

MEDINA ADELAIDE TREASURY BUILDING WINS HERITAGE AWARD

The conversion of the former South Australian Treasury Building to a luxury five-star hotel and apartment complex has taken out the major award of the 2004 Edmund Wright Heritage Awards, presented on Friday 13 August 2004 at Parliament House.

Minister for Environment and Conservation John Hill presented the Minister's Award to the project developers Danvers Schulz Holland Architects, in association with SJB Architects and SJB Interior Design.

"The award is a fitting tribute to a project which has provided an excellent example of how a heritage building can be sensitively restored while still being part of a commercially viable development," the Minister said.

"The Medina Treasury Adelaide project has set a standard for heritage building re-use which I hope other developers will seek to emulate."

"The Adelaide Treasury Building was the centre of Government administration for many years. The original building, constructed in 1839, was designed by George Strickland Kingston. Over the subsequent 70 years, the site underwent up to eight major and separate redevelopments. In the mid-1990s the building was vacated, and remained so until the redevelopment.

The Judges were unanimous in their view that the Medina Grand Adelaide Treasury project demonstrated a superior restoration that capitalised on the opportunities afforded by heritage restoration.

The Minister's Award was selected from short-listed entries in five categories of the Edmund Wright Heritage Awards, which are managed by the Department for Environment and Heritage and judged by an independent panel of experts.

The Awards, which are in their second year, attracted 29 entries from around South Australia. Nominees ranged from volunteer organisations, government bodies, businesses, individual owners of heritage places, heritage professionals and tradespeople.

The Awards are an opportunity for the State Government to recognise professionalism and hard work by individuals, organisations and community groups in the conservation and promotion of South Australia's built heritage.



Minister for Environment and Conservation John Hill presenting the Minister's Award to Jason Schulz representing the project developers Danvers Schulz Holland Architects, in association with SJB Architects and SJB Interior Design.

Minister's Award: Outstanding Contribution

Winner - Medina Grand Adelaide Treasury – Adaptive Reuse. Danvers Schulz Holland Architects in association with SJB Architects and SJB Interior Design

Heritage Management

Winner - Heritage of the Birdsville & Strzelecki Tracks – Heritage Survey, by Historical Research Pty Ltd/Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd/Lyn Leader-Elliott/Iris Iwanicki

Product Development and Trade Services

Winner - The Tile Factory (incorporating The Olde English Tile Factory)

Promotion and Education

Winner - Bay Discovery Centre & Holdfast Bay History Centre, run by the City of Holdfast Bay

Commendation - City of Mitcham Walk Brochures, developed by the City of Mitcham Community Historian/Volunteers at the Mitcham Heritage Research Centre

Heritage Place (Residential)

Commendation - Veber Residence, 63 Tynte Street, North Adelaide – Restoration. Alexander Wilkinson Design & Planning by Design/Janos Veber

Heritage Place (Non-Residential)

Winner - Medina Grand Adelaide Treasury – Adaptive Reuse. Danvers Schulz Holland Architects in association with SJB Architects and SJB Interior Design

Commendations - Torrens Parade Ground & Training Depot – Conservation & Reuse. Grieve Gillett Architects Pty Ltd/Tagara Group Pty Ltd

St Vincent De Paul's, Whitmore Square – Restoration. Alexander Wilkinson Design & Planning by Design/St Vincent De Paul Society/South Australian Housing Trust

Chateau Tanunda Estate – Adaptive Reuse. John & Evelynne Geber, Chateau Tanunda Estate

Karka Pavilion – Conservation. Department for Administrative & Information Services, Design & Heritage Management, Heritage Unit

From the President

When *History S.A.* was remodelled earlier this year I claimed space for a President's Column, where I planned to take the opportunity to talk about Society happenings and events I had attended. Since my last column I have been busy, and have enjoyed myself immensely!

I was delighted to be invited to hear Melbourne based historian Ross McMullin address the military history group of the Naval, Military and Air Force Club of South Australia. McMullin, whose works have included *The Light on the Hill: the Australian Labour Party 1891-1991*, presented his recent biography of World War I Australian commander Harold 'Pompey' Elliott.

A large audience heard McMullin discuss the complex and often amusing character of 'Pompey', his qualities as a leader of men, the disappointment of thwarted promotion, service as a Senator and Elliott's slide to a premature death by his own hand. While a hero in his lifetime, Elliott's contribution has been largely forgotten, and I am enjoying discovering the man as I work through McMullin's biography.

One of the most discussed projects in recent years has been the rebuilding of the State Library of South Australia on North Terrace and the closure of the Mortlock Library. It was with great interest that I accepted an invitation to attend the opening of the Mortlock Wing (as it is now called) by the Premier on 12 August 2004.

The Mortlock Wing is a building which never fails to take my breath away: beautiful golden stonework externally, lavish timber work, wrought iron decoration and the wonderful first floor clock, are just some of the features which combine to make it one of the finest buildings of its type. I wondered what I would find when I visited the refurbished building for the opening, and again

the following weekend when it was open to the public.

I am glad to report that on first impression little has changed, the above qualities I so appreciate have, as you would expect, been lovingly preserved. What has changed is the focus of the wing from a place of research to one where locals and visitors alike can come to learn, through a series of small exhibitions, about aspects of South Australia's history and the State Library's collection.

I found some wonderful surprises, such as the map drawers which show case a diversity of items, from one of McDougall Stuart's diaries and relics from the Calvert Expedition to Western Australia, to music CDs of South Australian pipe organs and Guy Sebastian. A lack of signage drawing visitor attention to the map case displays made them a surprise in themselves, but one which appeared to be enjoyed by those who made the discovery.

