

# HSA

History

Newsletter of the Historical Society of South Australia

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## Mums and Bubs under the spotlight

At our August meeting, Dr. Judith Raftery, senior lecturer in the Department of Public Health at the University of Adelaide, will deliver a talk on "Saving South Australia's Babies: the Mothers' and Babies' Health Association". She will present a brief history of the infant welfare movement in this state, focusing particularly on its ideology of expert scientific tuition, in preference to instinct and tradition, as the best way of safeguarding the health of children.


Public health efforts in Europe and Australia had, by the end of the nineteenth century, substantially reduced the mortality rate in the general population, but infant mortality rates were still worryingly high. When, in 1909, Dr. Helen Mayo and Miss Harriet Stirling founded the Adelaide School for Mothers (later to become the MBHA), one of its primary aims was stated to be "the reduction of infantile mortality by means of timely advice and instruction on scientific lines". After World War I the drive to improve national efficiency and build a strong population gave added impetus to the movement.

By the 1950's the overwhelming majority of South Australian families had access to the MBHA, either at suburban clinics, from the mobile Baby Health Trains, or at Torrens House on South Terrace, which provided short-term accommodation and specialised care for mothers and new-borns.

The MBHA promoted the view that the primary agent of good health was the mother, but that her efficiency and success depended on the leadership of a skilled medical elite – a philosophy that fitted

neatly with conventional notions about appropriate roles for women.

However, we know little about how women actually responded to the advice they were given and the claims of the MBHA as to its own effectiveness need to be critically reviewed.

Dr. Raftery has consulted the records of the infant welfare organisations, statements by pioneers and leaders of the movement and the proceedings of public health conferences. She will present her talk at the Prince Philip Theatre, Prince Alfred College, Kent Town, on Friday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, at 8.00 p.m. 



*'SUNNING THE BABIES'*

*The courtyard at the MBHA's Torrens House, 1938.*

*Photo courtesy of Child and Youth Health Service.*


## We're on line!

Due to the diligent efforts of two of our members, Dr. Simon Cameron and Mr. Philip Knight, the Historical Society of South Australia now has its own web-site on the Internet. The address is [www.history.sa.gov.au/hssa](http://www.history.sa.gov.au/hssa).

The site contains basic information about the HSSA, membership details, the year's

programme, news about forthcoming events, a list of publications currently available and selected articles from recent issues of the Newsletter. It also features a complete list of articles published in the Journal from 1975 to 1999. The site will be up-dated regularly.

The Society would like to thank Philip Knight for his invaluable help in establishing the web-site and maintaining it, and the History Trust of S.A. for allowing us to "piggy-back" on their site.

It is hoped that the web-site will introduce the Society to a wider range of interested people. Members are encouraged to spread the word (and the address) to friends and other organisations, especially those outside the metropolitan area. 

## The Historical Society of South Australia Inc.

Founded 1974

P.O. Box 519, Kent Town, S.A. 5071. E-mail: [hssa25@hotmail.com](mailto:hssa25@hotmail.com)

Meetings are held on the first Friday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Prince Philip Theatre, Prince Alfred College, Kent Town. All welcome.

### THE OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY ARE:

- 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 of history, especially that of South Australia and Australia.
- To co-operate with similar societies throughout Australia.
- To do such things as are conducive or incidental to the attainment of any of the above objects.

**PATRON:** Sir Walter Crocker, K.B.E.

### COUNCIL:

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

**Vice-President:** Mr. M. Keain

**Secretary:** Mrs. G. Brown

**Treasurer:** Mrs. A. Huckel, 8277 2953.

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**Journal Editor:** Dr. J.T. Stock, fax 8303 3446.

**History SA Editor:** Mr. J. Healey, 27 Germein St., Semaphore, SA 5019. Ph. 8449 2268.

### APPOINTED OFFICERS:

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

**Publicity Officer:** Ms. M. Dunshore

**Records Officer:** Mrs. E. Ulbrich

## Maralinga, 1956: unclouding the issue

The dramatic story of one of the greatest controversies in Australian science will form the theme of our September lecture, to be given by Dr. Roger Cross, Senior Lecturer in the Graduate School of Education at La Trobe University. Entitled "Falling out over Adelaide: Hedley Marston and the 1956 British Bomb Test", it will deal with the efforts of Marston, Chief of the Division of Biochemistry and Nutrition at the CSIRO, Kintore Avenue, in the 1950's, to bring to public attention the dangers of the Maralinga tests.


Marston (*pictured right*) was asked to help with the measurement of radio-active fall-out from the tests planned for 1956. He trialled his measurement system and immediately came into conflict with the Atomic Weapons Tests Safety Committee, which was composed, except for one meteorologist, entirely of Australian physicists. There were no biologists on it at all. Marston claimed that they were trying to cover up the very real physiological dangers to the people of South Australia but his views were suppressed by the Committee.



Dr. Cross will show how the controversy developed, with Marston setting up his own system to collect the thyroid glands of sheep and cattle from all around Australia and test them for Strontium 90, a dangerously radio-active product of nuclear fission which is absorbed by grass and can be transmitted to animal milk and so to mothers and babies.

On October 11<sup>th</sup>, 1956, the third Maralinga atom bomb was detonated. It was the only one dropped from a plane, a scenario designed to replicate the attack on Hiroshima. Unfortunately there was a temperature inversion over the desert that day and the radio-active cloud split into two parts.

The consequences of this were far-reaching, as Dr. Cross will show in his lecture. He will present new evidence concerning the dangers posed to the people of Adelaide at the time, dangers which were seriously misrepresented in the official reports. He has spent five years researching the subject, in the course of which he interviewed all the major surviving figures of the controversy, including the man who helped Marston collect his samples.


