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January 2004

HISTORY SA

The Newsletter of the Historical Society of South Australia Inc.

New Look – HISTORY SA

Welcome to 2004 with the first issue of History SA. I would like to thank John Healey for the fantastic job he has done over the last five years both on Council and as Editor of the newsletter. The Council wishes John all the best in his future ventures and hopes to see him succeed in the paths that he takes.

There are many new sections within this newsletter that provide information about various societies, events and issues happening in SA.

Firstly the Historical Society of South Australia wishes to promote other historical societies within the community. This will be known as 'History Society Profiles' and we would like to give every society the opportunity to promote their activities through this newsletter. Our first contribution comes from West Torrens and the

Editor wishes to thank Helen Cooke for providing this information. Please see page 5.

Another new section is our 'Query Forum'. This is where you (the members) can send in a short request for information that other members may know about. It is for anyone to answer the query and this is why I will need some form of contact details either to publish or to refer on. An example of the type of entry suggested is placed on page 5 for your information.

We will also be publishing our 'President's Column' where you will be able to read about past events, council news, and current issues. We will also be including as many pictures of Society events as possible. This will be featured on page 2 of each issue.

'Book Reviews' and 'New Books' will be a feature of the new look History SA and for this I would like some volunteers. If you would like to be involved please do not hesitate to contact me. Our first book review has been supplied by the Editor on Julie Reece's book 'Journey of Remembrance' – see page 6. Julie is our guest speaker for February.

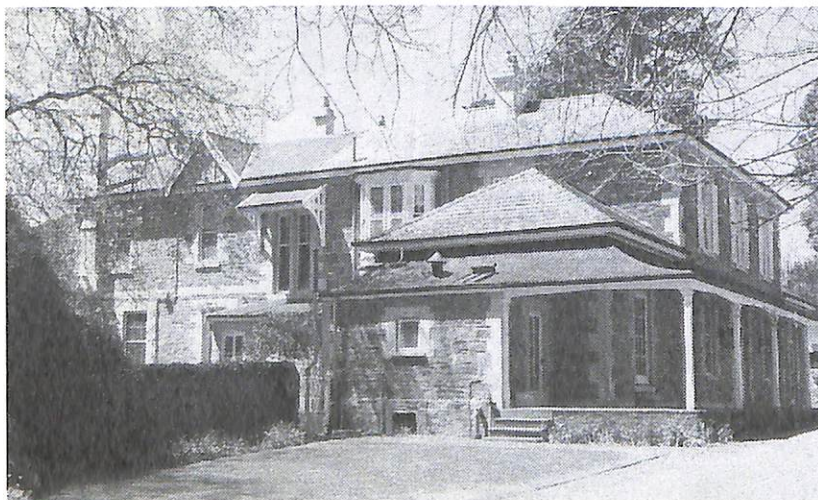
For our monthly meetings please turn to pages 3 and 4 to find out whom our speakers are and what their talks will be about.

I, along with the Council, hope that you enjoy the new look newsletter finding it full of things to do, places to see and events to relish.

Alison Houghton
Editor

Rosebank -Field Trip

Sunday October 12, 2003 HSSA took a full busload of members and visitors on a wonderful trip to Rosebank Homestead, the home of the Melrose family. Along the way we received commentary from Dr Geoffrey Bishop, our inimitable historian of the Adelaide hills area.



Alan Fulwood has completed the research on Rosebank and provided a delightful insight into the history. This was complemented by a personal photographic display. The sun was shining and a glorious setting made the perfect ambience for a picnic lunch and tour of the homestead and the shearing shed. The homestead has been wonderfully restored and alterations are sympathetic to the original design, while the shearing shed revealed the historic past with architecture and scent.

On our return we stopped at Mt Torrens for a walk through the historic township which brought to light some interesting architecture and history of our pioneers. Walking through the township one gets a sense of peace and tranquillity that has been retained from early settlement.

From the President

Happy New Year!

Welcome to the first edition of our new look bi-monthly magazine History SA, which is packed full of details of forthcoming Society events, reviews of events from our 2003 program, book reviews and details of other societies, both local and interstate.

Our final lecture for 2003, a presentation on the life of SA naturalist Captain S.A. White, given by Rob Linn, was a wonderful insight into the life of this extraordinary man. I was delighted to extend a special welcome at the meeting to Captain White's daughter, Mrs Wanda Chesser, and his great grandson Murray Chesser, who both enjoyed the level of interest shown by members in the life and work of their family member.

For your enjoyment, the Council of the Society has put together an expanded program for 2004. Not only will we be offering a series of ten monthly lectures and Sunday field trips, but three mid morning escapes on Wednesdays in the city, visiting Ayers House, the Medina Grand Treasury Apartments and the Botanic Gardens. I hope you will support this new initiative and find it to be an exciting, informative and interesting one. Further information will appear in future editions of History SA.



Rob Linn (left) enjoys meeting Wanda and Murray Chesser, descendants of S.A. White, following his lecture on Mr White at the November meeting.