The former research bays have been adapted to house twelve themed exhibitions, including exploration, community, architecture, arts and culture and social reform. The exhibition displaying items from the children's literature collection, including such gems as the *Around the Commonwealth Aeroplane Game* - interesting and educational, and books like *Dick and Dora* (still in use in my day!), seemed to be particularly popular. The importance of the wine industry to South Australia from its earliest days has considerable coverage, and I enjoyed references to the poor quality of our wine and one author's doubt that it could be improved!

While the display area is very interesting it suffers from being excessively dark, with the only natural light to enter the wing coming from the sky light and upper floor windows. In some instances I felt the lack of light,

small white descriptive text and the reflection of design features placed on glass display cases, made the displays difficult to appreciate. As I have done in many museums and galleries, I grumbled to my friend that the sooner display designers place themselves in the shoes of their audience when determining interpretive signage, the better!

Visitors to the Mortlock Wing are able to visit the first and second floor galleries where thousands of books can be easily accessed, though I felt I was treading somewhere I shouldn't. I observed that visitors who had climbed the stairs to the upper regions didn't stay long, and generally used the galleries as a means of further appreciating the grandeur of the building.

With the redevelopment of the Mortlock Wing the State Library now has a large display area and special event space, a use which makes many cringe at the thought of functions taking place in this treasure. I encourage all members to visit the Mortlock Wing and to make up their minds as to the success of this new use of an old favourite.

My third night out was to attend the presentation of awards made under the Department of Environment and Heritage's *Edmund Wright Heritage Awards*. Now in their second year, the awards have the objective: 'to encourage and recognise the conservation, promotion and management of the state's heritage by individuals, community groups, local councils, government departments or statutory authorities'.

A diverse group of people including architects, heritage consultants, conservators and local historians gathered in the House of Assembly chamber at Parliament House (a fitting venue given its design by Edmund Wright) to see who from the 29 entries would receive commenda-

tions or win their category. Projects recognised by the panel of independent judges included the restored Karka Pavilion at Belair National Park, the heritage survey of the Birdsville and Strezlecki Tracks, and the Medina Grand Treasury development.

While knowing and appreciating the work of many of the professionals involved with the big budget projects, I was delighted that a commendation was made to the group who researched and produced the series of City of Mitcham historic walk brochures. Mitcham Community Historian Maggie Ragless is well known to HSSA members, less well known is Philip Knight. Philip participates in many historical activities and does the layout for this newsletter and the *HSSA Journal*, so it was with particular pleasure that I was able to witness him receive the commendation from John Hill, Minister for Environment and Conservation.

I encourage members to take an interest in the Edmund Wright Awards in 2005, and to nominate projects or organisations they believe have made a contribution to furthering South Australia's history. Further details are available by visiting www.environment.sa.gov.au or by contacting the department directly.

In news from the Society's August Council meeting, I am pleased to advise that Council member Janet Callen has kindly agreed to take on the editorship of History SA. Janet is an accomplished local historian and I welcome her participation.

On the subject of publications, the Society's *SA's Greats, the men and women of the North Terrace plaques* is now in its third edition. Copies are always available for \$11.95 at our monthly meetings.

Enough from me!

David Cornish
President

Field Trips

October 2004

Sunday 10 October 10 am. Gumeracha District and History Centre. All day tour-BYO lunch. Led by Betty Amber. Cost \$25

November 2004

Sunday 21 November 4pm-6pm. Christmas Function. Cummins House, Novar Gardens. Drinks and nibbles in the garden, tour of the house. Cost \$12

For details and bookings contact Mrs Avis Huckel ph. 8277 2953.

HSSA Journal

The Journal 2004 is well under way and will be available for collection at the November HSSA meeting. Those unable to attend will receive the Journal through the post.

Articles cover a wide range of topics, from the foundation of the city of Adelaide, a mysterious shipwreck and a family migration saga to pioneering winemaking people and places, fraud in the mining industry, the truth about the bees of Kangaroo Island, and the working life of a notable Labor Senator. Included are the usual reviews of books of interest to South Australians, obituaries of two significant historians and a record of the Society's activities, all copiously illustrated.

Notes

Lutheran Archives has moved to new premises at 27 Fourth St, Bowden. Here it operates as the Australia wide official repository of historical material relating to the Lutheran Church. South Australia is home to 40% of the Lutheran population of Australia. Records date back to 1838 and include shipping lists.

History Conference 2005 The History Trust of South Australia, elated up by the success of this year's conference in Adelaide, plans to hold the next annual conference in Whyalla. Proposed themes range from industrial, political, trade union and indigenous history to immigration, technological history, and the environment.

Family History Courses are being held at the State Library. Meet the Specialist is on Monday 29 November at 9am-4pm. This course costs \$20. Caring for your Family Treasures is on Tuesday 7 December at 5.30 pm-7 pm, costing \$10. Free courses are also available, for details contact ph. 8207 7269 or www.slsa.gov.au, or e-mail bookings@slsa.sa.gov.au

News from the National Archives: Attention is drawn to a website at the National Archives. www.uncommonlives.naa.gov.au The lives of extraordinary Australians are documented in the series Uncommon Lives.