The lecture, with slides, will be given at the Prince Philip Theatre, Prince Alfred College, Kent Town, on Friday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 8.00 p.m. 

## Jazzing it up at the Annual Dinner

Members are reminded to get their bookings in for our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner, to be held at the 'Pavilion on the Park', South Terrace, on Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, at 6.30 p.m. (for 7.00). The guest speaker, Dr. Don Hopgood, is going to entertain us with stories of the early history of jazz in the United States and the ways in which it was recorded by the historians of the 1930's.

Oral history projects, in those days, consisted of grabbing a musician as he came off the bandstand, plying him with a few drinks and writing down everything he said. Articles and books were written with very little verification of material. As a result, the history of jazz is riddled with myths. The task of researchers has been complicated by the fact that many personal records in the Deep South were destroyed by people wishing to conceal their family origins, particularly if these involved miscegenation.


As an accompaniment to his talk, Dr. Hopgood has also promised to deliver a few soul-stirring notes on his long-model cornet, the instrument used by Louis Armstrong in his early days.

The cost of the dinner is \$28 for members (\$30 for non-members) for a three-course meal, exclusive of drinks. Please send your booking, with payment, to the Treasurer, 9 Sierra Nevada Blvd., Pasadena, SA 5042, by August 6<sup>th</sup>. 

## Family history seminars

In September the S.A. Genealogy and Heraldry Society will continue its programme of Sunday morning seminars on family history. The first course, which was held earlier this year, covered the basic resources and procedures. The second course will deal with more specialised topics, which may be of interest to those researchers intending to organise their material into a written account. The schedule is as follows:


- Sept. 5** 11.15 a.m. Beryl Schahinger: "District Records: Births, Deaths & Marriages"
- Sept. 19** 10.00 a.m. Glenis Reid: "Producing a Family History Book on Home Computer"  
11.00 a.m. Sue Mildred: "Structuring and Writing a Family History"
- Oct. 10** 11.15 a.m. Mark Rampling: "Technology and CD Resources, incl. Family Search"
- Oct. 24** 11.15 a.m. Max Shackelford: "Extended Overseas Research and U.K. Repositories"

The cost is \$8 per day for members (\$10 non-members) or, for the full course, \$25 for members (\$35 non-members). All seminars will be held at the SAGHS Library, 201 Unley Rd., Unley. Bookings may be made by phoning 8272 4222. 


## A day of talks and tours

The biennial Eastern Regional Seminar will this year be hosted by the Burnside Historical Society and will be held on Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, at the Burnside Community Centre, cnr. Greenhill Rd. and Portrush Rd., Tasmore. With the theme of "Reflections of Yesterday – Visions of Tomorrow", it will provide participants with opportunities to discuss heritage issues and the future plans of local historical societies.

In the morning a keynote address will be given on the future directions of state and local measures to identify and conserve heritage sites. This will be followed by short presentations from seven historical societies and then lunch at Waterfall Gully Restaurant. In the afternoon there will be a choice of tours to the Wheal Watkins Mine, Cooper's Brewery, Burnside's heritage highlights, or the Auldana Winery.

The full conference fee, including lunch, is \$20 and participants must register by September 17<sup>th</sup>. Enrolment forms may be obtained by phoning the convenor on 8379 4613. 

## New members

The Society would like to welcome the following new members: Mrs. J. Booth, Mr. David and Mrs. Val Conry, Ms. Diane Keynes. 



## CHAFF MILL VILLAGE

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



## Vale John Tregenza

South Australian history has lost one of its most meticulous and tenacious researchers with the death of John Miller Tregenza, at the age of 68, on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 1999.

Dr. Tregenza filled many roles as an historian. He had a distinguished career at the University of Adelaide as a lecturer and reader in the Department of History from 1963 to 1976, during which time he supervised many Honours theses on South Australian history. In 1976 he was appointed Curator of Historical Collections at the Art Gallery of South Australia and many readers will remember his exhibitions on South Australian themes in the Gallery's former Historical Museum.

In 1981 he transferred from the Gallery to the newly formed History Trust of South Australia, where he occupied the position of Senior Historian (now styled State Historian). Among many other activities, he contributed significantly to the Jubilee 150 Publications Committee and the creation of the Mortlock Library as well as conceiving the display in-the-round of Duryea's 1865 photographic panorama of Adelaide (now in the Sir Samuel Way Building, Victoria Square). After retiring from the History Trust in 1987, he became a consultant historian, working on a number of independent projects and pursuing his researches up until the time of his death.

Within the heritage field he served as a member of the Lord Mayor's Heritage Advisory Committee and also provided timely and important historical advice when Old Parliament House was being adapted to house the Constitutional Museum and when the former Police Barracks and Armoury buildings

behind the South Australian Museum were being conserved and adapted for new uses. He also played a leading role in saving Elder Hall from demolition and reawakened interest in South Australia's (and Australia's) first government town planner, Charles Reade. His invaluable South Australian Historical Pictures Index, begun while he was at the Art Gallery and now housed in the Mortlock Library, is another legacy of lasting benefit to historical and heritage researchers.

John Tregenza's interests ranged widely, and his published books included *Australian Little Magazines 1923-1954*; *George French Angas: Artist, Traveller and Naturalist 1822-1886*; *Eugene von Guerard's South Australia*; *LeMessuriers of Port Adelaide*; *Professor of Democracy: the life of Charles Henry Pearson 1830-1894*; and *Collegiate School of St. Peter: The Founding Years 1847-1878*.

John was a foundation member and councillor of the Historical Society of South Australia. He moved the original motion to establish the Society at the inaugural meeting in 1974 and became the first editor of the Journal.

