visit to the hospital found another excitable undertaker walking up and down the morgue fanning his flushed face with a hat and exclaiming, 'A man can't even get the right body nowadays. I have no more chance of getting my corpse into the coffin than I have of flying.' The two men look at one another

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and slowly the situation dawned on them. The right men had measured the wrong bodies!

His funeral parlour has a coachhouse which is occupied by three hearses, some mourning coaches and other vehicles. Carefully groomed horses feed contentedly in the looseboxes; one of them was a former ex-hurdler and was, no doubt, more proud of his glossy black coat than of his deeds on the turf. In a cupboard in the men's room were three or four tall hats and black ties. Our undertaker is also a raconteur and delights in telling stories appertaining to his profession.

'An old lady had a number of boarded-out children under her charge and when one of them died she sent for me. On the way to the cemetery we picked up our popular clergyman who made himself very pleasant. The lady was so delighted with his manner that when we arrived at the cemetery, she bowed and curtsied and backed until she fell into the child's grave. Well, her proportions were ample and the grave was small, but three of us got her out.'

The parson

To say a parson works on Sunday and has all the week off to get ready is to be flippant as our local minister explained:

Last Sunday I started with a short meeting before the morning service, conducted a funeral service in the afternoon, spoke in the street before entering church in the evening and afterwards celebrated the communion. That was mental toil switching the mind off and on from subject to subject and concentrating all of my energy and thought on the matter of immediate moment.

We have no average day and our work is not like office routine. This morning my work began with a study of public questions as placed before us by the *Register*. Next I gave hours to a batch of correspondence. Up till a few weeks ago I had a private secretary of my own. A clergyman's salary won't stand such luxuries; but the poor fellow – a well-educated man, apparently – had to be kept from starving while he pulled himself together and looked around.

Eleven o'clock found me at the vestry; I attend here as regularly as a business man his office. Half a dozen people were waiting for an interview. In trouble of all sorts! Unemployed, hungry, homeless, wretched men and women. That is the penalty of living in this poorer district. It is not typical.

I studiously refrain from breaking into my meal

hour. Regularity improves the digestion and the odd minutes of after-rest constitute my recreation moments. Then I do what reading I can – never half a much as I would wish.

Tonight I badly want to go to a lecture at the university but I must stick to my bible study class. That will occupy not only my evening. It is not merely attending the meeting or the actual talking while there – it is the preparation that runs away with the minutes and the hours. Yes, I think I will get back to my study and think hard for a little while.

Port Adelaide 'well situated for the prevailing winds'

In January we printed a description of Adelaide taken from the English Cyclopaedia: a new dictionary of universal knowledge, published in London in 1854. Here is a description of Port Adelaide and another of South Australia from the same source.

PORT ADELAIDE, at the mouth of the river Torrens, and on the shore of the Gulf of St. Vincent, about 8 miles from Adelaide city, is a capacious harbour, well situated in respect to the prevailing winds; but the great expense and delay in the transport of merchandise between the city and the port are considerable drawbacks to the prosperity of the place. The usual mode of conveying goods is by bullocks and horses. In 1850 an Act was passed by the local council for the construction of a railway from the city to Port Adelaide Creek, but the works had not been commenced in 1852. A steam-tug is employed to assist vessels in entering the harbour.

By an Act passed in 1845, the port was made free to the ships of all nations. The imports at Port Adelaide amounted in the years ending 10th of October, 1850 and 1851, to £828,227/2/- and £795,933/2/-; the exports for the same periods were £538,175/10/6, and £584,541/16/-. Port Adelaide contains extensive and substantial warehouses, built of stone, a custom-house, a patent slip on which vessels of 1000 tons burden can be raised, a wet dock, a church, a theatre, and numerous shops.

The population of Adelaide, Port Adelaide and Albert Town, which together form one municipality, was 14,577 at the end of the year 1850. Albert Town is a small straggling village, about a mile from the port and is chiefly occupied by persons connected with the shipping. Between Albert Town and Adelaide are several other villages, the principal of which is

Hindmarsh, where there is a steam-flour-mill, the largest brewery in the colony, and many good shops. Within a range of about 5 miles from the city are 11 villages, which may be considered as suburbs of Adelaide; some of them contain excellent residences. In Adelaide county there are about 40 more villages, some of which are inhabited solely by German immigrants, who have erected their houses in their own country fashion.