During 2004 the Council will continue to supervise the production of the Society's flagship annual publication The Journal and this newsletter. Another new initiative will be greater coverage of Society activities through the publication of photographs taken on the recently purchased digital camera in The Journal and History SA. Be warned, when I get behind a camera, no one is safe! The Council hopes this initiative will encourage increased awareness of the Society's activities.

The Historical Society of South Australia is privileged to enjoy the support of its members, and I strongly encourage you to participate in the wide range of activities organized by your society for 2004. I welcome your feedback and invite you to contact me by telephone 8334 1200 or email dcornish@pac.edu.au should you wish to do so.

I look forward to seeing you at HSSA functions during 2004.

David Cornish
President

All monthly Talks will commence at 7.30pm in 2004!



HSSA members and visitors on a wonderful trip to Rosebank Homestead, the home of the Melrose family on Sunday October 12, 2003.

Julie Reece *Journey of Remembrance*

**7.30pm Friday
6 Feb 2004**

**Prince Philip Theatre,
Prince Alfred College,
Kent Town**

In 2001 Mount Barker High School students and teachers, travelled to the WW1 battlefields of Turkey and the Western Front, to find and photograph the headstones and memorials of over 90 WW1 soldiers who were connected to our school and community. Each of our R2001 soldiers was commemorated on location and our journey took us to 42 cemeteries in Europe. Upon return to SA, we presented over 60 families with framed photographs of their WW1 relative's headstone or memorial. In 2002 a book was compiled about the project, it is titled "Journey of Remembrance". It contains an account of our journey, written by the members of the tour and reflects their perspectives. The book contains: biographies of the 99 soldiers researched; a chapter by Dr Roger Freeman on the formation of the SA Battalions; a special chapter on the 30 Hahndorf soldiers, written by one of the students, Ben Huxtable; the letters of Reginald Harrington D.C.M and many other special features relating to the project. This presentation will include readings from the book and a brief 6 minute film featuring some of the locations from the tour, including the emotional night at the Menin Gate in Ieper

where the R2001 students read the Ode and layed a wreath of commemoration.

Ms Julie Reece received a Bachelor of Arts and Diploma of Education from Adelaide University with majors in History and Politics. She is an Advanced Skills teacher Level 1 at Mt. Barker High School where she specialises in teaching Yr 12 Australian History. Julie has been a teacher for 28 years with 13 of those years at Mt. Barker. Success stories include students who have been triumphant at state and national levels in history – two students topped the state in Yr 12 history winning the 'Annie Marie Montgomery Medal' in 1999 and 2000 and multiple state and national winners in the National History Challenge. In 2002 one of Julie's students won the State Premiers' medal for Young Historian of SA going on to win the Young Historian for Australia and the Simpson Prize for 2002. Another student is following in these footsteps for 2003. Julie, herself has been awarded the National Excellence in Teaching Award for history at both state and national level for 2002. As well as leading the 'Remembrance 2001' Julie is undertaking the same project for 2004.



Copies of the book "Journey of Remembrance" will be on sale on the night for the special price of \$25. (normal retail price is \$35) All profits from sales go towards supporting the next project "Remembrance 2004".

Mount Barker High School
students and teachers at
ANZAC Cove 2001

Susan Woodburn *The Manuscript Collection of South Australian Interest at the Barr Smith Library*

7.30pm Friday
5 March 2003

Prince Philip Theatre,
Prince Alfred College,
Kent Town

A divorce register from the remote central Pacific island of Beru
Papers regarding the establishment of Koonamore Reserve and the eradication of prickly pear in Queensland
Exhibits from the Royal Commission into the failure of the West Gate Bridge
Photographs of the release of koalas into Flinders Chase soon after its declaration as a national park
An expedition to Cordillo Downs to view the solar eclipse of 1922
Early poems of an Adelaide literary infant terrible (including while a student at St Peter's College)
The project files of two notable Adelaide landscape architects
A public lecture on the papal encyclical Rerum novarum
Letters of a tutor at the University to her brother on the difficulties of-independence for a single woman in Adelaide in the early years of the 20th century
A tobacco tin of 'radioactive catch' from the atomic weapons tests at Maralinga

These are some of the more unexpected items to be found in the Special Collections section of the Barr Smith Library at the University of Adelaide. The Library has been receiving and collecting the papers of members of academic staff, graduates and others associated with the University from at least the 1930s. More recently has actively acquired papers that supplement its published collections or that are of particular research interest to individual staff or postgraduate students, notably in the fields of indigenous Australian culture and language, Pacific islands history and language, and the performing arts in South Australia. Today it has 170 collections, ranging in date from the mid-19th century to the present and in size from a few letters or notebooks to 20 shelf metres.

The most popular collections are those of graduates and some others only marginally associated with the University. Sir Ronald Fisher, Sir Walter Crocker, Daisy Bates, Sir Mark Oliphant - which attract research interest because of their own status, their involvement in significant events, their contacts with other significant individuals, or the unique

material they recorded. The primary interest of most of the University staff papers (usually lecture notes and other teaching and research material, professional and personal correspondence, curriculum vitae, honours and obituaries, reports, addresses and published articles) is as a source of evidence or information on the individual and their contribution to teaching and research.