His sudden death has robbed the State of an outstanding historian and an impassioned researcher who made a highly significant contribution to the study of South Australian history. He was also a man whose friendship was valued by a wide circle of people.

John Tregenza is survived by his wife Jean and his sons Colin, Peter and Michael, to whom the Society would like to express its most sincere sympathy.

**Brian Samuels and Ron Gibbs**


## One of the legacies

The South Australian Historical Pictures Index was compiled over a period of twenty years by Dr. John Tregenza with the aid of research assistant Mrs. Kathleen Patitsas and the honorary assistance of Mrs. Jean Tregenza. It is now housed in the Mortlock Library Reading Room, where it is available for inspection under staff supervision.

The Index records, with annotated photographs, all works of art in Australasian public collections that depict identifiable South Australian scenes and subjects of the colonial era 1836-1900. It is contained in over ninety ring binders, divided into two sections – a subject index and an artist index.

The first of these contains broad subject headings (such as Regions, Portraits, Expeditions and Rural Life) which are further divided into more particular sub-headings. Each entry displays a small photograph of the work, together with the name of the artist and that of the holding institution.

One then moves to the Artist Index, arranged alphabetically by individual artist, where each work is given a complete page containing a larger photograph, details of the artist, specifications of the original and often background notes on the subject.

The Index, which catalogues over 3,000 works of art, contains a wealth of historical information, both in the pictures themselves and in the many fascinating annotations. 

# New in the Mortlock

The following selection of items likely to be of interest to readers has been compiled by Brian Samuels from recent issues of *Mortlock Miscellany*, the monthly listing of the Mortlock Library's accessions, which is available on the State Library's web-site <http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au>. Note that not all items are recent. Some may have been re-catalogued while others may have taken some years to find their way into the Library's collections.

## MONOGRAPHS

D. Baker: **19<sup>th</sup> Century Land Use in Belair, South Australia** (Belair, 1998)

P. Bellchambers: **The Wizard of Humbug Forest: the Story of Thomas Paine Bellchambers 1858-1929** (Adelaide, 1998)

H. Britton: **The Home of the Trade: 80 Years of Gerard & Goodman** (Flagstaff Hill, c. 1997)

K. Bull: **Pattern of Faith: A History of the Anglican Parish of Stirling** (Crafers, 1998)

P. Callaghan: **Richmond Primary School: 100 Years of Learning and Caring** (Keswick, 1998)

History Trust of South Australia: **Calling the Country 1914-18: How the Government Recorded the War Years** (Adelaide, 1998)

**Colonel Light Gardens : A Model Garden Suburb** [facsimile] (Colonel Light Gardens, 1998)

M. Corrieri: **Italian Photographic Memories -- Port Pirie** (Port Pirie, 1998)

Dept. for Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs: **City of Payneham Heritage Survey** (Adelaide, 1998)

Dept. for Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs: **Heritage of the Yorke Peninsula** (Adelaide, 1998)

**Don Dunstan 1926-1999 : A Labor Herald Tribute** (Barton, 1999)

J. Ellis: **Public Land and the Public Mind: Origins of Public Land Policy in South Australia, 1834-1929** [Manuscript] 1995

R.J. Fielke: **Cricket Bat Making in South Australia** (Gawler, 1998)

**The First Century: Southern Farmers** (Adel. 1988)

**The First Hundred Years 1898-1998: A History of the Newsagents Association of South Australia** Ed. E. Tidswell & D. Thomas (Allenby Gardens, 1998)

F.R. Fisher: **Joseph Fisher: A Pioneer Colonist** (Stirling, 1998)

G. Ford: **Australian Pottery: The First 100 Years** (Wodonga, 1995)

S. Gifford: **The Port: Heritage, Development and Prosperity** (Port Adelaide, 1998)

M.E. Glass: **Charles Cameron Kingston: Federation Father** (Carlton, 1997)

A. Grove-Jones: **One Man to a Thousand: 50 Years in the Pastoral Industry, 1932-1982** (1998)

G.V. Hambley: **Investment Criteria in South Australian Railway Construction, 1856-1891** (1972)

A.F. Harris (ed.): **South Australian Military Forces : Appointments, Promotions & Personnel Movements previously published in General Orders 1899-1900** (Mitcham, c. 1996)

A.F. Harris (ed.): **South Australian Military Forces : Appointments, Promotions & Personnel Movements relating to S.A. Contingents to the South African War previously published in General Orders Nov. 1899 – Jan. 1901** (Mitcham, c. 1997)

T.R. Hayward: **The Methodist Church and Social Problems in South Australia, 1900-1952** (Adelaide, 1974)

Liquor and Gaming Commission: **Historical Index of Photographs of Licensed Premises in South Australia** (Adelaide, 1998)

**History in Portraits : Biographies of Nineteenth Century South Australian Aboriginal People** Ed. J. Simpson & L. Hercus (Canberra, 1998)

J. Hylton: **The Painted Coast: Views of the Fleurieu Peninsula South of Adelaide** (Adelaide, 1998)

Y.M. Johnson: **Historic Renmark : Established 1887** (Renmark, 1999)

D.S. Jones & P. Payne: **Gardens in South Australia 1840-1940: Guidelines for Design and Conservation** (Adelaide, 1998)

A. & P. Kloeden/Bruce Harry & Assoc: **Heritage of the Murray Mallee** (Adelaide, 1998)

D. Loffler: **She's A Beauty! -- The Story of the First Holdens** (Kent Town, 1998)

M. McKay: **On Tap: A Cavalcade of Trivia and Tall Stories Celebrating 200 Years of the Australian Pub** (Adelaide, 1999)