The diocese of Adelaide, to which Bishop Short was appointed in 1847, extends over the two colonies of South Australia and Western Australia; the chapter comprises a dean, two archdeacons, two canons, and twelve clergymen.

The Burra Burra and other copper mines in South Australia, and the export trade in wool, have rendered Adelaide and its Port very flourishing. In August, 1852, gold was discovered at Echunga, 23 miles S.E., and subsequently on Field river, about the same distance S. from Adelaide. A considerable number of diggers have been at work, and a large amount of gold has been obtained, but not in quantities at all equal to the other Australian gold fields.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA is a British colony, established on the southern shores of Australia, and extending between 132° and 141° E. long, from the coast, to the parallel of 26° S. lat., which constitutes its northern boundary. It is bounded E. by the colonies of New South Wales and Victoria, or Port Philip; S. by the Southern Ocean; and W. by the unoccupied territory which separates it from the colony of Western Australia. It has a coast line extending from the south-east to the north-west about 1500 miles. Within its boundary are contained two large bays, Spencer Gulf and the Gulf of St. Vincent, and the lower part of the course and basin of the river Murray. Kangaroo Island, which lies before the entrance of the Gulf of St. Vincent, is also annexed to it. The area of the colony is estimated at 300,000 square miles, or nearly 20,000,000 acres, of which the greater proportion is waste land. The population in 1840 was 14,610; in 1845 it was 22,390; in 1853 it was 70,000, exclusive of about 3600 natives.

The western portion of the territories is a mere waste. Near the western boundary-line, and as far east as Streaky Bay, the country along the sea coast is low and barren, without trees or high bushes, but covered with scrub. It is almost entirely destitute of grass, and also of water, except during the rains and a few days after they have ceased. South from Streaky Bay, the shore is skirted by low sand hummocks. Towards the southern extremity of the peninsula lying west of Spencer Gulf, especially east

of Coffin's Bay, there are hills which attain an elevation of between 600 and 800 feet; they consist of sandstone, and are covered with wood. The interior of the peninsula is low and barren, but interspersed with salt-lakes. Between Streaky Bay and the head of Spencer Gulf lies a mountainous tract, exhibiting a succession of lofty rugged ranges, running from east to west, but turning north-west at their western extremity. They are called Gawler's Ranges, and attain an elevation of about 2000 feet above the sea-level, but decrease as they advance further east. These ranges have a barren appearance, but are overgrown with prickly grass. There are no rivulets or springs, but between the hills are small salt-water lakes, with salsolaceous plants growing round their margins; fresh water is found only after the rains in the clefts of the rocks. In the country north from the Gawler range are extensive tracts of good pasture land, interspersed with fresh-water lakes.

The country situated on the western shores of Spencer Bay is of a much better description. It contains Port Lincoln, the most extensive and the best harbour in the colony. The harbour is protected at its mouth by Boston Island, and consists of three basins - Spalding Cove, Port Lincoln, and Boston Bay, in each of which there is not less than 10 or 12 fathoms water, with a bottom of muddy sand; they are capable of holding the navies of all Europe. Round these extensive sheets of water are many large tracts well wooded, and others grassy with single trees dispersed over them. The peninsula south of Port Lincoln is hilly, but well wooded, and has much good pasture ground, as has also the country north of it to the distance of 10 or 12 miles; but farther north the hills disappear and are followed by a low tract which extends along the shore, and is densely wooded with brush, among which are scattered a few small patches of grass. Water is only found near a few rocky elevations. At the neck of this low and rather narrow tract is a moderately-elevated table-land, whose edge is broken, by deep gorges, into portions resembling hills. The soil is a sandy red loam, greatly mixed with stones, and presents only here and there a little grass, with batches of scrubby bushes, and a few small pines. No water has been discovered.