Today too, in addition to the enduring interest of what many academics recorded, the recorders themselves are being studied, particularly the physical and cultural anthropologists. Susan Woodburn will survey and display some of the riches of these collections, with particular emphasis on those of South Australians and of South Australian research interest, and describe the efforts being made to bring them to the attention of historians and other scholars through the internet and by digitisation.

Susan Woodburn is Special Collections Librarian at the Barr Smith Library, University of Adelaide, where her responsibilities include curatorship of the Library's manuscript, Pacific and rare book collections. She began her career in archives in the (then) Archives section of the State Library in 1975. Being the foundation University Archivist at the University of Adelaide from 1983-90 and has worked with or as advisor on the archival collections of many other institutions, including Flinders University, St. Peter's College, the Royal Adelaide Hospital and the Architecture Archives as initiated by Don Johnson.

Field Trips

February 2004

Sunday February 8, 2004 – 4pm - St Marks College, North Adelaide. Tour of the college led by John Bannon. Afternoon tea included. Cost \$10.00

March 2004

Wednesday March 10, 2004 – 10.30am – Ayers House, North Terrace - Tour of the house. Morning tea included. Cost \$10.00

Contact Mrs Avis Huckel 8277 2953 for bookings for Field Trips

Query Forum

This is a new section for our Newsletter. We would like to provide the opportunity for our members to discover more about our history. If you have a question (relating to history) you can send in a small question / query – approximately 100 words – to see if anyone who reads the newsletter has any information about your topic. This is for people who have hit the ever present 'brick wall' and need suggestions on where to go and also for those who wish to find out about certain parts of South

Australian history. You will need to provide contact details so that people can contact you regarding the topic. If you do not wish these details to be published then contact can be made through me and the appropriate people only will be supplied with the information. Here are a couple of examples of the type of query that could be supplied. Does anyone know the history of the statue of Queen Victoria and when it was placed in Victoria Square? Or If any of the readers has an interest in military history could they suggest

further resources avenues. Already tried Keswick Army Barracks museum and State Library, with no luck. I wish to find records pertaining to my ancestor Joe Bloggs who was in the First World War.

To contact the Editor – Alison Houghton on 0417 178 687 or email historyspage@hotmail.com

Historical Society Profile

The West Torrens Historical Society was started on 4 March 1976 with the aims of researching and recording matters of historical interest in the City of West Torrens. Records include a large number of oral recordings of the reminiscences of long-term residents, information, printed and photographic, of people, events, land and buildings.

The Society also strives to generate interest in local history among the residents of the area by holding regular open meetings, during which guest speakers make presentations on a wide range of subjects.

In 2001 West Torrens was chosen by the National Museum of Australia as the first local area to be represented in a display in the Museum. Historical Society members marched the streets with disposable cameras, capturing the essence of the City for this display. The Society also researched and prepared a display figure featuring Colonel Rowell for the lawns of Parliament House for the Centenary of Federation.

The Society is proud of its own history! Founding members decorated for community service include Maybelle Marles OAM, Yvonne Jackson and Daphne Gum MBE, OAM, who are all still active in the Society. Maybelle, Yvonne, John Andrewartha and Eileen McNamara received West Torrens Community Service Awards in 1996. John is the middle member of three generations of support for the Society. Daphne Gum is also a founding member of the Historical Society of South Australia.

The City of West Torrens supports the Society and appoints a representative Councillor who attends meetings.

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in the West Torrens area. Subscriptions are currently \$15 per annum. For further information contact President John Andrewartha on 8443 3380.

Journey of Remembrance – An account of Mount Barker High School's Remembrance 2001 project.

Julie Reece, Mount Barker High School, 2002

A diary of events that took place for the R2001 group that comprised 15 students and six adults. The book is colourfully presented with photographs of places, events and occasions throughout their journey. Author, Julie Reece also provides maps and itineraries to give the reader a central point from where to learn more about the area that World War I engulfed. There is an abundance of information on further reading, references and quotes from numerous diaries.

The research included a visit to Bert Whitmore who provided an amazing account of his life. His wish was "Don't ever let the young ones forget...". Students gathered information on 99 soldiers and their tributes are recounted in this evocative work. Short biographies are provided on these soldiers and a chapter is dedicated to the military service of South Australians during WWI, compiled by Dr Roger Freeman.

Sue's account of the ceremony at Menin Gate speaks volumes.

"...spine-tingling Last Post...echoing around the memorial, touching each and every space..."

"Ben read the Ode. He did so without the microphone in a clear and strong voice. ... After a minute's silence, the girls Ebony and Aleah placed our wreath with simple elegance, moving in unison. Their youth spoke volumes in silent eloquence."

This was the focal point for their emotions. They came back together as a group, but the group had changed "even more closely tied through sharing this event. No matter what happens in the future, the Menin Gate ceremony and the faces of each and every member of the group will be inexorably linked – one will never bring one to mind without the other. Mel's overflowing emotions, Brad's unashamed tears, Ebony, Aleah, Ben and Julie holding each other tightly; there were many special tiny moments amongst the whole."