P. McQuin: **Pastoral Drought in Northern South Australia, 1863-1867** (c. 1972)

S. Marsden: **A History of Australian Capital City Centres since 1945** (Canberra, 1997)

**Millicent and District : Men of the Past** (Millicent, 1999)

**The Mortlock Library of South Australia: Notes on the Jervois Wing and the Mortlock Family** Ed. V. Lovegrove. (Adelaide, 1999)

F. Murphy: **The Journal of Francis Murphy, First Catholic Bishop of Adelaide** Ed. B. Condon (Magill, c. 1983)

G.R. Needham & D.I. Thomson: **Men of Metal: A Chronicle of the Metal Casting Industry in South Australia, 1836-1998, 2<sup>nd</sup> rev. ed.** (Adelaide, 1998)

R. Nicol: **Final Pageant: The Past, Present and Future of Death** (Malvern, 1998)

A. Painter: **Jolly Good Ale and Old: Cooper's Brewery 1862-1998** (Leabrook, 1998)

**Paringa Hall : James Francis Cudmore and Sacred Heart College** (Somerton Park, 1997)

R. Parsons: **Migrant Ships for South Australia, 1836-1866** (Gumeracha, 1999)

R. Parsons: **Yorke Peninsula Shipping, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.** (Lobethal, 1998)

- P. Payne: **St. Ann's College: The First Fifty Years 1947-1997** (North Adelaide, 1998)
- P. Payne: **Thebarton: Old and New** (Torrensville, 1996)
- A.G. Peake: **Sources for South Australian History** 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. (Dulwich, 1998)
- C. Qualmann: **The Tumby Bay/Wanilla Soldier Settlers' Scheme 1949-1999** (Henley Beach, 1999)
- R. Radford et al: **Treasures from the Art Gallery of South Australia** (Adelaide, 1998)
- Recollections: Nathaniel Hailes' Adventurous Life in Colonial South Australia 1802-1879**  
Ed. A. Peters. (Kent Town, 1999)
- Remember When? -- Some History of the Butler Schools** Edited by V. J. Rusden. (Butler Tanks, 1998)
- B. Santich: **McLaren Vale: Sea and Vines**  
Photographs by C. Reid (Kent Town, 1998)
- M. Saunders: **The Campaign for Peace in Vietnam (S.A.) 1967-1972** (c. 1972)
- M. Saunders: **The Vietnam Moratorium Movement in Australia, 1969-73** (c. 1977)
- M. Shephard: **The Simpson Desert: Natural History and Human Endeavour** (Nth. Adel. 1999)
- P. C. Smith: **Fruits of Frugality: Eudunda Farmers, 100 Years, 1896-1996** (Kent Town, c. 1997)
- R. Smith: **Curiosities of South Australia** (Athelstone, 1998)
- P. Sumerling: **Down at the Local: A History of the Hotels of Kensington, Norwood and Kent Town** (Kent Town, 1998)
- R. Taylor: **The Living Memorial: A History of Burnside War Memorial Hospital Inc.** (Toorak Gardens, 1998)
- W.H. Tietkens: **Private Journal of W.H. Tietkens on an Expedition to the Nullarbor Plain, February 1879 to January 1880** (Nth. Adel. 1998)
- H.M. Tolcher: **Conrick of Nappa Merrie: A Pioneer on Cooper Creek** (Linden Park, 1997)
- D. & C. Tuckwell: **Swan Reach, South Australia, Through the Eyes of its Correspondents, 1856 to 1972** (Swan Reach, 1997)
- R.A.V. Wallace: **Our Great Patriotic Song: "The Song of Australia"** (Sth. Aust., 1999)
- J.P. Weiss: **Short General and Statistical History of the Australian Lutheran Church: Places, Parishes, Pastors** (Eden Hills, 1999)

#### ARCHIVAL MATERIAL

- Bell Bros. General Store** [BRG 300] Records of Farina store: correspondence, day book, stock sheets, order book (1925-1937).
- Bell, Walter Lelio Bevilacqua** [D 7488 (L)] Autobiography of W. Bell, meat inspector, with photocopies of periodical and newspaper articles (1997).
- Bierbaum, Horst Friedrich** [D 7490 (L)] Reminiscences dealing with childhood in Germany, W.W. II experiences, arrival in Australia, career as architect and historian in S.A. (1998).
- Bierbaum, Horst Friedrich** [D 7430 (T)] Notes on the establishment of the Heritage Unit, 1998.

**Clement, Edward** 1824-1908 [D 7500 (Misc)] Letters, cuttings, biography, photographs relating to E. Clement of Gawler and family, 1845-1943.

**Hancock family** [PRG 1185] Original publications, photographs, cuttings relating to Capt. Henry Richard Hancock and son, Wallaroo and Moonta mines, Moonta Methodist Church (1880-1979).

**John Martin Retailers Limited** [BRG 121] Management records c. 1890-1990, and material relating to the closure of John Martin's, 1998.

**Joyner, Frederick Allen** 1863-1945 [PRG 476] Record books, cuttings, letters, marriage certificate, diary, autograph book, balance sheet, photograph albums and printed items (1883-1956).

**Kindergarten Union of South Australia** [SRG 658] Audiotapes, educational films, children's artwork, kindergarten reports, cuttings, photographs, financial records (1906-1985).

**A.H. Landseer Limited** [BRG 274] Freight manifest of paddle steamer *Bourke*, cuttings relating to River Murray shipping (1853-1920).

**Lockley, Michael** [D 7508 (Misc)] Correspondence & cuttings relating to Fort Glanville and its Historical Association (1969-1991).

