

HSA *istory*

Newsletter of the Historical Society of South Australia

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June lecture

Adventures of a Local History Officer

Sharing a good yarn is one of Maggie Ragless's enthusiasms. So is history.

Maggie will reveal her adventures as a local history officer at the Society's next meeting on 5 June.

She has had 30 years' experience in the SA history scene. Her past decade has been as a part-time employee with responsibility for a local history collection, a community program, and the development of a research advisory service for the City of Mitcham.

Maggie will retell some of the discoveries and adventures associated with the district's history; she will reflect on the impact of change in the community, unusual circumstances in which the past has been revealed, and how she encouraged heritage awareness and appreciation.

The village of Mitcham was laid out in 1840 and in 1853 a large area surrounding the village was declared the first district council in South Australia. It stretched from the south parklands to the Sturt River as the western boundary and to the hill tops in the east.

The year 1868 saw the creation of the District Council of Brighton, 1871 the District Council of Unley and 1883 the District Council of Crafers when the railway went in. It is one of the few areas of metropolitan Adelaide which has a balance of hills and plains. It also has the State's oldest public park, spectacular lookouts, three potential heritage zones and a tourism precinct.

Maggie's interest in history was evident in her teenage years when, in 1967, she was the first South Australian to earn the Girl Guide local history badge.

She has won awards, written books, worked on history for other rural district councils and is a member of several historical societies.

Hidden art of the Adelaide Hills



Heritage consultant Robin Coles explains rock art by the Peramangk people in a rock shelter in the Mount Lofty Ranges. Society members were enthused by the excellent guided bus tour in March. (photos courtesy of Hugh Dixon)

Anyone for Auditor?

The Historical Society is looking for a new auditor to replace Mr Keith Banfield who is stepping down after having filled the position for a number of years.

Anyone interested in helping the Society as its auditor is asked to phone the Treasurer, Mrs Avis Huckel, on 8277 2953.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

Institute Building, 122 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide
5000 (mailing address only)
Founded 1974

OBJECTS

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

COUNCIL

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Membership records: Enid Ulbrich, 8278 2576
History SA editor: Mr G. Franklin, tel/fax 8447 7673
Auditor: Mr K. Banfield

COUNCIL CHANGES

Happy with the energetic efforts of the executive council over the past year, members of the Historical Society of South Australia voted unanimously to re-elect it almost intact at the annual general meeting on April 3.

Secretary Anne Every and council member Anna Pope resigned and Gay Brown was voted in as the new secretary.

To the editor

Tullie Wollaston on opals

The reference to Tullie Cornthwaite Wollaston in *History SA*, March 1998, raises another interesting aspect of his enterprising spirit, apart from propagating (with his gardener) the Claret Ash. In September 1924 he published his book *Opal: We of the Never Never*. His author's note states:

As it fell to my lot to pioneer in turn each new Opal field of Australia – Queensland, White Cliffs, Lightning Ridge and Coberpedy (sic) (excepting only the first boulder) – and market its product in Europe and America, I felt I was better equipped than most to tell the story of the Opal: and the general and growing interest in the stone, now greatly stimulated by the Empire Exhibition, has encouraged me to make the attempt.

If my book is somewhat unorthodox in structure, it is but in keeping with much of the Opal which it describes.

T.C.W.

September, 1924

His book is a joy to read, an insouciance prevails, even at the worst of times when a 'sprightlier spirit' draws him into 'fellowship to all created things'. His description of the evolution of 'this miracle and Queen of gems' twinkles from beginning to end.

The Australian opal is a child of the Desert and delights in the Never Never, for in its babyhood it paddled there in the shallow inland sea, which covered our vast interior like a silver quilt, romped with the periwinkles and mussels and fan shells, teased the sick lizards and captured their knucklebones when they died, and took possession of the little harsh sponges and the grey fluted corals, and slipped into every odd corner or snug little hole where the waters were drying up and where the sun could be sipped at leisure. It grew, grain by grain, to the music of dripping water, true and unhurried, building up a glad-eyed responsive nature like a babe does. And just as any active babe when its sleep is over kicks off its clothes in its love for freedom, any vigorous opal, feeling the clear warmth through the thin covering of the earth, could, in its brisk impatience kick off the quilt, and bask on the burning ridges, where one may catch the gleam of its starry eyes now and then as one rides through those grey solitudes.

In its own way the book is an historical gem and an answer to Wollaston's boyhood prayers:

'O please, Miss Em, Send me a gem, Drop me a gem,
Toss me a gem.'

– Alison Dolling

July lecture

Striking a balance at Birdwood

With a museum full of early model cars, do you run them or don't you? And how do you answer those people who swear that your thoroughly researched and documented interpretation of the past does not accord with their own?

Such are some of the dilemmas facing Jon Chittleborough as Director of the National Motor Museum at Birdwood. Jon only assumed this role last year, having been curator since 1984.

In his talk to the Society on Friday 3 July he will briefly survey the history of motoring both in SA and nationally, and cast a quick glance at the history of motor museums and of the Birdwood museum in particular before turning to questions such as those posed at the beginning of the article.

The Birdwood museum has a firm historical purpose but it depends on tourism for survival, with people being attracted by a sense of nostalgia for the gleaming 'toys for boys' that lend their name to Jon's talk.