Christine Garnaut *The South Australian Home Builders' Club (1945-1965)*

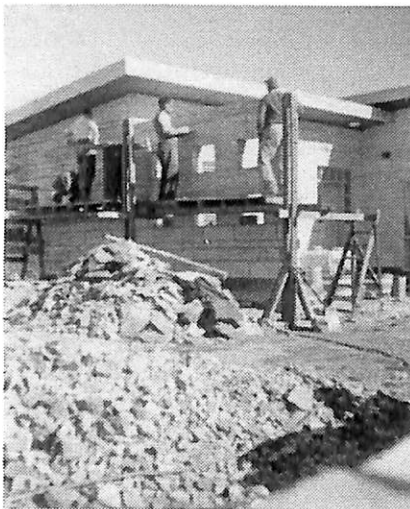
7.30pm Friday
1 Oct 2004

Prince Philip Theatre,
Prince Alfred College,
Kent Town

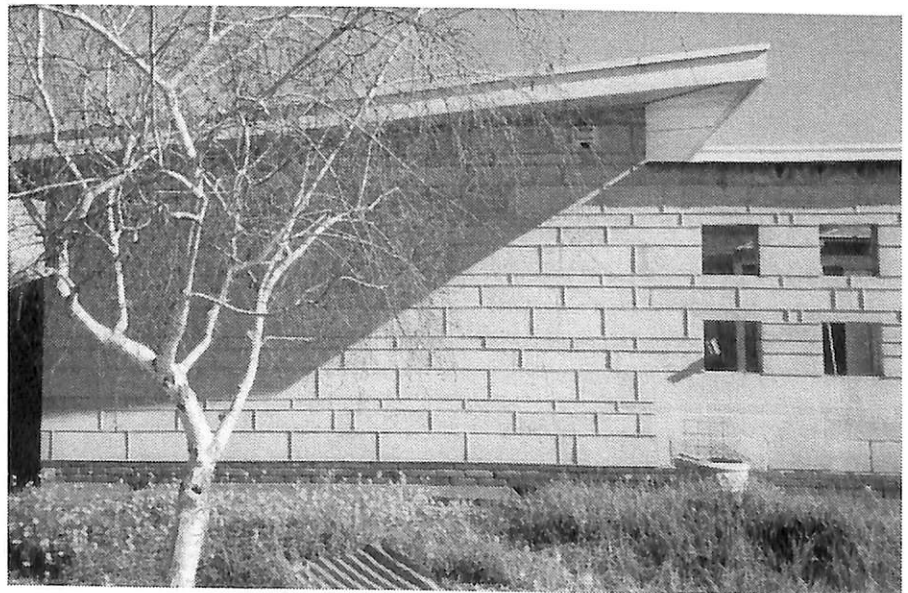
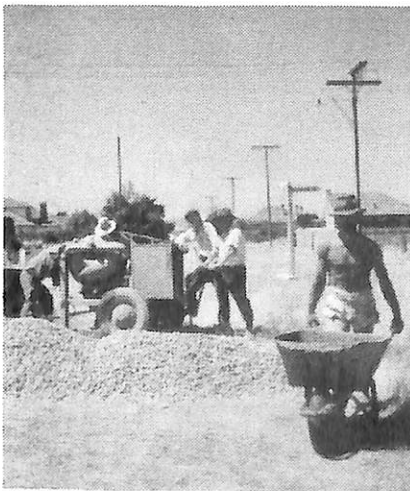
Dr Christine Garnaut is Research Fellow in the Louis Laybourne Smith School of Architecture and Design at the University of South Australia. Her PhD, awarded in 1997, examined early 20th century town planning and focussed on the Adelaide suburb of Colonel Light Gardens and its designer, Charles Reade (1880-1933). She has published *Colonel Light Gardens: model garden suburb* (Crossing Press, Sydney, 1999) as well as articles on the suburb and Reade. More recently she has been investigating postwar planning and architecture through studies including the South Australian Home Builders' Club (SAHBC) that will be the focus of her paper at the Society's October meeting.

The SAHBC was a unique self-help building co-operative that provided an extra-ordinary option for South Australians to obtain a home in the postwar era. Members contributed time and skills to collaborate to build one another's houses and achieve the common Club objectives of a house and of home ownership for each affiliate - hence the Club motto, *Non nobis solum* (Not for ourselves alone). For most this meant setting aside almost every weekend and numerous week nights for five to six years! Bartering their labour and banking their individual hours, members used their accumulated credit to advance the construction of their own house. In the Club's twenty-year life, members built about 400 houses in metropolitan Adelaide. Many of the dwellings survive today as testimony to the Club's unique contribution and to the time, talents and persistence of its members.

Dr Garnaut's presentation will be based on material gathered in a two-year investigation of the SAHBC by an interdisciplinary team from the University of South Australia: Club and individual members' records located as a result of the study, oral history interviews with former Club members and their spouses and children, and a photographic survey of surviving Club-built houses. It will outline the SAHBC's history and distinctive organizational arrangements, provide an introduction to the process by which the houses were designed and built, and illustrate the outcomes.



Above and below, SAHBC members constructing the Phillips house, Manningham n.d.



Phillips house, Manningham 2002 (C Garnaut photo)

Bill Stacy *Roads in the service of the South Australian Community*

**7.30pm Friday
5 Nov 2004**

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

Our society and our economy depend on reliable and easy road transport. From paddock to plate, the food we eat is mostly transported by road. So reliable and easy has road travel become in our own lifetime that our nation's economy now depends on it. Indeed, most of us just take our modern roads for granted. Without them, most of us couldn't go shopping, visit friends, travel on holidays, go to work or even attend Historical Society meetings. Despite their importance, the story of South Australia's roads is an often-overlooked aspect of this state's history.

Today we expect to arrive quickly, safely and on time, regardless of the time of day or the weather conditions. But that wasn't always so. South Australian colonial newspapers reported many stories about how settlers were inconvenienced and how South Australia suffered loss from an inadequate road network.

Early settlers faced a slow and tedious journey. In 1864, the coach from Adelaide to Cape Jervis, traveled today in just over an hour, took a full day over the recently improved road – in good weather – and longer when rains made it boggy and floods inundated fords and destroyed bridges.