**Loren, Marisa Gabriella** [D 7270 (Lit Ms)] Photographs to supplement *Courthouses in Adelaide 1837-1988* (1996).

**Millers Produce Co. of S.A. Ltd.** [BRG 298] Minutes, correspondence, financial records, subject files, photographs, legal papers (1919-1989).

**Reilly, Peter J.** [D 7399 (L)] An annotated version of James Allen's *Journal of an experimental trip by the "Lady Augusta" on the River Murray*.

**Roberts Limited** [BRG 303] Records of William Leopold Roberts, pipe-organ builder of North Adelaide: correspondence, lists of work, tuning engagements, cuttings, pamphlets from churches, photographs (1915-1991).

**Swan, Henry Charles** [D 7512 (L)] Photostat copy of his diary, covering the period from his arrival in Adelaide in 1854 until 1860.

**Tarrawatta Station, Angaston** [BRG 301] (Run by the Angas family for several generations.) Includes farm diaries, monthly stock returns, stock books, farm and district plans (1914, 1931-1997).


**Turner, Phyl** [D 7497 (T)] *The Linnett Story: a brief history of an historical island enterprise* (1998).

**William Warwick** [D 7498 (L)] Diaries from Holowilena Stn. 1864-1901. Ed. H. Mincham, 1999.

**G. & R. Wills & Co.** [BRG 304] Records of merchants & importers, comprising letters, invoices, minutes, balance sheets, pay records, architectural plans, photographs (1848-1987).

#### ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

OH 521 **Don Dunstan**: The Whitlam Lecture Series [Sound Recording] 1998.

OH 524 **John Dowie** interviewed by Jennifer Palmer [Sound Recording] 1999. 

# The Nuccaleena Copper Mine

by Jennifer Carter and Roger Cross

## The story of Nuccaleena in brief

The remoteness of the ruins of the Nuccaleena copper mine and township in the Flinders Ranges, requiring as they do a four-wheel-drive vehicle for access and the relevant topographical maps, cannot fail to bring home to the visitor the courage of the miners and the hardships they suffered in the 1860's.

The story of Nuccaleena's rise and failure has been expertly told by Nic Klaassen in *The Northern Flinders Ranges*, and we commend this book to the reader interested in the details of the history of this isolated mining village. Here we give only the bare essentials to illustrate the current situation and future plans.

The Nuccaleena copper mine, named from the Aboriginal word for 'gorge' or 'gap', is situated in a remote section of the Northern Flinders Ranges, north-west of Blinman and about two kilometres west of Tam O'Shanter Hill. It began when pastoralists John and James Chambers sold their lease of eighty acres to the British-owned Great Northern Mining Company of S.A. soon after they acquired it in 1860. The mine was established during 1861 and when, at year's end, about eighty-five miners were employed, the few married women softened what was inevitably a harsh, male-dominated environment. By March, 1863, progress was such that a townsite was surveyed and seventy-seven town blocks pegged out, but disaster was just around the corner. During 1864 the owners of the mine came to realise that their investment had been over-optimistic. Some £45,000 had been spent and only £13,000 received from a mere 800 tons of ore raised. The great drought devastating the whole of the north at the time was another significant factor in the mine's closure.

Klaassen reports on the parliamentary inquiries held in later years which brought to light the incompetence of the mining captain, the cost of bringing in timber for the pumping engine, problems

with the hardness of the rock and, fortunately for us, the extravagance in spending money on surface buildings rather than on underground workings. People soon drifted away and life in the end seems to have settled around the Bushman's Inn which was open until 1873.

With the deterioration of the buildings and minor disturbances, not to mention vandalism, since then, Nuccaleena stands today as a ravaged and silent memorial to the hardships faced by the Cornish and other miners who, knowing no other way of life, fought against considerable odds in a most isolated and, for them at least, a dreary corner of the state. As one travels the sixteen four-wheel-drive kilometres north and west from the Glass

Gorge road out of Blinman, the sense of isolation is heightened. But it is this very isolation that has ensured that the Nuccaleena mine remains a fascinating relic of South Australia's copper era.

## What remains today

Nuccaleena today is an impressive memorial to the hardy miners. It also illustrates how little ordinary investors knew of the way in which their funds were being used. The extravagance of the hopes and vision of the mine owners is, however, clear to all.

It is important to distinguish the few remains of later attempts at mining, especially by the Hunter brothers between 1914 and 1919. The remains of their shaft and its ten-metre

wooden head gear can be seen, a wire rope is left lying, and the coke in front of the store presumably dates from this era as well. There is also a platform with six large iron bolts which may have held the 12-horsepower winding-winch used by the brothers.

The accompanying photograph shows the main complex of mine buildings, looking roughly east across Nuccaleena Creek from the site of the Captain's house. The engine-house (on the right) has a curious block attached to one side, the walls of the boiler house and the tunnel to the typical round chimney can be discerned, while two store buildings (left) are also relatively undamaged. An almost intact ore-dressing platform is present in front of the engine-house and beyond this is the quarry which still contains some unused dressed stone.