There are 20, never before published, letters from Reginald Harrington. All except one are to his 'My ever Darling Wifey'. They read like a diary of events, some of which have never been recounted till now. This man died five months short of Armistice Day having previously been awarded a Distinguished Conduct Medal and invested at Buckingham Palace.

Julie Reece has been the instigator of one of the most inspiring projects and has provided so many people in the Mount Barker community with opportunities to commemorate lost loved ones. This book belongs on the shelves of every person in Australia because it represents the essence of Australia and the Australian culture.

Alison Houghton

Glimpses of Blackwood – A Journey Through Time 1880 – 1980

Janet Cullen, Butterfly Press Blackwood, 2003

A nostalgic glimpse of a bygone era is beautifully captured in Janet Cullen's short history of Blackwood, focussing on the century 1880-1980. The author has given an interesting snapshot of social life as a community is born, grows and completes the transition from simple country life to the buzzing suburban life of Adelaide. This work displays the harshness and despair of early pioneers through the hard times of The Depression and World Wars. Then onto the post War boom and the evolution of the district that brought about the changing face of a community which is now a part of our modern 21st century. Eloquently presented in an easy to read text with an abundance of interesting photographs, newspaper articles, letters and commercial advertisements.

The book pays tribute to early pioneers and people of influence and the way they helped to shape the community. Other influencers, such as the Church, Sporting Clubs and Social and Youth organisations reflect further the importance of community spirit and cooperation, emphasising its contributions to easing the struggles of our early life. Focus is also on many of the old buildings and homesteads important to the development of the town. Indeed, the author has provided much detail and the photographs enable the reader to take a Heritage walk around Blackwood, which would delight even those, unfamiliar with the district.

Importantly, the author has not over counted dates, facts and figures, which often makes history boring, but indeed has captured the *spirit* of a changing community. Page 35 quotes *The Corromandel* from the early 1950's:

The horse and buggy days are over; motor cars need bituminised roads. We are living in a residential area, not a farming community. We now have a population of 6000 – and we can expect 10000 extra population within the next ten years

Further, page 46 recounts the 1960's and 1970's great transition from a small caring community to becoming a suburb and part of the city of Adelaide, and recalls massive demolition of old homes and buildings to make way for the more familiar shopping malls of today. The advent of business colossi such as Coles, Woolworths and Foodland, and the commencement of services such as sewerage, health care, and bitumen roads, brought about the metamorphosis of a once close knit community.

The final chapter, entitled 'Memory Lane', explores things that can be recalled about our lives. The residents and former residents have focussed on the "little" things of how life was lived and the nostalgia of a proud community. A highly recommended read that will lift nostalgic spirits and entertain all.

Mark Brain

Penola Branch National Trust SA publication, Penola Historical Selections Volume VI, edited by Margaret Muller, was launched by Anita Aspinall, President of the National Trust SA on December 7, 2003. Like its precursors, it explores a small, largely European community evolving in the south-eastern South Australian bush, which was for thousands of years under the custodianship of its Aboriginal inhabitants. Many of the contributors are descendants of the men and women from all walks of life who migrated to Australia in the nineteenth century and pioneered the Penola district. Their thirty-two contributions range from informal, anecdotal recollections to more formal, fully annotated papers and it is just such variety that gives this 160-page book its scope and vitality.

Copies available at \$22.50 each, including postage and packaging, by contacting Evelynne Bowden. PO Box 261 Penola SA 5277 or 8737 2152 or evelynne@penola.lscst.net

History of Science, Ideas and Technology Group (SA)

At the end of each Society lecture I invite people from other groups to come forward to provide a few words about up and coming events in kindred societies. One of those who regularly 'bobs up' is Pauline Payne, who is active in the History of Science, Ideas and Technology Group, which meets regularly at the University of Adelaide.

During November I was delighted to join that group to hear a particularly interesting lecture presented by Professor Donald Simpson, Professor of Neurosurgery at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. In his lecture entitled 'The Dawn of Neurosurgery.

Professor Simpson discussed a procedure conducted in 1888 by Joseph Verco and Davies Thomas on a boy with a Hydatid Cyst on the brain. How Hydatid Cysts are contracted, the procedure to remove them, and how this first operation set the scene for neurosurgery in South Australia, were topics covered during Professor Simpson's presentation. The life and times of the young colony and the background of its medical profession provided additional interest to the topic, and encouraged strong and wide ranging discussion at the conclusion of the presentation.

The History of Science, Ideas and Technology Group is keen to hear from anyone who may be interested in participating in their activities, and enquiries can be directed to the secretary, Bob Major, telephone 8352 8949.

David Cornish
President, HSSA

Let us celebrate our Fossils

On October 23, 2003 an article was published in *The Advertiser* entitled 'Flinders fossil sites should be celebrated' – by Samela Harris

She talks about an American knowing about our Ediacaran fossils and our place as an evolutionary crucible. Then asks the question 'How can it be that so few South Australians know this claim to fame?'