Those early travellers also faced hazards that today are largely unknown. In 1862 Derby Whelan was drowned when the bridge he was standing on in Kent Town was swept away by floodwaters, and in 1879 the residents of Templers petitioned for a bridge over a creek as "children were compelled to sit all day in wet clothes". At night the perils of travel increased as many dangers lurked unseen on unlit roads and streets. Nocturnal meetings were arranged for those few nights when the moon could guide people home.

Colonists demanded improvements to their roads, which were made gradually. But each improvement revealed more inadequacies as the colony developed. In some places, such as the Great Eastern Road between Adelaide and Crafers, this improvement/development cycle has occurred no less than seven times.

The story of South Australia's development is linked to the story of its roads.

Bill has been involved in the engineering management of the state's transport infrastructure, especially its roads and highways. For twenty years he has researched and written to fill the void in the documentation of this state's road history. In his work he has uncovered many interesting and previously untold stories.



A ROUGH BUSH ROAD NEAR ADELAIDE - MAIL COACH HELD WITH A ROPE TO PREVENT A CAPSIZE

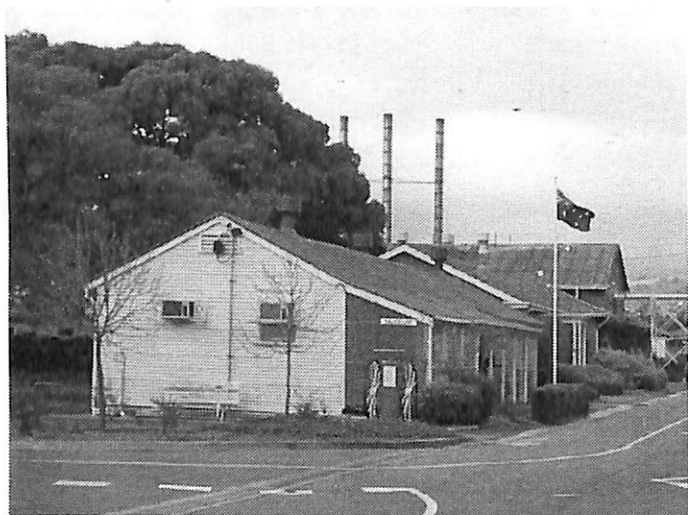
*Mail Coach on Rough Terrain - a 1907 postcard
(MLSA B 31272. Photo courtesy of the State Library of South Australia)*

Visit to the Repatriation and General Hospital Museum

11 July 2004

Two groups of HSSA members were shown over the museum by Mr. and Mrs. Dave Ennis, who established and maintain the collection. After exploring the museum we visited the Chapel.

We learnt that the hospital was opened in 1942 as an Australian Military Hospital. It was used for Army casualties during World War 11. In 1947 the control of the hospital passed to the Repatriation Commission. In 1995 the State Government took control and today the hospital is an acute general care facility with 250 beds.



The Repatriation General Hospital Museum, housed in one of the hospital's original buildings

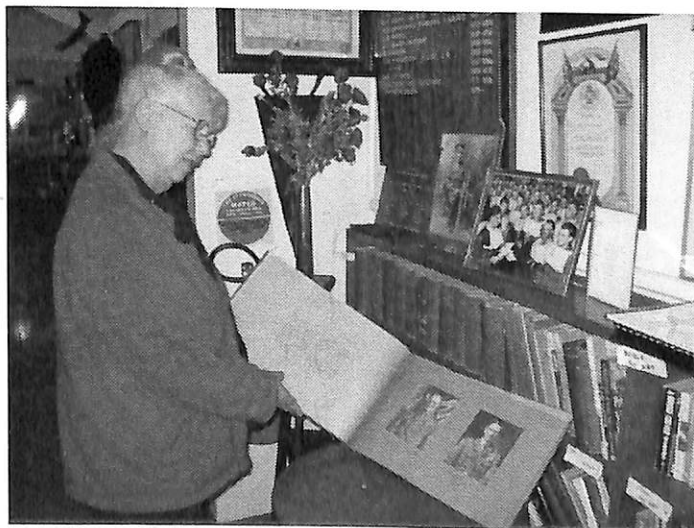
The building known as Daw House, operating currently as a hospice, was originally the home of Mrs Isabel Dawes and her children. She acquired the property of three paddocks, bounded by Government Rd (now Goodwood Rd) and Daws Rd., in 1915. The home was called "Yandana."

The Museum is housed in the former Post Office building of the Repatriation Hospital. It opened 24 April 1992 to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the hospital and houses memories, in the form of diaries, and memorabilia from Australian war veterans. The rosemary hedge in front of the building was grown from cuttings from Gallipoli.



Hospital memorabilia in the museum

Among the P.O.W. exhibits was an extremely well made set of aluminium dentures. We were told that they were made for a prisoner whose teeth were knocked out by a rifle butt wielded by a Japanese guard. The P.O.W's diet was very meagre and consisted mainly of rice which was deliberately under cooked and had to be chewed. This tended to give an illusion of fullness. As this man could not chew it was decided to try and make dentures from aluminium salvaged from a wrecked plane. They were so successful that five more sets were made. We were then shown a Dutch issue water bottle which had been engraved by a P.O.W. using a sharp bicycle spoke. He used the "Bluey and Curly" comic strip motif and the name Jock had been engraved in large letters on the side.



HSSA member, Wendy Judge, examining one of the books displayed in the Museum

In another part of the museum there were two copper medallions approximately six inches in diameter. These were of the type sent to the next of kin of people killed in WW1. They were accompanied by a manuscript praising their sacrifice, signed by King George the Fifth. The medallions became known as "poor man's pennies." These may have been UK issue only.