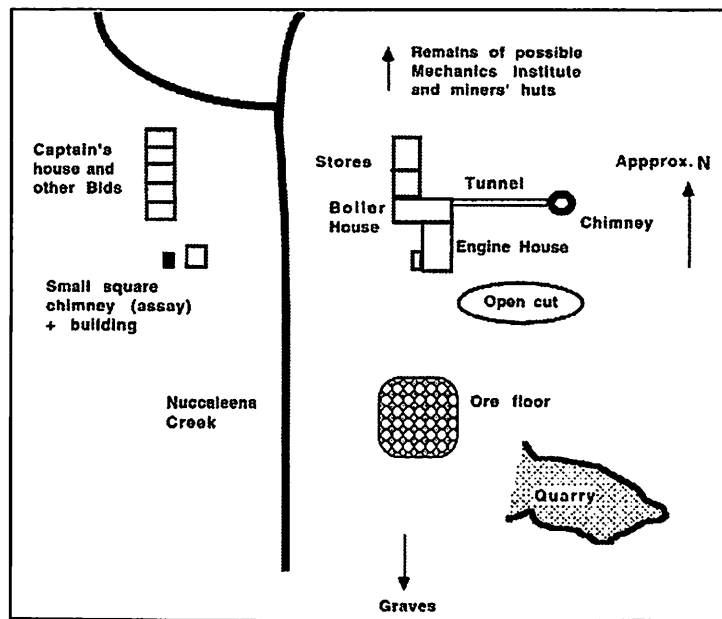


*The Nuccaleena Mine as it is today.*  
Photo courtesy of Primary Industries & Resources SA.

Well to the north of this collection of important structures lie the remains of three more stone buildings, one being very significant. This is made of dry stone and we believe it to be the Mechanics Institute, the miners' centre for self-education and entertainment. They also had a cricket team and a musical band (*see box below*). The fact that no mortar is present lends support to this being a building (4.5m x 8.15m) constructed by the miners for their own use.

The movement for self-improvement was well under way by the 1860's and such a structure underlines the confidence of miners and owners as to Nuccaleena's future. (This building is unlikely to be the Chapel as the alignment is roughly north-south, as opposed to east-west.) Scattered on this sloping hillside are significant remains of pinewood huts, originally referred to as being about twenty in number.

On the western side of Nuccaleena creek (in the foreground of the photo) is a most interesting collection of buildings. Most of these are residences and offices. Certainly Captain Pearson Morrison, the mine manager, and Doctor Thomas Young, who also performed the function of Secretary to the mine, would have lived here close to the spring. The stables and general store would have been located here as well. Fairly extensive ruins of a smith's shop are also present, its substantial chimney even suggesting an assay furnace. A post office at Nuccaleena likewise operated during the active years of 1863-66.



Outline map of the Nuccaleena mine site (not drawn to scale).

Following the creek south, the persistent historian will come across the abandoned graveyard where there are very few headstones but visible signs of graves. And about one kilometre east, back along the track, are the few remains of the Bushman's Inn. Finally, up on the hillsides, adits can be seen, while the main shafts and attempts at open cut are close to the engine-house which held a 16"-cylinder steam engine originally manufactured in Adelaide

by Mr. G. Wyatt for the Reedy Creek Mine.

All in all, this collection of historic ruins is remarkable. The engine-house is of classic Cornish design and a reminder that the craft of the mason was celebrated in the most forbidding of environments, whether in Cornwall, where the Levant mine (1820-1930) stood on a cliff-edge facing out over the Atlantic Ocean with a shaft sunk some 2,150 feet deep, or in the equally harsh environment of the Northern Flinders Ranges, where the shaft went down only 18 fathoms (108 feet) in 1863, although by the end of 1864 this had more than doubled. The criticism of the Nuccaleena mine -- that more attention was paid to appearances on the surface ("at grass") rather than concentrating efforts below ground -- seems well founded, seeing that such substantial buildings returned so little for their owners' investment.

#### Remnants of Social History

One or two areas of the site contain small shards of earthenware pottery which should not be →

The following extract is taken from J.B. Austin's *The Mines of South Australia* (Adelaide, 1863). Austin visited almost one hundred mines in the space of four months in 1862, covering a total of 1,800 miles, chiefly on horseback.

*This mine presents a more pleasing appearance, as to its buildings, and all the arrangements at "grass", than any Mine in the North; there is an air of comfort as well as of business about the place, which its more recent competitors have not yet attained to. . . .*

*A Mechanics Institute has been formed here, and the men seem to devote themselves after work to useful study, or to innocent recreation. They have established a judge and jury club, for the trial of petty offences amongst themselves, and it has been found to work well.*

*There is also a good musical band, including some good singers among its members, the instrumental part consisting of a drum, triangle, "bones", violins, and a concertina. On the evening of my arrival the band was "discoursing sweet music", the sound of which, reverberating through the hills, was very enlivening, especially to weary travellers who had been long absent from anything of the kind.*

removed for they are the key remaining social artefacts. They are predominately from blue transfer-printed earthenware of the early nineteenth century. Among them can be seen, with good certainty, thirteen different designs of standard "blue and white" patterns, and two of the more exotic "flown" blue types. While it is not possible to make any positive identification of actual manufacturers or styles, the visible designs are indicative of willow pattern and chinoiserie, ruins, classical scenes, and perhaps topographical patterns common to this type of cheap earthenware. All of the shards visible are heavily and crudely printed and would have reminded the miners of their roots in Europe where pottery of this kind graced cottage tables in Devon and Cornwall. No examples of porcelain are to be seen.

Readers interested in other recorded aspects of social history should consult Nic Klaassen's book.

#### Work being carried out by the Heritage Branch

In recent years the State Heritage Branch has taken a keen interest in these historic remains, and a cyclone fence has been erected around the main complex and around the shaft and open cut. What is



## When trams met trains in Victoria Square

by Neville Smith

An old photograph recently came to light, in the form of a postcard which dates from the first few months of the Adelaide electric tramway system, which was opened in March, 1909. The photo (*reproduced opposite*) shows three trams, the Glenelg train and two horse-carts all drawn up at the Angas Street end of Victoria Square. The Supreme Court building can be seen in the background on the right. The view is taken looking south.