And how do you fulfil people's wish to see the early cars running when the museum's purpose is to preserve the cars for future generations to wonder at and admire?

As Jon says, 'Sooner or later they wear out!'

SA-born, Jon's taste for history was stimulated when he was still a boy and accompanied his family to Kashmir, where his father was a UN military observer. This gave Jon an interest in military history and the Indian subcontinent. In spite of getting himself deeply involved in the student politics of the early 70s, he left Flinders University with an honours degree in history and a Dip.Ed.

He then spent a year at the Royal Military College, Duntroon, working on a biography of Lt Gen. Brudenell White before going to Kings College, London, to gain an MA in War Studies.

Back in Adelaide, he was a director of City Books for three years until going to Zimbabwe in 1981 to teach history and English in a township high school.

On returning to Adelaide in 1984 he taught briefly at St Ignatius College before making his move to Birdwood

Jon Chittleborough will give his talk - *Toys for Boys: dilemmas of the National Motor Museum* - on Friday 3 July at the Prince Philip Theatre, Prince Alfred College, Kent Town, beginning at 8 pm.

A date with history

July 22 is the 30th anniversary of Australia's first high-performance coupe, the HK-series Holden Monaro. Some of the Monaro 186, 186S, GTS and GTS 327s were made by GMH at its Woodville and Elizabeth factories. GMH celebrated 45 years at Woodville in 1968 and that year the coupe was voted 'The Car of the Year' by *Wheels* magazine.

The HK-series was Holden's eleventh and was called the 'new generation' car. It was capable of speeds in excess of 120 mph and was the car in which Peter Brock first raced at Mt Panorama. Media releases for the launch, stored at the Mortlock Library, state 'Monaro was of Aboriginal origin meaning high plateau or high plain. The Monaro Range is part of the Snowy Mountains in New South Wales and is one of the highest ranges in Australia. ... The relationship to the name of the Monaro District connotes beauty and height or peak of performance'.

The launch was held in the Corroboree Room of the Chevron Hotel, Surfer's Paradise. For those who can't remember what their coupe cost, tax included: Monaro = \$2575, GTS = \$3090 and GTS 327 = \$3790. Anniversary celebrations will be held at the Drage Airworld Museum in Wangaratta, Victoria on July 18 & 19. Monaro hotline (03) 9530 4545.

- Grantley Franklin

Return to Tattersall's Club for 1998 Annual Dinner

The Society will again hold its Annual Dinner at the historic Adelaide Tattersall's Club, Grenfell St, this year. The time will be 7 pm for 7.30 pm on Saturday 15 August.

The cost will be \$28 for members and \$30 for non-members, not including drinks. The dinner will comprise three courses with a choice for the main course. The bar will be open during the evening.

Bookings should be made with HSSA Treasurer Avis Huckel (tel. 8277 2953) not later than Friday 7 August.

The guest speaker will be announced in the July issue of *History SA*.

New members

The Society is pleased to welcome the following new members: Mrs N.R. Blackaby, Mr M. Hodder, Ms J. Edwards, Ms A. Volker-Tyrone and Ms M Butler.

July excursion

A walk of discovery through Colonel Light Gardens

HSSA members and friends are invited to participate in a 'Walk of Discovery' in Colonel Light Gardens on Sunday 12 July.

Colonel Light Gardens was designed in 1917 by Charles Reade as South Australia's first 'model garden suburb'. It was established between 1921 and 1927 and survives virtually intact to this day.

The whole suburb was listed on the Interim Register of the National Estate in December 1997 and has also been nominated as a State Heritage Area.

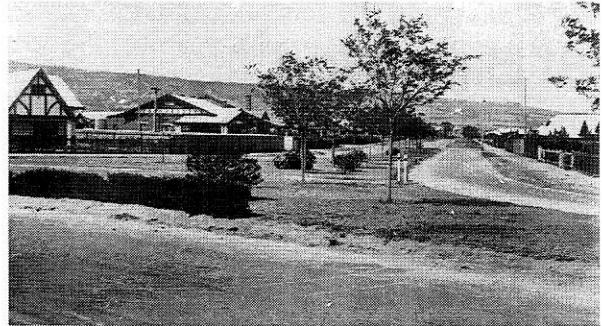
The walk will be led by residents of the suburb and Colonel Light Gardens Historical Society committee members Philip Knight and Christine Garnaut, co-authors of the *Colonel Light Gardens Walk Brochure* (1997).

Philip has a keen interest in the suburb's history and conservation and has devoted the past few years to promoting its heritage significance within the local and wider community. Christine made a case study of the suburb and its designer for her PhD thesis, *Model and Maker: Colonel Light Gardens and Charles Reade* (University of South Australia, 1997). She has published several journal articles on both topics and is currently preparing a book based on her thesis.

Colonel Light Gardens is a different suburb and hence this is a walk with a difference – rather than referring to significant buildings or historical sites, the guides will talk about the suburb's layout and Reade's use of garden city planning principles. For example, they will point out separate areas for commercial, educational and religious purposes; the hierarchy of streets and parks; internal reserves; inclusion of existing natural features; variations in street tree planting and utility ways. Participants will be able to see how the garden city philosophy of architectural unity but not uniformity was adhered to in the houses built privately and under the mass housing project, the Thousand Homes Scheme.

The walk will start and finish at the formal entranceway to Mortlock Park, corner of West Parkway and Sturt Avenue. Carparking is available in the streets and in the carpark adjacent to Sturt Basketball Stadium, Sturt Avenue.