Next we went over to the Chapel. It opened in 1944 and was built to hold both Catholic and Protestant services, the eastern end being for Protestants and the western end for Catholics. Weddings, christenings, and funerals have been held in it over the years and it has played an important part in the lives of many veterans and their families. It is open 24 hours a day and its proximity to the hospice makes it a place of much appreciated tranquillity. The stained glass windows were created by South Australian artist Cedar Prest. They depict scenes of war from the days of Gallipoli to the Vietnam War.

Harry Greet and Janet Callen

Notes

New Manager for Heritage Branch

At the Heritage Awards ceremony on Friday 13 August Ms Sue Averay's appointment as the new Manager was announced. We offer our congratulations. Our founding member, Mr Brian Samuels, has been acting in this role and is at last able to return to his previous position.

Grants Programme

The Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage is announcing a grants programme entitled *Sharing Australian Stories*. The stories should "showcase Australia's distinctive national character and identity." Eligible to apply are non profit organisations incorporated in Australia, individual persons, local government authorities and schools. Applications close 15 October. For details contact www.deh.gov.au/heritage/programs.

"Rewind"

The ABC is screening a new 15 part history series at 9.25pm on Sundays. The series, entitled "Rewind", presents "an amazing gallery of rogues, heroes, scandals and mysteries. Real stories, our stories." It is hosted by Michael Cathcart. More details available on <http://www.abc.net.au/tv/rewind/>

Database of South Australian Lawyers 1837-1942

Thirty years' research into the South Australian legal profession has gone into this computerised database of all 1000-plus lawyers admitted from the first court sittings to the death of Chief Justice Murray in 1942. It collates obituaries and other biographical articles, abstracts of all relevant Supreme Court documents, family background, education and training, the succession of legal partnerships and practices, legal practice details. Some United Kingdom archival material is referred to. Also indexed is my extensive collection of newspaper and manuscript items on admitted lawyers and on 100s of employees and related persons. I have already trawled through all the obvious and generally available genealogical sources. Short biographies of all practitioners are written and fully footnoted.

I invite an exchange of information with descendants and other researchers to enhance my knowledge of the lives and careers of lawyers. Here's a short-list of a dozen or so early lawyers who have eluded me (almost) entirely and their admission dates: Charles Johnston (1837), Josiah Partridge (1839), William Augustus Poulden (1839), Henry Johnson (1839), William Bernard (1841), Thomas Kingdon (1841), Francis Holbecke (1841), Thomas Lucas (1841), John Edmunds (1842), William Walker (1848), Samuel Walker (1849), John David Symes (1849).

Peter Moore

Historian and Archivist, Qualified S.A. legal practitioner and former Co-Examiner in Legal History at the University of Adelaide

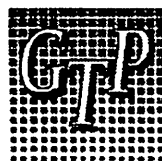
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Prelude to Summer; Reflections on the North Wind in Colonial Adelaide

The early colonists had varying opinions concerning the North Wind which desiccated Adelaide in the summer months. A letter from a Gentleman to his brother in London in September 1841, for example, states: *Five or six times during the summer we are visited by a hot wind, a species of simoon, which is very unpleasant-raising clouds of dust in a most extraordinary manner, and causing a suffocating sensation; as if you were in an oven, and parching up all the moisture of the skin-fortunately it never lasts many hours, but we are obliged, in the town, to keep all the doors and windows shut. In the country beyond the hills it is but little felt, the plains being the most subject to it.* (*South Australian News* 15/4/1842)

It appears that some settlers found the hot weather to their liking: *Adelaide is really beautiful, and the climate delightful. The inconvenience of five or six hot days in summer must not be compared to the misery of your winter and spring, the summer not being oppressively hot like yours-the air is so clear and pure the heat does not make you languid.* (From a letter per *Cygnets* from a Gentleman to Mr Samuel Page, Culloden House, Wandsworth Road, written 25/4/1841, published *South Australian News* 15/12/1843)

James Brook was convinced that Adelaide's summers were killing him: *It rained a little during the night and a little more this morning. But the day was as hot, close, and unbearable as ever it could be-frightful weather. I feel as if it were killing me. A dull gloomy sky and a withering hot wind-it is by far the most disagreeable weather we experience here. And now it has continued day after day with no sign of change.* (8/3/1862)
Rose at half past six. Fine morning, but I expect a hot day. It turned out very hot. Either I must be getting less able to stand warm weather than formerly or else the heat of midsummer is returning, for I found yesterday quite oppressive and my heart appears to suffer severely. (24/3/1862) (Diary and Letters of James Brook)

The settlers soon learnt to have harvesting completed by early summer: *The hot winds are very pernicious, cutting off the corn in a few hours; but I think that when we understand the seasons thoroughly, we may get the harvest in before the period of the hot winds, which seldom come before December.* (Letter from and Adelaide Gentleman to his brother in London, written 13/9/1841, published *South Australian News* 15/4/1842)

Nathaniel Hailes had vivid recollections of dust storms: *One of the phenomena that used to startle new arrivals was the whirling dust storms.--- Some of these columns traversed miles before dissolution, were of extreme height, and possessed of such mechanical force that while spinning along they would catch into their vortex and raise from the ground straw, rags, papers, sticks and all such unconsidered trifles.* (Recollections of a Septuagenarian, *The South Australian Register* 17/4/1878)

John Stephens in his *History of South Australia* mentions the outbreak of ophthalmia in summer caused by the hot winds. And diarist James Brook has the final word. He was forced to seek refuge in the cool interior of the Catholic Cathedral one Sunday in February 1862: *It is now one o'clock-a regular hot, boiling, eye burning out-of-socket sort of day-a fierce north wind rages and the hills are almost invisible through an interesting halo of brown dust. ---What the temperature in the sun is goodness knows, my little thermometer only goes up to 120 degrees Fah and that is nothing like it.* (Diaries and Letters of James Brook, 23/2/1862.)