This new mystery fossil find will feature the state on the cover of Time magazine, which will entice more Americans and internationals to South Australia. They will find the fossil at the SA Museum. But if they go to the Flinders Ranges to see our pre-Cambrian landscape (600+ million years ago) that's all they will see, landscape! There is no information centre, no tourism identification.

Fossils of the Ediacaran period have been found in other countries like Namibia, Siberia, Wales, Newfoundland, China, Sweden and the palaeontologic world has grouped

them under the SA name. It is expected that soon a geological "Golden Spike" will identify Ediacara officially as a time zone, just as the Jurassic period's name evolved from the Jura Mountains. A number of the crucial soft-bodied fossils such as Spriggina and Mawsonites spriggi are named after Reg Sprigg, who discovered them in the Flinders in the '40s.

SA is sitting on a mine of tourism potential with this amazing geological resource. Governments are ignoring this invaluable resource.

Museum and Parks and Wildlife wisely protect the area from selfish souvenir hunters and organised fossil thieves. However establishing a proper Ediacara Information Centre in the Flinders and by creating organised tourism, the increased activity would make it easier to police.

What do our members feel about this aspect of vital history for South Australia?

The Power of Flour!

James Potter

The following article, 'The Aborigines' appeared in 'The South Australian' on Friday February 7, 1851 and shows how early settlers could design simplistic and inadequate answers to complex issues.

We have at various times received hints which have led us to believe that in the outskirts of settlement bloody tragedies are at times perpetuated of which the natives are the victims. We by no means intend to revive any whining cant about "the poor blacks" but we demand for them justice, and, as far as possible, kind treatment. We are quite aware that at every stage of settlement, before the blacks became fully aware of the power of the white man, the former have shed his blood; but afterwards, unless roused to revenge by cruel usage, the natives have refrained from taking human life, and have confined themselves to the plunder of property. In the middle districts for years there has been no charge against a black for the murder of a white man, and there has been, on the other hand, no charge against the whites for serious offences against the blacks. In this favorable category we have pleasure in including the Tatiara district, where the settlers have been extremely kind to the blacks, who in return have faithfully served them as shepherds and in various other capacities. The principal outrages of late years on both sides have been at Yorke's Peninsula, at Guichen Bay, and at Port Lincoln; and the most painful circumstances connected with all these outrages is that if the blacks have attacked the settlers, there is also evidence of foul and horrible atrocities committed by the whites on the blacks. Near Guichen Bay were found the burnt bones of men, women and children indiscriminately massacred. At Yorke's Peninsula, almost in sight of Adelaide, blacks have been shot in cold blood and now we find it ascertained that the natives cannot cross in safety some runs in the Port Lincoln district.

In these circumstances we are delighted to observe that the Governor has taken steps to protect the native race. He deserves great credit for his present exertions on their behalf. The Sub-Protectors Scott and Mason (particularly the latter) have shown what can be done. By means of a little flour, judiciously distributed during good behaviour, and withheld when anything is amiss, Mr. Mason has obtained perfect command over all the wild tribes of the lower Murray and lakes. He has suppressed child murder; theft is almost unknown; the population is increasing; and those districts, including the country of the Milmenura

tribe, the ruthless murderers of the crew and passengers of the *Maria*, are now as safe and as peaceable as any part of England. This is a system which we would wish to see carried out throughout the whole of the settled districts. The North Americans have conquered their aborigines by *fire-water*, we should wish to see ours tamed by flour. The expense is trifling – the results are magical, and the beauty of the plan is that it can be tried by equally good effect by the settlers as by the Government. Instead of shooting and frightening the blacks, let each owner or overseer of a run give a monthly distribution of flour to the neighbouring native tribe, as a sort of acknowledgement to the lords of the soil. He will not only conciliate men who might otherwise be troublesome, but he will get more than a recompense by the services which will gladly be rendered by those of the tribe who are quiet and well disposed. By means of the latter he will also check the idle ruffians, of whom there are always a few, hated and detested as much by the peaceable blacks as by the settlers. This is not a mere theory; it has been put in practice by wise and just settlers, and it has been so invariably successful, that we are convinced that where outrages occur it is as much the fault of the settlers as of the natives.

We sincerely trust the Government will not rest till some such system as we have pointed out is established in every district of the colony where it is needed.

SA History Week 22-30 May 2004

The History Trust of South Australia is inviting organisations and community groups who wish to promote their part in South Australia's history to register their interest. Plans include dinners, museum open days, seminars, special exhibitions and events, historical walks, family reunions and displays to name a few. SA History Week culminates in the 13th State History Conference at University of Adelaide on 29 & 30 May. The conference is entitled 'Town Talk' and will explore aspects of urban life in Adelaide. Register your activity by February 6, 2004 by contacting the History Trust on 8226 8555 or obtain the forms from the website at www.history.sa.gov.au.

Kaurna People

On Tuesday November 4, 2003 the Honourable Terry Roberts, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation issued a news release.