Walkers are asked to assemble at 1.45 pm for a 2 pm start for a tour lasting about two hours. Participants should wear shoes suitable for walking on footpaths and grassed verges. The City of Mitcham will provide a free *Colonel Light Gardens Walk Brochure*



Junction of Salisbury Crescent and West Parkway, Colonel Light Gardens. Photograph courtesy of City of Mitcham Local History Collection.

1921 sales brochure

Col. Light Gardens – 'comfort, convenience and beauty'

With the aid of a \$300 grant from the 1997 Community History Fund, the Colonel Light Gardens Historical Society (CLGHS) has produced a facsimile edition of the suburb's original sales brochure.

From red cardboard cover, complete with gold lettering, to fold-out drawings and plans inside, the brochure is a faithful reproduction of the attractive 1921 publication. Its completion and public availability is the fruit of a partnership between the CLGHS and State History Centre, a division of the History Trust of SA. The latter, through the publications category of the Community History Fund, paid half the costs. The CLGHS donated its time, labour and half the costs to producing the facsimile. Some non-members in the local community generously assisted with their skills and equipment. Released by the State Government to coincide with the first land sales in August 1921, the Colonel Light Gardens sales brochure includes advice about:

- the suburb's name
- the suburb's designer (South Australia's Government Town Planner Charles Reade)
- features of the design
- soil fertility and suitability for building
- building restrictions
- services
- public transport
- health benefits of the garden suburb

'Special attention' was drawn to 'the fact that the land is available for application by any person, and is not set apart for the exclusive purpose of settling

New conservation and heritage paperbacks

Green thumbs interested in the first century of gardens in South Australia can enjoy a new publication from the State Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Titled *Gardens in South Australia 1840-1940: Guidelines for Design and Conservation* was written by HSSA council member Dr Pauline Payne and Dr David Jones, both from Adelaide University.

Last month the book was one of two launched by the department.

The other was *Early Bricks and Brickwork in South Australia* by Peter Bell.

Both booklets can be bought at the department's information centre, 77 Grenfell Street, Adelaide.

Readers' delight

Book bargains can be bought from the bookstall at the next meeting of HSSA. A supply of remaindered books at reduced prices will be available for the earlybirds.

Just see Maurice.

1921 sales brochure (from page 4)

returned soldiers.' This suburb aimed for social mix and was meant to accommodate all classes of people, side by side.

Using a borrowed original brochure, the facsimile was reproduced with the aid of computer technology. The text, coloured bird's-eye perspective and two plans were scanned onto disk. Crease lines on the bird's-eye were repaired and small holes digitally repaired.

Printing and assembly of the brochure were carried out in the home of a CLGHS member.

Although only a modest grant was sought from the Community History Fund, without it the CLGHS, a non-profit, voluntary organisation, could not have undertaken the project.

The outcome of the enterprise demonstrates how the Fund can benefit groups like the CLGHS. Perhaps this success story might encourage others to apply for funding.

The sales brochure is available at \$8 a copy (plus postage and handling). It can be obtained by contacting CLGHS secretary Philip Knight, tel. 8277 2596, or email: pknigh@cobweb.com.au

- Christine Garnaut

Newsletter of the Historical Society of SA, JMay 1998.

Apprentices gain stamp of approval

Adelaide rock music band The Master's Apprentices feature in a new set of stamps issued by Australia Post on May 26.

The 45 cent stamp in retro flower-power colours commemorates their 1970 hit single *Turn Up Your Radio*.

The band formed in 1965 and cut 13 singles, 3 EPs and 5 LPs before disbanding in 1972.

Lead singer Jim Keays went solo and bassist Glen Wheatley managed John Farnham.

In 1988 Keays, Wheatley and other previous Apprentices Colin Burgess on drums and Doug Ford on guitar, reformed the band with Roger Faynes and Wayne Matthews for a reunion tour. They released two singles and three albums that year.

The *Turn Up Your Radio* stamp is one of 12 new stamps celebrating the exciting and energetic years of Australian rock 'n' roll in the 1950s, 60s and 70s.

The other classic songs featured are Johnny O'Keefe's *The Wild One* of 1958, Col Joye's *Oh Yeah Uh Huh* (1959), Little Pattie's *He's My Blonde Headed Stompie Wompie Real Gone Surfer Boy* (1963), Normie Rowe's *Shakin' All Over* (1965), Easybeats' *She's So Fine* (1965), Russell Morris' *The Real Thing* (1969), Daddy Cool's *Eagle Rock* (1971), Billy Thorpe and the Aztecs' *Most People I Know Think That I'm Crazy* (1972), AC/DC's *It's A Long Way To The Top* (1975) and Sherbert's *Howzat* (1975).

Each stamp evokes a varying style of rock'n'roll through a hit single that defined the period.

In the late '60s rock music relected the anti-war movement, women's liberation and the search for alternative lifestyles. *Turn Up Your Radio* emerged from that era and became one of Australia's great rock anthems.

The national postmark will be from Sunbury, Victoria - the site of Australia's most famous rock festivals.

- Grantley Franklin.

Badge bearer needed

A volunteer is sought for the distribution and collection of members' badges at the society's monthly meetings. Wearing the new badges will help ease introductions during our convivial and delicious supper after the lecture.