The table-land just mentioned is continued northward from the head of Spencer Gulf, where a rather narrow low tract separates it from Flinder's range. This tract is quite level, and has a sandy soil almost without vegetation. It is intersected by a watercourse, which comes down to the head of Spencer Gulf from Lake Torrens, a salt-water lake extending northward, and spreading towards the

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west, with a breadth, as far as it has been explored, of 14 or 15 miles. Flinder's range constitutes the western borders of a mountainous tract of considerable extent. It occupies in width a space more than 60 miles from west to east, lying east of Spencer Gulf. It may be said that this mountain tract terminates on the south of the banks of Broughton River, in 33° 30' S. lat., where a higher summit, Mount Bryan, occurs, with an elevation of 3012 feet. From these parts it extends nearly due north, with a small declination to the east to Mount Hopeless, in 29° 20' S. lat. This region is traversed by a great number of ridges, which in general run south and north, but grow gradually narrower towards the north; for in 31° S. lat. the region is only 30 miles across, and is still less towards its northern termination. In the southern portion of this mountain region several summits attain an elevation of more than 2000 feet. Mount Brown, not far from the head of Spencer Gulf, rises 3000 feet above the sea. Farther north the mountains decrease in elevation. Between these ridges are plains of considerable extent. The higher portion of the hills consist invariably of naked rock, generally sandstone. The lower slopes are covered with dense brush and the valleys with low shrubs and occasional small patches of thin wiry grass. Some of the plains have an undulating surface, and then it is found that the higher parts are quite destitute of vegetation, whilst the slopes and valleys are overgrown with scrub. In other parts the plains are level, and some of them are covered with salsolaceous plants. During the rains, and a short time afterwards, running water is found at a few places among the hills. A little to the south of Mount Hopeless some good pastoral tracts have lately been discovered and occupied. The northern extremity of this mountain region is bounded by a level desert. A salt crust is found at intervals on the surface of the sand, and a few pieces of what appear to be drift timber are lying about. The desert is about 300 feet above the level of the sea. The river Broughton may be considered the southern boundary of this barren mountain region. It rises on the declivities of Mount Bryan, and appears to be of considerable size during the rainy season. In the dry season its upper course consists of extensive reaches of water connected by a strongly-running stream, into which several chains of ponds discharge their water during the rains. Lower down the Broughton winds through some broken hills of an open and barren description, and here the water is lost in the sands; only water-holes are found at intervals. Still farther down the channel, through very wide and deep, is quite dry. After the rains however the waters come down to Spencer Gulf.



South of the Broughton a few high hills are found, as the Razorback (2900 feet above the sea) and the Lagoon Hill (2260 feet), but they soon sink much lower. The country between these hills and the shores of Spencer Gulf presents open grassy downs, which are well adapted for sheep, and are abundantly watered by ponds. With this part is connected Yorke Peninsula, which separates Spencer Gulf from Gulf St. Vincent. The peninsula is about 100 miles long, with an average width of 15 miles. The surface is level, rising gently towards the interior; the soil is light sandy loam, and generally wooded in a park-like manner, except towards the eastern shores, where the woods are thick and have underwood.

The best portion of the colony is a the country lying on the east of the Gulf of St. Vincent. The interior of this tract of land is hilly. The hills run in a series of distinct ridges called ranges, from Mount Bryan range in the north, to Wakefield range, which spreads over the peninsula between the Gulf of St. Vincent and Encounter Bay. The intervening space is occupied by the Belvidere, Barossa, and Mount Lofty ranges. Mount Lofty, which is about 12 miles E. from the city of Adelaide, rises to the height of 1200 feet. The several ranges are mostly well wooded with large timber-trees. Along the shores of the gulf are low sand-downs, on which only bushes grow. Between these downs and the hills is an undulating country, which contains a great portion of land capable of cultivation.

In this part the town of Adelaide, the capital of the colony, is situated (see article in the January 1998 issue of *History SA*). It is built on the southern border of the Torrens, a river which rises in the hills about 6 miles E. from the town. It can be called a river only in the rainy season, when the banks are full, and it runs with great velocity.

To be continued in a future issue.