The State Government purchased the horse-tram companies in 1907 and the newly-formed Municipal Tramways Trust continued to run the services while preparations were in hand for the electrification of the system. Much preparation was needed for the changeover, including the strengthening of the City Bridge. This was undertaken by the Gawler firm of James Martin Ltd. Widening was also considered, but the M.T.T General Manager advised that this would not be necessary because the new electric trams, although much heavier, took up less room than the horse-trams. In later years this proved to be an error of judgement with quite substantial consequences.

The old bridge had been officially opened on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 1877, and up until the time of the new tramway had been considered adequate for the passing

now planned is a number of interpretative signs for visitors and further stabilising of the buildings. This work is being supervised by Mr. Duncan Ross-Watt, conservation architect with the Heritage Branch of the Department for Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs.

**Note for intending visitors:** The 1:50,000 Topographic Maps *Cadnia 6636-III* (grid reference 617725) and *Blinman 6635-IV* will be of use.

#### References:

- J. B. Austin: *The Mines of South Australia* (Adelaide, 1863)
- A. W. Coysh: *Blue-Printed Earthenware 1800-1850* (David & Charles, Newton Abbot, 1972)
- R. K. Johns: *Cornish Mining Heritage* (Department of Mines and Energy, Adelaide, 1986)
- Nic Klaassen: *The Northern Flinders Ranges* (Klaassen, Eden Hills, 1991) Chapter 3.
- Hans Mincham: *The Story of the Flinders Ranges* (Rigby, Adelaide, 1965)

**Acknowledgement:** *History SA* would like to thank Mr. Greg Drew for providing the photograph of Nuccaleena, taken from *Discover South Australia's Mining Heritage Trails* (PIRSA, Adelaide, 1998).

traffic. Two new girders were put into place and while each was being fitted the carriage way was reduced to eight feet, allowing only one horse-tram line to be used. With the completion of the bridge and other necessary roadworks connected with the laying of the stronger rails, all that remained was the purchase of the new rolling stock.

Duncan & Fraser, a well-established coach building firm of Franklin Street, Adelaide, won the contract for the supply of 100 new electric trams for the Municipal Tramways Trust. Seventy of the new trams were to be of the 'Californian Combination Car' design, open at each end and closed in the middle section. The other thirty were to be of open design with cross-bench seats. Part of the order was received in late 1908 and early 1909, in readiness for the opening of the electric tramway on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 1909. This took place on the Kensington line and a month later, on April 7<sup>th</sup>, the electric trams travelled from Victoria Square along King William Street, over the newly strengthened City Bridge and up O'Connell Street to the North Adelaide Terminus at the Caledonian Hotel.

The postcard shows a line-up of the new electric trams at the Victoria Square terminus, waiting for their return trip to North Adelaide. The date would be mid-1909 to early 1910. It could not be later than this because from 1911 the trams were through-routed to the southern lines, whereas the photo clearly shows a terminus. (There are no tracks extending further than the trams.) Car No. 14, on the right of the picture, is an example of the 'Combination' car, later classified as 'A' Type. The

Tramway Museum at St. Kilda currently has this very tram in its workshop awaiting restoration. It was rescued from Middle Beach where it served as a beach shack following the closure of the tramway system in Adelaide in 1958.

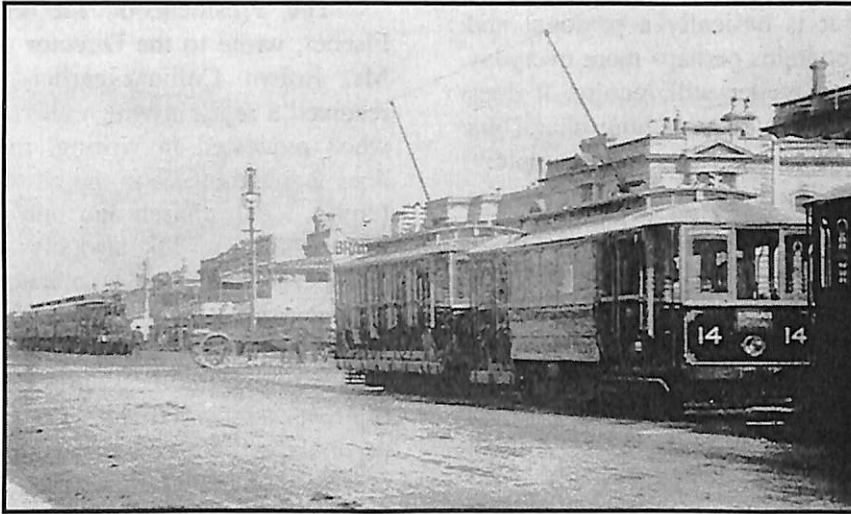
Behind it in the photograph is an open car or 'Toastrack' as they became known because of their resemblance to the silver toast racks used in hotel dining-rooms. These were later classified as 'B' Type and were used mainly during the summer months on the seaside line to Henley Beach and to transport the Tramways Band to its concert venues at Henley Beach

and Kensington Gardens. Because of the open nature of these trams, they were unpopular with the public and conductors alike. The step used to mount the tram was very high and consisted of a continuous running-board stretching the full length of the vehicle. The conductors needed a good sense of

balance to move along this running board, clinging to the upright rails, as they collected the fares from the passengers.

From 1917 the M.T.T began converting these open cars to the 'Combination' type, and reclassified them as 'A1' and 'A2' Type trams. By the 1930's the 'Toastrack' trams were no longer running in Adelaide. The 'Combination' cars of the original fleet, however, continued in service until the 1950's, and may be remembered as the 'Bib & Bubs' when they were coupled together during the war years.