If you want to help speak to HSSA Treasurer Avis Huckel by phoning 8277 2953.

New editor

Frankly Grantley

Grantley Franklin is the incoming editor of our society's newsletter *History SA*. He replaces Jim Loudon, who has raised the standard over the past four years. Jim is greatly thanked for his efforts.

Grantley has worked for more than a decade as a journalist on Adelaide's daily, weekly and suburban newspapers, done publicity for the Red Cross and freelanced on various other publications

He has shared his skills by voluntarily teaching others how to prepare publications. One such that Grantley is especially proud of was the Republican *The Gadfly* which was resurrected as a tabloid in the late 1970s.

After reading Humphrey McQueen's *Media Monopolies* around the same time, he initiated two community newspapers, which continued publication for more than a decade.

Grantley's interest in history was not encouraged by the Englishness of history lessons during secondary school, but kindled when he moved to Alberton in 1984. He thinks of Alberton as an interesting community of diverse cultures and housing styles in the larger 'country town' of Adelaide.

His passion for the older architecture of Alberton prompted an unsuccessful attempt to save the railway station's wooden ticket office and large shelter from demolition by the then State Transport Authority - a loss belatedly mourned in a heritage study then underway.

Our new editor is a member of several suburban historical societies.

He welcomes input and articles for *History SA* and can be 'phoned on 8447 7673 or written to at 27 Fussell Place, Alberton 5014.

Who knows what about our science archives?

Memories and information about our State's archives for science and technology are sought by Dr Pauline Payne to complement her preparation for a talk on the subject on June 10.

Dr Payne, who wears many hats in historical research, will be representing the History of Science, Ideas and Technology Group when she addresses the Friends of South Australia's Archives at 6 pm in the Ira Raymond Exhibition Room, Barr Smith Library, Adelaide University.

Dr Payne can be 'phoned on 8361 8040.

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.

5 June: Maggie Ragless, Mitcham local history officer, *Adventures of a Local History Officer*. Prince Philip Theatre, Prince Alfred College, Kent Town, 8 pm.

10 June: Friends of SA's Archives, Dr Pauline Payne will talk on the archives of science and technology in SA. Ira Raymond Exhibition Room, Barr Smith Library, Adelaide University. 6 pm.

12 June: 'Impressions of Constitutional Convention' by Linda Kirk, Lecturer in Constitutional Law, Adelaide University and Australian Republican Movement delegate. Humanist Society of SA, Eastwood Community Centre, 95 Glen Osmond Road. 8 pm.

14 June: NOTE - Simon Cameron's walking tour of Glenelg has had to be postponed to a later date. Details to be advised in a future issue of *History SA*.

15 June: Woodville Historical Society meeting in Murree Smith Memorial Hall, Woodville Town Hall. Entrance off Kemp Street. 7.45 pm.

15 June: Philip Clarke, 'Lives and Skills of Kurna People of Adelaide Plains'. Burnside Historical Society. Burnside Community Centre, 8 pm.

16 June: Special Collections Librarian Susan Woodburn introduces the library bequest of Ralph Meyrick Hague at Adelaide University. 7.30 pm. Limited numbers. Alumni Association, 8303 4275. All welcome.

16, 17 June: Philip Clarke will conduct tours of Kurna tribe displays in Aboriginal section of SA Museum. \$10. Limited bookings. 1.45 pm. 8333 2748.

16 June: 'History Trust of SA: Policies, Practices and Services' at meeting of Engineering Heritage Branch of Australian Institute of Engineers (SA Branch), 8267 1783.

17 June: Coromandel Valley and Districts branch of the National Trust with Mr Black, a retired movie theatre manager. Enquiries to Jeanette McHenry 8278 7549.

18 June: SA Museum's 142nd birthday. Guest speaker Museum Board Chairman Robert Champion De Crespigny. 7.30 pm. Friends of SA Museum. Pat Forgan 8278 6007 after 7 pm.

18 June: Engineering Heritage Branch visits Railway Signal/Telegraph and Aviation Museum, West Torrens. Institution of Engineers (SA). 8267 1783.

20 June: 'Spreading the word'. First mini-conference and AGM of SA branch of Oral History Association of Australia. \$10 members, \$15 non-members. 9 am-4 pm in Royal Society rooms, off Kintore Avenue, Adelaide. 8269 6268 after hours.

22 June: Kate McDougall explains the West Torrens heritage survey at West Torrens Historical Society. 7.45 pm at Kandahar, 327 Marion Road, North Plympton.

27 June: 1997 Family History Award Dinner at Barron Town House. SA Genealogy & Heraldry Society. Bookings 8272 4222.

27 June: History of Science Ideas and Technology Group. Prof. Donald Simpson, 'Head Protection by Helmets in Industry'. Royal Society rooms, Plane Tree Court, behind State Library, Kintore Avenue, 2.30 pm.

3 July: HSSA meeting. Jon Chittleborough, Director of the National Motor Museum, *Toys for Boys: the dilemmas of the National Motor Museum*. Prince Philip Theatre, Prince Alfred College, Kent Town, 8 pm.

5 July: Guided pilgrimage around Adelaide and suburbs in the footsteps of Mary MacKillop. Visit Archbishop's house, cemeteries, cathedral, convent and other sites. 9 am-4.30 pm. \$25. Bookings 8364 5311.