Extracts from a longer article by James Potter

Some Peculiarities of Australian Currency

From early colonial days until over a decade after Federation several currencies were used in Australia. British notes and coins were accompanied by Spanish dollars. When demand exceeded supply of these notes and coins, private persons and businesses issued promissory notes (I.O.U.s)-now known as cur-

rency notes. Then private colonial banks and the Queensland Government issued bank notes. The reference currency, except for the Spanish dollar, was Sterling. It was not until a decade after Federation that Australian currency was issued. Between 1910 and 1914 unused stocks of private bank notes were

overprinted and issued as Australian pounds, not Sterling. In 1913 the first bank note of Australian design was issued, for ten shillings. For a time this new indigenous Australian currency was used side by side with the bank notes already in circulation.

Australia's acknowledged expert on currency, especially paper money, is Mick Vort-Ronald. He runs the Banking and Currency Museum at 3 Graves St, Kadina, ph. 8821 2906. His publications on our paper money are the standard texts.

Peter Adamson

Your Committee Profile

Profile David Adams.

David Adams has recently become a Council member. David worked for a major Australian insurance company for 34 years, starting as the proverbial office boy and ending as General Manager at Head Office in Sydney.

Most of his career was in Adelaide and while State Manager he was also State chairman of The Insurance Council of Australia and of The Australian Insurance Association.

In retirement, he and his wife Wendy are actively involved as volunteers in a number of organisations including Meals on Wheels, Community Aid Abroad/ Oxfam and Adelaide Friendship Force. They also enjoy travelling

within Australia and overseas, indulging their passions for experiencing different cultures, meeting new people and visiting historical sites.

David's interest in history was first sparked as a child by his love of reading. It was encouraged during his schooling and further developed by a number of stimulating and challenging lecturers during his tertiary studies, which he completed as a part-time mature age student. He is trying to pass on this interest to his very young grandchildren.

David has a strong belief in the importance of a sense of history in the continuing success of business

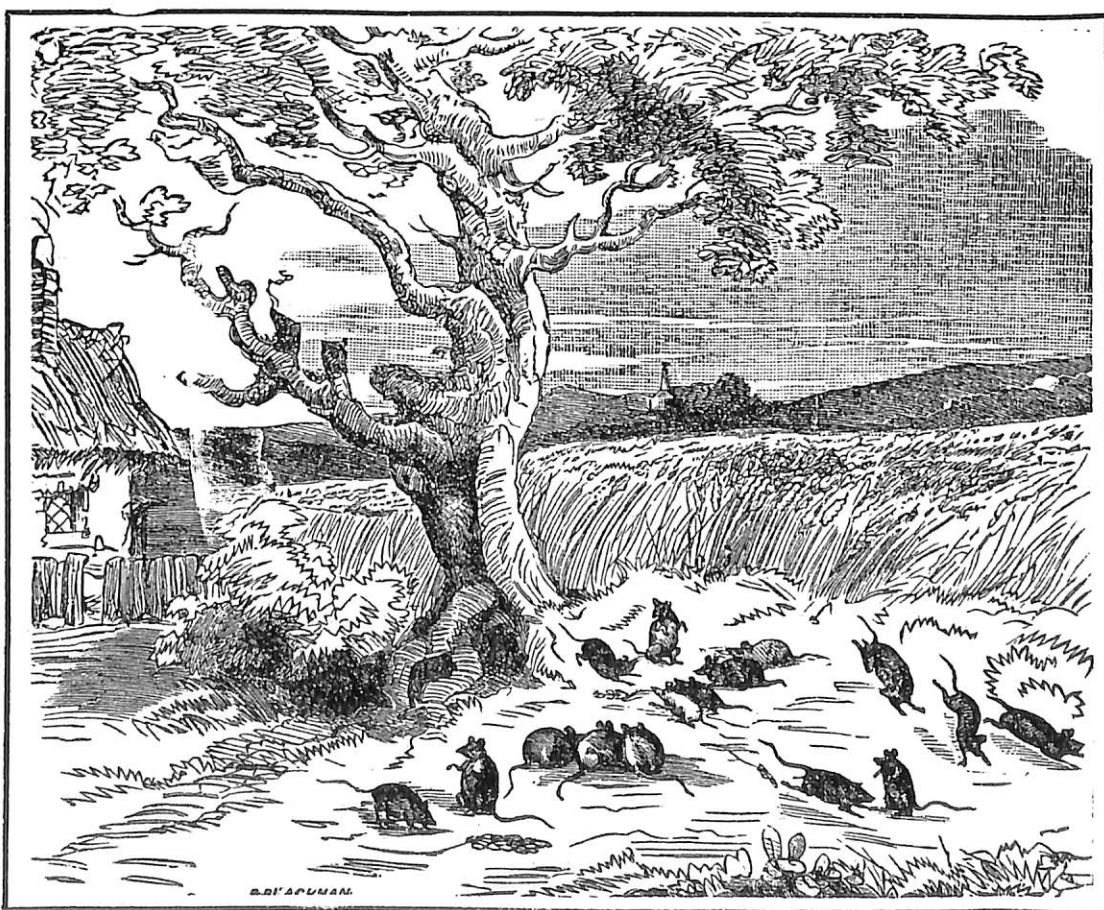
enterprises. He believes that it is a truism that we cannot know how we arrived at the present, let alone where we are going in the future, without some understanding of what happened in the past. This is also true in the business world where truly successful companies are acutely aware and proud of their history, whether it be long or short, and of the role they play in the broader social and economic environment, beyond the short-term financial returns to their stakeholders.