The destination 'Nth. Adelaide' seen on the No. 14 tram is displayed in one of the old-style destination boxes, which not only had the name but a coloured pattern for those who could not read or write. This was a carry-over from the horse-tram



The Angas Street terminus for trains and trams, Victoria Square, c. 1909.

days and continued until 1917 when an additional destination box was fitted and all tram routes were numbered. As mentioned earlier, North Adelaide was one of the earliest routes converted to electric traction and, as it terminated at the Caledonian Hotel, it acted as a "feeder service" for the horse-trams which travelled beyond to St. John's Wood (Prospect) and Nailsworth. The electrification of the extension to Enfield and Prospect was completed and the lines opened in July, 1911.

The train in the photograph is stationary at the Angas St. terminus of the Glenelg railway. (In 1914

the train terminus was moved back to South Tce.) The Glenelg service continued until April, 1929, when work commenced on its conversion to an electric tramway. The entire line was regauged and electrified in eight months and the tramcars built at the time by Pengelleys are still in use today.

The new line was officially opened on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 1929, and is therefore celebrating 70 years of service this year. Plans are in hand to commemorate the occasion.

Also of interest in the photo is the horse and cart "parked" in the centre of the roadway, with a man standing at the horse's head. Can you imagine this happening in King William Street today?


**Note:** The operating trams at the St. Kilda Tramway Museum include Car No. 1, the 'Combination' car used to open the electric system in Adelaide, and 'Toastrack' No. 42, both of which have been beautifully restored. No. 1 runs on the first Sunday of each month, and No. 42 during the warmer months. Other early trams from the Adelaide fleet can be ridden every Sunday and Public Holiday between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.



### ABOUT OUR CONTRIBUTORS

- **Jennifer Carter** is the author of *Painting the Islands Vermilion*, a biography of Dr. Archibald Watson, Adelaide's flamboyant Professor of Anatomy. The book is due to be released by Melbourne University Press in August. Her novel *The Foundling: a tale of the Burra Burra Mine*, written under the name of Mary Talbot Cross, was published last year by Shalimar Press.
- **Dr. Roger Cross** is Senior Lecturer in the Graduate School of Education at La Trobe University and

will speak at our September meeting on Hedley Marston of the CSIRO and his opposition to the 1956 atom bomb tests. (Please see page 2.)

- **Neville Smith** has been researching Adelaide's tramways for many years and has published three booklets on the histories of different tram-routes. His new book on the northern lines will be released in October. Neville would be pleased to hear from anyone with early photographs or memorabilia relating to the M.T.T. (Ph. 8337 5885). 

## Cockies, cooks and other characters

**Alex Grove-Jones: One Man to a Thousand: 50 Years in the Pastoral Industry (Self-published, 1998)**

This book chronicles the author's experiences as a sheep-farmer in the outback areas of South Australia, New South Wales and Queensland from 1932 (when the yardstick for manpower was one man for every thousand head of stock) through to the 1980's. Though it is basically a personal and family narrative and contains perhaps more everyday detail than the general reader will require, it does introduce us to a variety of entertaining characters and features some classic bush yarns. For example:

*The Anderson's had a pet corella cocky, quite a good talker. Jim let cocky go one day to return to his mates, and he flew off to join the thousands of corellas creating a racket in the gum trees in the nearby creek. As soon as cocky joined them he cried "Hello, cocky!" and there was instant silence, followed by shrill calls of alarm as all the corellas cleared out and cocky was left all alone. He was so disgruntled that he returned home – for good.*

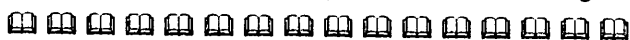
Then there was Bill Edwards, a boundary rider at Mutooroo Station, who had one of the few wet-battery-operated loudspeaker wirelasses about in the 1930's, at least on outback sheep-stations.

*I remember going to his camp one day with Fred Fitzpatrick, and Bill apologised for not getting up to greet us. He had one boot off, his big toe stuck out of a hole in his sock and he was resting it on a terminal of the battery which was as good as flat. However, his toe transmitted enough electricity from his body to keep the wireless going.*


There are several stories about a shearers' cook by the name of Wally the Wombat, whose favourite expression when times were hard was "Hang the expense, give the canary another seed!"

There is also an interesting account of how all the station records were duplicated in a 'press-copy book' by the old process that involved a wetted page, oiled leaves, blotting paper, a heavy screw-press and special copying ink.

The book is published in papercover at \$28 (plus \$7 postage) and is available from OMTAT, 17 Gardenia Drive, Woodside, SA 5244. -- J.H.




## History SA deadline

The deadline for all material for the September 1999 issue of the Newsletter is Friday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. It should be addressed to John Healey, Editor, History SA, 27 Germein St., Semaphore, SA 5019. Enquiries: Ph. 8449 2268. 

## Good news for authors

The Friends of South Australia's Archives has been concerned for some time about the fees charged by the State Library for the reproduction in books, periodicals, theses, exhibitions, etc. of photographs and documents from its collections (particularly those from the Mortlock Library). This is a concern shared by many members of our own Society. The policy of the Library is set out in a brochure entitled "Publication of Material from State Library of SA Collections".

The President of the Friends, Mr. Gerald Fischer, wrote to the Director of the State Library, Ms. Robyn Collins, earlier this year and has received a reply in which she states, "As indicated, when requested in writing, the Library generally does waive the fees in the case of South Australian family, local, church and non-profit organisational history authors." She also says that the Library will consider including a clearer statement in the brochure detailing the categories of publications for which a reduction or waiver of fees would be entertained.

For now, the message seems to be that authors of non-commercial history – whether financed privately or by a community organisation – should not be intimidated by the present wording of the brochure, but should make application for any exemptions from fees that they consider they may be entitled to. 

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