8-10 July: History of Food and Drink Research Centre's first conference. Opening lecture on July 8 at 5 p.m. in Napier Building, Room 102, Adelaide University. 8303 4275.

12 July: HSSA Walk Around Colonel Light Gardens with Christine Garnaut. From Mortlock Park, cnr West Parkway and Sturt Avenue, 1.45 pm for 2 pm.

15 July: Coromandel Valley and Districts branch of the National Trust walk around Willunga with lunch at the Old Bush Inn. Enquiries to Jeanette McHenry 8278 7549.

16 July: Visit to Old Treasury Building Museum, incl. original Cabinet Room. Engineering Heritage Branch, Institution of Engineers (SA) 8267 1783.

22 July: History of Ayers family and house and some history of Adelaide's early plumbing by Ms Aileen Kearns at SA Genealogy & Heraldry Society's library, 201 Unley Road, Unley. 7.45 p.m. 8272 4222.

23 July: View the SA Museum's State Anthropology Collection of Aboriginal artefacts led by curator Franchesca Cubillo-Alberts, 6.30 pm. Friends of SA Museum. 8278 6007 after 7 pm.

23 July: Max Fatchen Day. Max and his biographer Andrew Male will talk, Maureen Sherlock will discuss the films made of two of his books, readings

and Metropolitan Male Choir of SA will sing two of Max's verses about the Birdsville Track set to music by Henry Krips. State Library Lecture Theatre, 2pm. \$8, \$5 concession. Bookings essential Anne Burrows 8207 7200 from June 10.

26 July: 'Changing Fashions in Society' by Marjorie Hann. Burnside Historical Society, 2.30 p.m. 8333 2748.

15 August: HSSA annual dinner and guest speaker at Tattersalls Club, city. \$28 members, \$30 non-members. Bookings 8277 2953.

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 22 November.

Cargo for the Colony: Includes the 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. Daily 10 am - 5 pm, Until 31 July.

The Painted Coast: Fleurieu Peninsula painted by artists from William Light in the 1830s to the modernists. Art Gallery of SA until August 16.

Archives overseers named

The members of the first State Records Council have been announced.

The council approves the retention and disposal of government records through the State Records Office.

The inaugural chairman is Darby Johns, a businessman. The other members are:

- Peter Cahalan, a professional historian;
- George Smith, professional archivist and member of Australian Society of Archivists;
- Helen Onopko, archivist and member of Records Management Association of Australia;
- Robyn Collins, director of State Library;
- Judith Black, representing the Local Government Association of SA;
- Michael Moore, lawyer;
- Frank Lampard, an aboriginal;
- June Donovan, a non-academic historian.

The State Records Council was created when the government passed the State Records Act in 1997.

The Friends of South Australia's Archives was formed in 1996 and welcomed the Act. Last month in a press release the Friends prodded the State Information Services Minister Wayne Matthew to appoint the Council.

The introduction of the Radiata Pine

by David Jones

In many areas of Australia the Radiata Pine (or Monterey Pine, syn. Remarkable Pine (*Pinus radiata*, syn. *P. insignis*)) marches across the landscape edging paddocks or stands in bold 'wildernesses' awaiting harvesting. It is a strong feature of the Western District landscape of Victoria and the backbone of the South East's regional economy.

The species is an important feature of many landscapes in Australia but its commercial cultivation and harvesting origins lie in SA.

Rumours abound as to the first transmission of Radiata Pine seeds into Australia. Most allude to the possibility that it came with miners returning from the Californian goldfields or in the ballast of colliers backloading in Newcastle, NSW, from California.

The first official record is in the *Report of the Director of the Sydney Botanic Garden* that '1 *Pinus insignis* per ship *Duncan Dunbar*' was included in a 'List of Plants and Seeds Received During 1857' by the Garden. The *Duncan Dunbar* sailed from Plymouth via Melbourne arriving in Sydney on 13 December 1857. Interestingly, it is possible that the same ship also off-loaded seeds at its Melbourne port of call as Baron von Mueller records the species in his *Report of the Government Botanist to (the Victorian) Parliament, 1858*.

Role of von Mueller

Von Mueller aided in its propagation and dissemination. In a note, in his hand, in an 1891 copy of *Select Extratropical Plants Readily Eligible for Industrial Cultivation or Naturalization With Indications of their Native Country and some of their Uses* against the Radiata Pine entry he wrote, 'most extensively distributed through the Colony of Victoria and and some other parts of Australia since 1859 by the author of this work'.

The third South Australian Conservator of Forests, Walter Gill, claimed in 1922 that 'the late Baron Sir F. von Mueller K.C.M.G., F.L.S., was the first to introduce the Remarkable Pine into South Australia under the botanical name of *Pinus insignis*, however the date and place are unclear.

It would appear that von Mueller's friendship with Dr Richard Schomburgk, the Director of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide (1865-91), John Ednie Brown, the second Conservator of Forests (1876-90), and Henry Krichauff, a proponent for the Forest Board in

the colonial parliament, facilitated its easy spread into and cultivation in South Australia. Von Mueller's friendship and correspondence with other South Australian individuals may also have assisted the process. For example, in 1874 von Mueller personally planted Radiata Pine and Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) seeds at the *Mayurra* and *Ehrenbreitstein* residences near Millicent on his travels in that region.