David hopes to be able to bring some of his business skills, as well as his enthusiasm, to assist the aims and objectives of the Historical Society.

Children's Books

In response to news of Valerie Sitter's talk about Children's Literature Joy Hutchens has contacted the Editor with fond memories of her childhood. She was particularly fond of May Gibbs' stories

and recalls the weekly serial of Bib and Bub, the two gumnut babies who later became named Cuddlepot and Snuggle Pie. Years ago Joy attended a display of May Gibbs' drawings in the Adelaide Arcade. She has a special May Gibbs diary and birthday book. She remembers too days spent with friends pouring over Coles Funny Picture Book with its riddles, rhymes, games, puzzles, and stories. Another of her favourites was Robinson Crusoe and she read the Just So Stories of Rudyard Kipling over and over, as part of her elocution lessons.



Here are the Rats. Where is the Cat?

Port Adelaide Historical Society

Over thirty one years ago the citizens of Port Adelaide became concerned at the loss of historic sites and buildings in the district and as a consequence the Rotary Club of Largs Bay called a Public Meeting to discuss the problem. The meeting resulted in the determination to form an Historical Society.

A constitution was formed at further meetings and the Port Adelaide Historical Society Incorporated was launched. An election of officers took place with an Executive Committee elected. Public Meetings began on a monthly basis, a practice still upheld on the third Wednesday of each month. Appeals were launched to win support for the Society's motto 'Preserving the Past for the Future'.

Supported by the Port Adelaide Council and the Rotary Club the first President, Mr John Hunter, assisted by an enthusiastic Com-

mittee, commenced a campaign of preservation. Photographs, artifacts, and memorabilia were gathered and an impressive collection has been built over the years. Some items have been passed on to various groups with more connection to the piece and better equipped to preserve or display. Active lobbying to preserve the buildings of the district was undertaken resulting in a few wins, but sadly, some losses.

The problem of permanent premises suitable for storage and preservation was a major impediment for many years. After using both private and temporary premises the Society was eventually forced to rent. The continual financial drain impeded efforts and forced severe restrictions. Fortunately the Port Adelaide Enfield Council came to the rescue with premises above the Semaphore Library, and a period of rebuilding commenced.

The publication of over 120 issues of the Society's quarterly magazine *Portonian* (which commenced in 1973) has built an impressive record of local history. The creation of a publishing arm, Hourglass Books, resulted in the release of Mr Errol Chinner's *Schoolbells Ringing* and Dr Yvonne Reynold's *Pubs of Port Adelaide*.

The establishment of a web site, www.adam.com.au/penta, and an e-mail address, ptadhist@senet.com.au, has widened the appeal of the Society and enabled a larger section of the public to be involved.

Recently a memorial path named Portonian Walk has been developed in Pioneer Park to commemorate early citizens. It compensates for the loss of earlier memorials removed from our cemeteries. It has been established in conjunction Port Adelaide Enfield Council. Enquiries can be made to P.A.H.S., P.O. Box 254, Port Adelaide 5015.

Our Railway History

Yorke Peninsula

Railway operations on Northern Yorke Peninsula began in 1861 when Mr Gouge opened a horse drawn tramway which carried copper ore between the mines near Kadina and the port of Wallaroo. Five years later the Kadina and Wallaroo Pier and Railway Company was formed. After operating successfully for eighteen years the system was purchased by the South Australian Railways who extended the line from Kadina to Adelaide via Paskeville and Port Wakefield. Australian National took over and closed the line in 1990.

In 1992 the Yorke Peninsula Rail Preservation Society was formed and operated a tourist railway between Wallaroo and Bute for ten years. But, by 2002, because of insurance costs, operations ceased. Currently local Lions Clubs are working with the Yorke Peninsula Rail Preservation Society and the popular tourist trip is again available.

The train consists of remodelled "red hen" railcars. These well known railcars operated in suburban Adelaide from the 1950s. Regular trips leave from Wallaroo Railway Station and travel via Kadina to Bute. In Bute there is time to visit the Museum of Local History in the former Police Station in Railway Tce. Lunch can be obtained at the Bute Hotel before the return railway trip to Wallaroo. On a visit to Yorke Peninsula it is possible thus to recapture some of the past.

For information and bookings phone 8821 2333 or 8825 3496.

State Library Archives

By Neil Thomas

Recent additions include:

Personal papers recently processed include those of Kester Berwick, aka Frank Gale Perkins (1903-1992), minor author, drama and English teacher whose early life and theatre interests in Adelaide and his later life in Greece were the inspiration for Robert Dessaix's recent novel *Corfu*. Family papers of the Welsh ancestors of Jabez Edwin Thomas (an early mayor of Brighton) and his brother Dr John Davies Thomas include indentures on vellum dating back to ca. 1650 relating to land owned by the Thomas, Davies and other families in Carmarthenshire and Glamorganshire. The papers of Brian Hannaford relate to his employment and interests and include a school project by his son Philip on the creation of the housing estate *Monalta* at Belair, on the land his grandfather had worked as a dairy and orchard.

The diary kept by Arthur Jenner on board the *Irishman* from England to Sydney in 1914, with the tickets for the voyage, are accompanied by background notes by a descendant. A scrapbook kept by W.R. Hunt between 1880 and 1895 contains programs, tickets, photographs, drawings, invitations, cuttings and poems. The papers of Walter Paige Kingwell (1862-1913), painter and decorator of Kent Town, comprise his account book, daybook describing interior decorating jobs, and a ledger, all covering the years 1901-1913. Mr. Kenneth Price has donated an account of his experiences during World War II at Bletchley Park, the signals intelligence unit in England, entitled 'Room 40 & Bletchley to Central Bureau'. Ms Ingrid Eidam's research paper on the connection between Hanover Square in Mayfair, London and Williamstown in the southern Barossa outlines the part played by Sir John Malcolm and his son William, the latter arriving on the *Buffalo* in 1836.