Congratulations were forthcoming from the minister upon the signing of the *Unity Agreement* with the Kaurna Aboriginal community. 'The Kaurna people are the original inhabitants of the land which includes the Adelaide metropolitan area.' This agreement will preserve the individual character and endorse a Board that will provide one focus for negotiations that will protect and nurture their unique heritage. It will also facilitate communications between State government, local gov-

ernment and the private sector. 'It's a big step for the Kaurna, who have worked cooperatively to consider the scope of the Unity Agreement, and to explain the benefits and responsibilities to all members.'

Combined support over the last 12 months from the Kaurna Heritage and Native Title organisations together with the local government authorities of Holdfast Bay, Marion, Onkaparinga and the District Council of Yankalilla has developed this agreement. The Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation will continue to provide support with the establishment of structures and processes enabling the Unity Agreement to grow.

Mr Roberts stated that, "This is the culmination of years of support for the Kaurna people, and all those involved should look forward to establishing working relationships and encouraging sustainable economic independence in the Kaurna community. The Kaurna community representatives deserve praise and support for their efforts to overcome differences and foster effective partnerships between Kaurna groups and local councils. The partnerships currently being forged are an example for other councils and the wider community of reconciliation at work."

State Library Archives from Neil Thomas

1. The papers of Dr Charles A.E. Fenner (1884-1955), former Director of Education and Superintendent of Technical Education, have been donated by his family. Amongst them are his diaries of educational trips to Europe and North America in 1931-1932 and 1937 (including his visit to Germany) and his many writings on geographical, geological and historical subjects. The Sachse Gold Medal awarded by the Victorian branch of the Royal Geographical Society in 1920 is part of this important group.

2. Dr Arnold D. Hunt (1921-2001), Methodist missionary in India, former co-Principal of the Parkin-Wesley Theological College and later Head of the School of History and Religious Studies at Salisbury CAE, was the author of *This Side of Heaven*, a history of Methodism in South Australia. His papers, including diaries of his time in India 1944-1953 and

later trips abroad 1956-1959, his autobiography of 1997, notebooks and writings, reflect his vocation and interests.

3. The papers of Jeffrey Fischer relate to the Strehlow Research Foundation and the controversial issues behind the Strehlow collection of Aboriginal artefacts and their sale, covering the years 1979-1987.

4. Small groups include the 1977 memoirs of Elsie Heath (nee Caterer,) who at the age of 97 wrote down the memories of her childhood at Glenelg when her father was a schoolmaster.

5. Roger Wakeham was a passenger on the *Astracan* on its voyage to South Australia from May to July 1876; a transcript of his diary has been donated by a descendant.

6. Bob Hughes (born 1940), bush poet of Wompinie Station, Cockburn, has

donated his literary manuscripts and poetry written between 1988 and 2002.

7. Architectural plans 1890-1895 by Ernest H. Bayer for the Bagot family of *Forest Lodge*, Aldgate, include the original design, in three sections, as erected by contractor Walter C. Torode, and later external buildings. One of the magnificent original Adelaide Hills mansions, the *Forest Lodge* estate had a beautiful garden layout, for which a plan of 1910 has survived among the drawings donated.

8. A Mount Gambier architect Walter J. White had a practice in the South-East in the 1920s and 1930s, from which 55 drawings of his commissions have been donated. They comprise residences, commercial and civic buildings, hotels, churches, cheese factories and hospital additions.

9. The Rev. Thomas Wood (1855-1937) was rector of Willunga, Noarlunga and Aldinga when he painted a selection of watercolours of South Australian scenes, which the Library has purchased. In this writer's opinion the view of the Church of St Philip and St James, Noarlunga, is the best of them. Other locations include Hahndorf, Port Augusta, Carrickalinga, Mount Barker and Wallaroo; all the pictures were painted between 1904 and 1910. (Thomas Wood was the father of the artist Rex Wood.)

10. Another purchase is the wonderful collection of 23 sketches painted in 1869 by William Webster Hoare of marine and plant life of the Northern Territory, while he was a member of the N.T. Survey Expedition. (Their description and execution can be studied in Hoare's illustrated diary, donated in 1922.)

Societies News - 'Ways of looking at things'

Learning by example was a strong theme at the Eastern Regional History Seminar which was held at Stirling during November 2003, hosted by the Mount Lofty Districts Historical Society. Eight local historical societies took part in this year's seminar – Burnside, Campbelltown, East Torrens, Glenside Hospital, Kensington-Norwood, Mitcham, Mount Lofty Districts and Walkerville.

Participants were exposed to a range of heritage issues and projects in the Mount Lofty district through presented papers, displays and site tours. An important part of the seminar was learning by example, that is, seeing what other groups are doing, taking note of their successes and failures, or rather, less successful ventures.