It is recorded by Schomburgk in his 1866 *Annual Report* that he established an avenue of Radiata Pines in the Botanic Gardens in that year. Brown records, in his *Annual Report of 1878-79*, under '*Pinus insignis* or the Remarkable Pine' of specimens that: 'There are several very fair sized trees of this kind to be met with about town. There is a fine avenue of them in the Botanic Gardens where, although not more than twelve years old, they have already attained heights of over 50 feet (15m).'

Trials in South East

The first non-ornamental plantings of the species in South Australia occurred, together with numerous other exotic and eucalyptus species in 1875, at the Bundaleer and Wirrabara nurseries of the newly appointed Forest Board. Inclusion of the species in trials was at the insistence of Goyder and Krichauff, both being on the Board, and occurred before the appointment and arrival of Brown as Conservator of Forests. Brown escalated the cultivation of the species and targeted its commercial cultivation and trials in the South East with the establishment of the Board's Leg of Mutton Nursery in 1876 and the Mount Burr Plantation in 1877.

Brown's presence in South Australia during the late 1870s and 1880s heralded the creation of the first forestry department in the Australian colonies, and possibly the oldest forestry department in the British Commonwealth, the development of a comprehensive first service system in the Australian colonies, the first strategic trialing of economic species in the Australian colonies, and the realisation that the Radiata Pine indeed held a real commercial gain to the colony. The successful cultivation, milling and sales of this species, validated similar commercial trials in other colonies.

A note on nomenclature. Most colonial texts record the *P. radiata* as *P. insignis* or Monterey Pine as the Remarkable Pine, in part due to the prolific use of these names by von Mueller in his many publications and in part to the great hopes held in the timber production properties of this species.

Monterey refers to the original area on the southern Californian coastline where the species first grew.

For Joan Durdin, history came out of the blue

Joan Durdin, a long-time member of the Society, was the subject of this profile which appeared in the most recent issue of *Community History* (Vol. 8, No. 1) published by the History Trust of SA. Joan is currently working on a history of nursing education.

Fifteen years ago Joan Durdin fell victim to a strange compulsion. Since 1974 she had been a lecturer at Sturt College, Head of the School of Nursing and Head of the School of Health Sciences. But history was waiting for her: '... it hit me that I was living in very interesting times, that I was living through significant changes...' Joan said. On her retirement, history demanded complete consideration and Joan Durdin indulged it.

While she nursed at the Royal Adelaide Hospital in the 60s her interest had been psychology but history was available as an evening class option for further study and so Hugh Stretton initiated her into the excitements of the industrial revolution. She enjoyed the broadening of her historical knowledge beyond her school work and the focus of her profession as a nurse and when she returned after a six-year stint in New Guinea, feeling 'like a fish out of water', she added more history units to her qualifications. On her retirement in 1983, history prodded her to finish what she had begun,

In what she sees as a fortuitous conjunction of circumstances, plans for the South Australian sesquicentenary were under way while she worked towards her Honours thesis on a *History of Nursing From 1880-1920*. Joan was the convener of the nursing profession's contribution to the South Australian Museum Education Centre. She also suggested that a history of nursing in SA be undertaken as part of the celebrations. And who would write it? Joan of course. At an early meeting to discuss it, someone asked her if she would make use of oral history. 'What's that?' Joan asked. She resorted to the phone book for illumination and thus began an association with the OHAA which sees her now as president of the OHASA and a proponent of oral history as an invaluable source.

To date Joan has focused on the large community of nursing in South Australia.

Her first book, *They Became Nurses: a history of nursing in South Australia 1836-1980*, did not emerge until 1991. She interviewed 93 nurses, many of whom

gave her perspectives she had not considered and words she would never have found in her own store of language to describe the events and circumstances some nurses experienced.

'I use oral history a lot scattered through the work to bring it to life,' she says, 'Without it, it would be dull.'

She has written the history of a community which has undergone a quiet revolution. From a time of limited hospital-based training for women and autocratic management leavened by the closeness of relationships that comes from living-in together, nurses now have a career which begins in a tertiary education institution and embraces men as well as women, is politicised, and where they live ordinary domestic lives instead of being housed by their employer. There are changes in ward staffing and the range of nursing practices within hospitals and the relentless demands of advancing technology. But none of this changes certain fundamental points of common experience that distinguish the community of nurses Joan Durdin has described.

With more nursing histories being written, she is sure a strong sense of tradition for nurses will develop because there is much to be proud of and it is the oral history in particular which brings this home as nurses describe both high and low points of their experience and some of the drudgery in between.

And for Joan, the process has brought her into another community – the community of historians. She delights in the sharing of information and the personal enrichment that her historical activities have engendered. 'History came out of the blue for me', she said. And she is happy it did.

Exploring with the RGSSA

For adventurer/explorer Tim Severin, the library of the Royal Geographical Society of SA provided a pool of refreshment during the Adelaide Festival's Writers Week. He found 19th century texts on whaling at the same time as two local people were looking at books on Egyptian archaeology.

Housed on the ground floor of the State Library is the Society's library – a rich and diverse repository of geographical knowledge, including rare atlases from the 16th and 17th centuries, several of which are displayed in the State Library's current exhibition, *Expressions of Latin America*.

For history buffs, there is a wealth of information; as well as books which detail the exploration of Australia, there are early accounts of settlement in Australia and in particular South Australia and the

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journals of many of the State historical societies.