The State Library's acquisition at auction recently of the original 1836 Deed of Settlement of the South Australian Company and its Royal Charter of Incorporation completes the Library's finest collection of papers relating to the establishment of the Province of South Australia. The Deed is at present on display in the Treasures Wall area of the Spence Wing. The Institution of Engineers Australia has donated its register of historic relics, with indexes and photographs, now in new housing. The objects are connected with engineering projects large and small throughout South Australia. More papers of the South Australian Council for Adult Literacy have been processed. Plans and specifications for the *S.S. Darling*, designed in 1966 and built at the Whyalla Shipbuilding & Engineering Works, are amongst a small group of plans donated, which also include an oil tanker.

There are many new oral history projects, for which use copy tapes and documentation will be available later. Some of these include the Diabetes Association of South Australia, interviews with Afghanistan refugees working in the meat works at Murray Bridge and the community associated with them, the Ororoo town and district social history, and with Department of Agriculture personnel.

Query Forum

A member is asking if anyone knows whether art works were stored in the old railway tunnel near Eden Hills, during World War 11?

Deadline for newsletter articles and entries October 14, 2004.

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Coming Events

Brighton Historical Society

Holdfast Bay Council Chambers – Jetty Rd, Brighton 7.30pm
Meets first Thursday of the month

Burnside Historical Society Inc.

Meets third Monday of the month at Burnside Community Centre, corner Portrush Rd and Fisher St at 8 p.m.
18 Oct South Australian Federation. Speaker-Peter Howell
15 November; A musical Christmas with Burnside Symphony Orchestra.

Campbelltown Historical Society

Meets second Tuesday of the month in the old Council Chambers 2 Newton Rd Newton
Tuesday 12 October 8 pm. The History of Dentistry in South Australia. Speaker Dr Trevor Martin.
For further details ph. 8336 6959 or 8365 7806.

Enfield & Districts Historical Society

Enfield Community Centre – 540 Regency Rd, Enfield
22 September Members Bring and Tell, 7.15 p.m.
Sunday 17 October ;Celebrate “Sunnybrae 2004,” Enfield Heritage Museum, contact Dean Killmier ph. 826 13241

Kensington and Norwood Historical Society

Don Pyatt Room, Norwood Town Hall
Meets first Wednesday of the month
Contact Pam Whittle ph.8332 0043

Port Adelaide Historical Society Inc

Semaphore Library – Semaphore Rd, Semaphore – 8pm
15 September: The Difficulties Overcome by Steam Ranger, speaker Mr B Busch

Royal Geographical Society Inc

Prince Philip Theatre, Prince Alfred College – Dequetteville Tce, Kent Town
Thursday 28 October 7.30 pm. Rocks and Religion-Father Woods and Early Geology Discoveries, speaker Ms V Sitters
Thursday 25 November 5.30pm. The Murray-Darling Basin in Crisis-Public Policy Responses, speaker Mr Bob Newman.
Contact ph.8207 7265

South Australian Maritime Museum

Lipson Street, Port Adelaide
April to September 2004 – Urban Dolphins, The Port River Pod. Experience how dolphins investigate and live in the Port River world.

State Library Public Programs

First Wednesday of the month: White Gloves Tour
Second Wednesday: White Coats Tour
Contact ph. 8207 7213

Tea Tree Gully & Districts Historical Society Inc.

Old Highercombe Folk Museum, 3 Perserverance Rd. Tea Tree Gully Morning meeting 20 October 2004 9.45 am for 10 am. The City of Tea Tree Gully Learning Centre, 571 Montague Rd, Modbury. Speaker James Potter-A general History of Salisbury

Evening meeting Thursday 18 November 2004 Time 6.45 for 7 pm. Venue: Old Highercombe Folk Museum
Speaker, David Steele- Information on Researching Family History.

Uniting Church in Australia Historical Society

Advises that the AGM will be held at the History Centre, 44A East Avenue Black Forest, Friday 19 November 2004 at 7.30pm. It will be followed by a lecture given by Rev Dr Malcolm McArthur on the History of Christian Education in South Australia in the 1960s and 1970s. All welcome.

Walkerville Historical Society Inc.

Walkerville Town Hall, corner Stephen and Walkerville Tce. 7.30 pm sharp. Car parking at rear.
3rd Wednesday of the month excluding December and January, contact Lyn O'Grady ph. 8269 5982

South Australian Branch of the Oral History Association of Australia

The website is up and running. www.ohaa.sa.com.au
Oral history training workshops are offered in association with the State Library. Contact Sue Anderson ph. 82231046.

Friends of the **Mannum Dock Museum** send news of short cruises to be run from Mary Ann Reserve at Mannum as part of Mannum 150th Celebrations. These cruises are on 30 and 31 October 2004 at 11am, 12.30 pm and 2 pm. They also alert us to the fact that the proposed date for the 2005 Wooden Boat Festival at Goolwa is March 11, 12, 13.

Civil Aviation Historical Society of WA Inc.:

Mervyn Price reports concerning the 75th anniversary of the opening of the East-West (Adelaide –Perth) Air Service in June 1929. It was the first trans- continental service. He points out that it was also in 1929 that the 1st Ghan train went from Adelaide to Alice Springs. 2004 is the 50th anniversary of the RAAF base at Edinburgh, SA. In 2005 it will be 50 years since the opening of Adelaide Airport which opened in February 1955. Further information can be obtained from the President ph. 08 9387 8505 or www.raafawa.org.au