There was some overlap in the types of projects being conducted and others were peculiar to specific needs of a group. There were plenty of new ideas to spark new initiatives in other groups. A recurring concern, specifically expressed by Mitcham and Walkerville historical societies, is the continued loss of historic buildings and sites. The Mitcham group raised the near loss of Birksgate Lodge, the ongoing threat to the original bridges across the nearby creek, and the potential destruction of the olive hedge at Scotch College (also likely to occur at Loreto Convent in the name of road widening). Walkerville Historical Society has been active in attempts to preserve two 1850s cottages on Walkerville Terrace. General discussion raised a widespread concern at the demolition of old houses and their replacement by 'blue-board Tuscan look-a-likes'. The demolition of Fernilee Lodge was loudly lamented.

Burnside Historical Society is continuing with its ambitious project to record the origins of all street and park names in its district. The group has also marked further historic sites with plaques, as the group's

President, Isabel Williams, said, 'To record history that can be so easily lost.' Recent plaques include those at Burnside primary School (established in 1872) and on a group of trees at Glenside Hospital that were planted in 1852. The Walkerville Historical Society is also compiling a register of plaques, significant trees and other notable sites. They are also undertaking an extensive project to photograph every house in the council area.

The restoration of Lochend House is an important and significant project for the Campbelltown Historical Society. Lochend was the home of Campbelltown's namesake Charles Campbell. The old house (part dates from the early 1840s) was in a near ruinous state when the historical society, in partnership with the City of Campbelltown, began the restoration project in 1999. Lochend Committee member Andrew Nightingale discussed how funding was sought and how the physical restoration work has been carried out. Determination to succeed has driven the project forward and it is anticipated that work on the building will be complete by February 2004.

Making the records of Glenside Hospital available to researchers is the main ongoing project of the Glenside Hospital Historical Society. A register of admission records is nearing completion and the group is currently putting photographs of patients onto CD. The group's President, David Boub, says it is slow work and at present they are up to the letter 'L'.

The placing of historical marker plaques continues to be a project of the Kensington-Norwood Historical Society. The Society has now placed over 30 brass plaques in their district. The most recent plaque marks the site of the much-missed Orange Lane Market.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of a number of local government areas and the Mitcham, Mount Lofty and East Torrens historical societies have used this event as a focus for some of their activities during the past year. The 150th anniversary was used by the Mitcham Historical Society to publish Pamela Oborn's history of St Michael's Church and the Village of Mitcham. Various plaques have been placed on sites within the district including one on the old manure pits in Brownhill Creek gully, a reminder of the vegetable-growing industry that once flourished there. Local history is also being promoted by the provision of twilight walks around the Village of Mitcham, which, incidentally, has only survived in its original form thanks to lobbying and practical efforts by the society over many decades.

East Torrens Historical Society recently held a successful community day at Ashton to mark the 150th anniversary of the East Torrens district and the Mount Lofty Districts Historical Society has a similar event planned for Stirling next year. Publications promoting local history have come from both of these groups over the past year. Mount Lofty published *Views from the Hills: Essays in the History of the Adelaide Hills* (edited by Robert Martin) and East Torrens has released *Summertown Heritage Walks* and *Ashton – George Hunt's Township* (both edited by Geoffrey Bishop).

There is much more that could be said about the seminar but space does not permit. Suffice to say, it was a busy and supportive time for all participants. The next seminar will be in about October 2005, to be hosted by the Walkerville Historical Society.

Geoffrey Bishop

Society Activities

Burnside Historical Society

The first metal mines in South Australia were in the foothills of the Burnside district, one of which is the Wheal Watkins mine and it is open to the public on the third Sunday of each month. The Burnside Historical Society conducts tours of this mine from the Burnside Council Chambers at 1.45pm and include some historic points en route. Tours must be booked and paid for prior to departure through Community Services Department of the Burnside Council – ph. 8366 4200. Limit of 18 people per tour with exceptions for school groups. Adults \$7, Child \$4, Group of 12 \$70 and Group of 18 \$100. Walking shoes with enclosed toes are essential.

Yacka History Group

This group has a large collection of photographs of the area and their Built Environment Project is a photographic collection of 150 buildings in the Yacka area taken in 2003. For more information check our website for the link or contact Dennis Dale on 8846 4068.

Australasian Maritime Historical Society

Anyone with nautical interests may be interested in a catalogue of publications from the Australasian Maritime Historical Society. Their resources cover Australian and New Zealand nautical matters. For more information please contact the Editor at historyspage@hotmail.com

Port Adelaide Historical Society

For those connected with the Port Adelaide area this society wishes to let everyone know about the Portonian Walk at Pioneer Memorial Park, Alberton. Paving stones are being laid with a '...graphic reminder of our ancestors.' Cost of pavers \$60 and proceeds go to the development and upkeep of the Park.

Royal United Services Institute (RUSI)

Monthly Luncheon meetings are held on the first Monday of each month. Local, national and international speakers with an expertise in their field provide fascinating lectures. Library facilities are available at Keswick Barracks, Building 160. For more information on resources, please contact RUSI on 8297 6893 Wednesday to Friday between 10am and 4pm.