As well as books, there is a fascinating (and enlightening) collection of manuscripts, including Sir Joseph Banks' *Journal of a Voyage to Newfoundland and Labrador 1766*. Daniel Brock's diary of Charles Sturt's expedition to Central Australia in 1844-45 and William Christie Gosse's diary of 1873, in which he records his discovery and naming of Ayers Rock (Uluru) and unpublished watercolours of Rio de Janeiro by George French Angas.

Photographs and maps also feature in the Society's collection, as does a small number of relics, such as Colonel William Light's surveying level.

The Elder Scientific Exploration Expedition of 1891-92 and the Calvert Scientific Exploring Expedition 1896-97 were sponsored by the Society in fulfilment of its aim to explore 'the remaining blanks of Australia'. The Society, founded in 1885, continued to support studies such as that of the Lake Eyre South region. It also awards research grants, gives prizes to university students and occasionally awards gold medals for outstanding contributions to geography.

The Society has a program of monthly lectures and publications include *Explore the Barossa*, *Explore the Flinders Ranges* and *The Simpson Desert: natural history and human endeavour*. Its annual *South Australian Geographical Journal* is a fascinating compendium of history and the exploration of Australia. For more on our society's activities, including the lecture program, visit our web site: <http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/library/collres/rgsa/rgsa.htm> or telephone the librarian on 8207 7266.

Better still, call in and explore the library, which is open on Mondays 1.30 pm - 5 pm and Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8.30 am - 5 pm.. The office is open on Tuesdays 8.30 am to 2 pm.

- Valerie Sitters,

Librarian, Royal Geographical Society of SA

SOCIETY WEDDING

Can the Historical Society play a role in matchmaking? Indeed it can! Dr. Elaine Martin from Flinders University met Ian Schomburgk, brother of Council member Dr. Pauline Payne, when the three had dinner together before one of the society's monthly meetings.

Ian found a romantic setting to pop the question when some months later he proposed to Elaine while the two looked down over the twinkling lights of Hong Kong. Our best wishes to Elaine and Ian, who were married on May 15.

Early transport to Kensington and Norwood

by Geoffrey Manning

Coach driving and work in livery stables were among occupations engaged in by some residents of Kensington and Norwood in the early days of the settlement, but by the turn of the century both were on the wane when the motor car and electric tram were introduced. James Chambers was the first cab driver in Adelaide when in 1840, he operated a one horse fly - a one horse, two-wheeled covered carriage. In 1847 James Findley ran a light, four-wheeled carriage with hood (called a phaeton) from a stand in a city street.

Then, in the late 1850s, South Australia witnessed the arrival of the first hansom cabs (the well-known, two-wheeled, two-seat, enclosed carriage whose driver sat outside on a high seat at the back and conversed with his passengers through a little trap-door on the roof), but unlike Sydney, where hansom proved extremely popular, in Adelaide they were generally considered 'unholy' because of the privacy they afforded flirtatious couples, and so were to be avoided by 'any young man of character' who was 'wary of coquetting with ill-fame'. Instead, the most common cab to be found on the streets of Adelaide was the wagonette, a four-wheeled, six-passenger, covered vehicle drawn by two horses, with a box seat at the front for the driver and ample room for luggage.

Dirt inside, rain outside

A few two-wheeled cabs, more like bakers' carts than vehicles for the conveyance of human beings, were running; and the four-wheelers on the road were dirty inside and let in the rain in torrents when the weather was wet, while others were shaky and rickety. The worst of these conveyances gradually disappeared as each licensing day, which occurred every six months, came round. (1)

The first public conveyance from the city to Kensington was a non-licensed spring cart which would carry, when opportunity offered, from six to nine passengers at one shilling each; it started for Adelaide from the Robin Hood Hotel on Kensington Terrace. Later, Mr A.J. Baker appeared on the scene with a coach which he drove from Adelaide round Dr Kent's section, past Bailey Gardens (in modern-day Hackney), through Stepney and Norwood to Kensington, by which fares were reduced to sixpence.

This service was followed by Mr Sharp, a lively stablekeeper in Adelaide, who started a line of buses, heavy but comfortable and 'from the steps of these young Kensingtonians had many a tumble when whipped behind in endeavouring to obtain a cheap ride'. By 1870 the buses started every ten minutes from the Red Lion Hotel in Rundle Street, whether there were passengers or not, and conveyed passengers to any point on the route for sixpence; the terminus was the Rising Sun Inn, Bridge Street, known in those far-off days as 'Black Beck's'.

'Wholly unfit for the purpose'

If the words of a disgruntled patron are to be believed this 'service' left a lot to be desired for in 1866 he said:

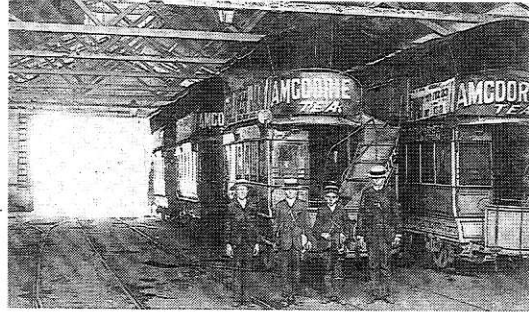
There seems to be about thirty of them on the road and, with few exceptions, they are wholly unfit for the purpose, both as regards the carts, the horses and the drivers. The carts for the main part are rickety to the last degree and when they go into a deeper hole than ordinary, a mighty groan issues from the whole fabric ... Many of the drivers appear to have an invincible objection to cold water and are given to sundry eccentricities of costume which to say the least are objectionable.

Civility, in their opinion, is tame and monotonous ... The drivers commence the day's proceedings by racing down to the stand in twos and threes at the top of the horses' speed, to the great danger of any unfortunate children who may chance to be in the way ... (2)

By the late 1870s it was said that the licensed vehicles were unique in their ugliness and utter want of comfort. In King William St about the Gresham Corner a number of Irish jaunting cars stood which were 'with the quadrupeds and drivers, most perfect likenesses of the dilapidated "turnabouts" which used to play an important part in the famous sketches of John Leech.' Subsequently, these vehicles went so much out of repair that their licences were taken away.

Some drivers insisted on having their vehicles full before leaving the stand unless they had stood there the allotted ten minutes, and after departure they were obliged to refuse many on the line of route. In 1874 there were 372 licensed vehicles in Adelaide and 415 in 1878.

One peculiarity was the number of two-horse vehicles engaged in the trade; in other colonies one-horse cabs were normally used for ordinary traffic, and as the number of horses to be maintained was



The last days of the horse trams, c. 1907 (Searcy c collection) from Morton, P., After Light (Wakefield Press, Adelaide, 1996)

thereby reduced by one-half, the horse was kept in much better condition. The reason for the local departure from this standard was the frequency of trips into the hills, which were more remunerative than street trade.

There were a few hansom cabs, some in a dilapidated condition: in Melbourne this type of conveyance retired from the streets when businessmen left their place of work and was not seen plying at night. This did not happen in Adelaide and it was certain that they were connected 'directly or indirectly with proceedings which are no honour to our city'. These vehicles would scarcely bear inspection by the light of day and their owners were 'importunate, insolent and profane ... and are virtually touters for those with whom they have allied themselves'. (3)

The Adelaide terminus seemed to suit everybody's convenience but in July 1873

there arose a certain councillor – Wigg by name – who lived not in Norwood but in North Adelaide. This mighty potentate kept a shop on the other side of the road, and as he fancied that the Norwood vehicles somewhat obscured the views of his wares, he moved that from henceforth only one vehicle should be allowed to stand at one time ...

Having gained this much, Councillor Wigg might well have been satisfied; but no. Having thrust in the thin edge of the wedge he determined to drive it home, and he accordingly discovered that the presence of even one vehicle in Rundle Street had an injurious effect upon his business and succeeded in getting the stand removed altogether from Rundle Street to the north end of King William Street ...

To be continued in a future issue of *History SA*.

1. See Desmond O'Connor, 'From Crewman to Cabbie', *Journal of the Historical Society of SA*, No. 19, 1991, p. 16; *Observer*, 15 February 1879, p. 13d, *Advertiser*, 25 June 1879, p. 4e.

2. *Register*, 10 April 1866, p. 3b; *Chronicle*, 2 July 1870, p. 8e.

3. *Observer*, 15 February 1879, p. 13d; *Advertiser*, 25 June 1879, p. 4e.

Australia Foundation has new head and new direction

The Australia Foundation for Culture and the Humanities has a new head and a new direction.

The new Executive Director, Winsome McCaughey, says business support for the arts is growing but the Foundation will be looking for ways to encourage more companies to make bigger contributions.

Ms McCaughey says the Foundation will work with businesses to develop their cultural investment strategies so that the companies and the organisations they are supporting receive maximum benefit from the resulting partnerships and sponsorships.

The Foundation will continue to encourage business support for culture and the humanities by building on the Commonwealth Government's decision to make donations to the Foundation tax exempt.

'We will help companies identify and seize the opportunities provided by corporate sponsorship,' Ms McCaughey says.

While the Foundation's tax exemption makes it easier for companies to contribute to the arts and humanities, the government no longer funds the Foundation to provide grants under programs such as the Regional Challenge and the Australian Experience, both of which have been discontinued.

The Board of the Australia Foundation, chaired by Richard Pratt, who is Chairman of Visy Industries, will meet in June to assess new programs and initiatives, building on successful projects completed since the Foundation was established in 1994.

The Australia Foundation for Culture and the Humanities is a wholly owned Commonwealth Government company.

Archival support program

The Australian Council of Archives has established a support program to help small community-based organisations preserve archival heritage. Grants are up to \$500.

Interested organisations should contact Ms Judith Ellis, Executive Officer, Australian Council of Archives, Suite 4, 12 Ellingworth Parade, Box Hill, Victoria 3128.

Clare apartments combine comfort with history

An old chaff mill dating from the 1860s is the focus of a holiday village at the northern end of Clare's main street.

The bluestone chaff mill, with its twin gables, served a number of businesses faithfully for more than 130 years until, in 1987, it was threatened with demolition.

It was then that the present owners, John and Helen Dickeson, bought the old building, restored it and made it the site of a Chinese restaurant and the Chaff Mill Country Kitchen.

The Chaff Mill Village also has four new single and two double apartments, each with a private balcony, spa and open fire – see advertisement this page.

Helen Dickeson has also been curator of the Clare Regional History Collection since it was established in 1984.



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The owner, Helen Dickeson, is Curator of Clare Regional History Collection