Lutheran Archives

New contact details for Lutheran Archives are as follows:
27 Fourth Street, Bowden
Ph: 8340 4009
Email: lutheran.archives@lca.org.au or
lutharch@picknowl.com.au

Interstate Activity

Events in Victoria

- Friday February 27 to Sunday February 29, 2004
– Cornish Festival in Bendigo. Biennial celebration of St Pirian's Day culminates in the Cornish Heritage focussing on traditions and lifestyle in the 19th century. Check website <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~caov/index.htm> or phone (03) 9801 1270. It sounds like a fabulous weekend for those of us with cornish blood surging through their veins.

Deadline for newsletter articles and entries February 13, 2004.

Historical Society of South Australia Inc.

PO Box 519

Kent Town, SA 5071

email hssa25@hotmail.com

website www.hssa.org.au

President: Mr David Cornish

Vice-President: Dr Geoffrey Bishop

Secretary: Mrs Gaye Brown ph 8278 5370

Treasurer: Mrs Avis Huckel 8277 2953

Newsletter Editor: Ms Alison Houghton ph 0417 178 687, fax 8296 5706

email historyspage@hotmail.com PO Box 519, Kent Town, SA 5071

Journal Editor: Dr Jenny Tilby Stock ph 8303 5755, email jenny.stock@adelaide.edu.au

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Coming Events

Campbelltown Historical Society

February Meeting – Tuesday 10 February 2004 at 2 Newton Rd, Campbelltown Speaker – Captain Stan Blackford – “An Anglo-Indian Wallah’s Memoirs” This talk will reflect life in India during the time of the British Raj. Supper afterwards.

March Meeting – Sunday 14 March 2004 at the Campbelltown Function Centre (behind the Council Chambers) 172 Montacute Rd Rostrevor. Campbelltown is hosting its annual celebration and this year they are honouring the Mildred Family who has been in the Campbelltown district for over 100 years. However all family and friends are welcome. Afternoon tea supplied. For more information contact Di Love 8336 6959 or June Laws 8365 7806.

East Torrens Historical Society

Meetings held at Natural Resource Centre, Crescent Dve, Norton Summit at 8pm

March Meeting – Wednesday March 10, 2004 Bill Stacy – Building roads to somewhere: road building in early South Australia. Road engineer Bill Stacy will discuss the early years of road construction in South Australia, with reference to the East Torrens area.

Migration Museum

Gallery 8 & 9 Every Stitch Tells a Story: Needlework in the lives of South Australian Women
5 December 2003 to December 2004

Gallery 2 Crossroads: Shanghai and the Jews of China
19 December 2003 to 18 February 2004

Art Spiegelman: Maus and Other Works
27 February to 14 March 2004

Memories and Dreams: Cultural Diversity in Banners
18 March to 30 May 2004

The Community Access Gallery: The Forum
Estonians in Australia

Early December 2003 to Late February 2004
Friendship and Understanding: Australia – China
Early March – Late May 2004

Port Pirie District Family History Group

For research purposes contact the Port Pirie Library 8632 1649 March Meeting – Tuesday March 2, 2004. Rene Pezey from Yorke Peninsula Family History Group will present a paper.

Royal Geographical Society of SA Inc.

Meetings held at the Lecture Theatre at Prince Alfred College
February Meeting – Thursday February 26, 2004 Mr Steve Ward, Department of Business Manufacturing and Trade Australia’s hundred-year project – the Adelaide to Darwin Railway.

March Meeting – Thursday March 25, 2004 Dr John Radcliffe AM Trams – past, present and future.

South Australian Genealogical & Heraldry Society Inc.

Contact Society for more details on 8272 4222 or 201 Unley Rd, Unley

February 25 – Day visit to Migration Museum

March 24 – “Reflections on the history and experience of the Aboriginal people of SA using the primary sources of SA Government held by State Records” – speaker – Andrew Wilson, Senior Aboriginal Project Officer, State Records

Tea Tree Gully & Historical Society Inc.

February 18 – 10am – “The celebration of older Australians, through anecdotes” – speaker – Win Haseloff at Tea Tree Gully Library Learning Centre

March 18 – 7pm – “Historical Facts on Victorian Times” – speaker – Kay Inverarity at The Old Highercombe Hotel Folk Museum, 3 Perserverance Drive Tea Tree Gully

Victoriana Society of SA

Meetings held at Partridge House, Glenelg at 8pm

January 26 – Australia Day Parade at the Parade Grounds – starts 11.15am

February 9 – 1850s Dress & Accessories

March 8 – Dancing

March 21 – 150th Anniversary of The Old Highercombe Hotel Folk Museum at 3 Perserverance Drive Tea Tree Gully

Walkerville Historical Society

Walkerville Town Hall at 7.30pm

February 18 – “Tales of Tea Tree Gully” – speaker Carole Simmonds

March 17 – “History of Hawker Family” – speaker Jo Hawker

West Torrens Historical Society

Kandahar Historic House, 327 Marion Rd, North Plympton.

February Meeting – Monday 23 February 2004 at 7.45pm

March Meeting – Monday 22 March 2004 at 7.45pm AGM

Websites

Go to our web page at www.hssa.org.au/links.htm for new links to the Historical Society of the Northern Territory and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria as well as the many local and interstate web sites.