

## HSSA Council 2005

I am pleased to advise of the office holders and Council members of the HSSA, and look forward to working with them during 2005.

President	Mr David Cornish
Vice President	Dr Geoffrey Bishop
Secretary	Mr Terry Saunderson
Treasurer	Mrs Avis Huckel

Members	Mr David Adams
	Mr Peter Adamson
	Mrs Janet Callen
	Mr Colin Deed
	Mr Denis Harper

**David Cornish**  
President

## Built Heritage Conservation Policy Inquiry

The Australian Government's Productivity Commission has been asked to report within 12 months on the policy framework and incentives for the conservation of Australia's built heritage places.

Specific issues which the Commission has been asked to investigate include:

- the main pressures on the conservation of historic heritage places;
- the economic, social and environmental benefits and costs of the conservation of historic heritage places in Australia;
- the current relative roles and contributions to the conservation of historic heritage places of governments, heritage owners (private, corporate and government) and community groups;
- the positive and/or negative impacts of regulatory, taxation and institutional arrangements on the conservation of historic heritage places and other impediments and incentives that affect outcomes;
- emerging technological, economic, demographic, environmental and social trends that offer potential new approaches to the conservation of historic heritage places; and
- possible policy and program approaches for managing the conservation of historic heritage places and competing objectives and interests.

Historic built heritage places include such things as buildings, bridges, monuments and physically created sites. Australia's moveable cultural heritage, such as works of art, Indigenous heritage and natural heritage are not included.

For further information, including the guidelines and information concerning submissions, visit [www.pc.gov.au/inquiry/heritage/index.html](http://www.pc.gov.au/inquiry/heritage/index.html).

## Scenic Coromandel Valley at Risk

Coromandel Valley, situated between Blackwood and Cherry Gardens, features early in the development of SA.

Land near Winns Bakehouse is under threat as Mitcham Council has approved some of it for housing. Coromandel Valley Pioneers' convenor David Wyatt explained that the group would oppose any Mitcham Council moves to sell this land for housing. The creek side land has been used for activities associated with the bakehouse which has been restored by the Coromandel Valley and Districts Branch of the National Trust of SA. Local National Trust member Hugh Magarey believes that the heritage and tourism opportunity afforded by the site could bring money to the Council. The Coromandel Valley Pioneers' Association and contributing groups in the area have an overall theme to put into place. This entails creating a heritage corridor through Coromandel Valley for visitors to take, via Clarendon, with all its historic buildings, to the Willunga and McLaren Vale districts. Many features of the past in these places have been well preserved.

Residents are also concerned about development applications in the City of Onkaparinga section of Coromandel Valley. The planning policy which currently applies allows this section to be subdivided down to allotments of 300 square metres. Ongoing meetings with this Council relating to land subdivision are taking place.

(Compiled from articles in the Messenger Press in conjunction with the Conservation Representative of the Coromandel Valley and Districts Branch of the National Trust of SA.)

## From the President

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was conducted at the April meeting, and it was my privilege to again be elected President. I look forward to my fifth year as President and thank you for your support.

At the AGM I thanked two members of Council for their contributions.

Gaye Brown has served as the Society's Secretary for the past seven years, working with my predecessor, Dr Robert Nicol, for three years and with me for four years. Gaye's commitment to the Society was enormous, and she gave of her time daily to attend to its demands. I appreciated Gaye's regular contact and thorough approach, and her knowledge of the job assisted me greatly in my first years as President. I am certain Dr Nicol would echo the words of appreciation I extended to Gaye at the AGM.

Allan Fulwood has retired from Council, and his willingness to help and words of wisdom will be missed. Allan's organisation and personal links with the tour to the property Rosebank ensured it was a memorable visit to this little known gem.

During my report I also thanked the people and organisations who help to make the HSSA a successful and busy Society. It was gratifying to report that all meetings enjoyed attendances of over 90 (the highest was 130), day trips were booked out, the innovative mid week tours were welcomed and well supported, and the Christmas function at Cummins House was a highlight. I also took the opportunity to thank Janet Callen and Philip Knight for their hard work with *History SA*, and Jenny Tilby Stock, Christine Garnaut and the editorial committee for once again producing a quality edition of the annual *Journal*.

**All of this is achieved through volunteers giving their time. Thank you!**

Julie Reece, a most committed History teacher from Mt Barker High School, was again a guest on the Society's program and addressed the March meeting. Julie spoke to the Society in 2004 on her project *Journey of Remembrance*, which involved her students researching soldiers from the Mt Barker area killed in World War I, visiting their graves, and historic sites in Turkey and France, and publishing an account of their journey and experiences. Such was the impression made by Julie that the Society granted \$1,000 to help cover the cost of the book's production, and with the proposed second trip to France. It was with much interest that members heard at the March meeting of the success of the second trip, and of the experiences of the group. Congratulations to Julie on her commitment to bringing history alive for her students.

The first of our mid week tours occurred on March 16 when Barbara Potts led a heritage tour of Adelaide University. I heard nothing but praise for Barbara's tour, and thank her for not only suggesting the tour but also organising and conducting it.

The Treasurer, Secretary, Society Council member Colin Deed and Dr Adrian Brown accompanied me to a garden party given at Government House for representatives of organisations of which the Governor of South Australia is Patron. Although Her Excellency's participation was prevented through ill health, it was a delightful occasion in the grounds of this significant building, and I wish our Patron a full recovery.

At the April meeting ninety members and guests were treated to a really wonderful presentation by Dr Jean Prest, who has recently been awarded her PhD from the University of Melbourne. As mentioned in Dr Prest's profile in the last edition of this magazine, her love of history is life-long and was encouraged at

Adelaide University by Douglas Pike. This love and her skills as an historian shone through in her detailed account of the contribution to the first Federal Parliament of South Australian businessman and philanthropist Sir John Langdon Bonython. As HSSA member John Bannon said in his vote of thanks, there is certainly a book in Dr Prest's work, and I encourage her to pursue what would be a valuable addition to the body of work relating to Federation.

A number of HSSA members were present at a full Union Hall on 1 March 2005 to view the presentation *South with Douglas Mawson - the Australian Antarctic Expedition 1911-1914*, and what a treat we were given! Presented by the Friends of Mawson Inc and the South Australian Museum, in association with the Adelaide International Film Festival and the National Film and Sound Archive, the two hour presentation featured glass slides (some coloured) and film taken on Sir Douglas's expedition. Narrated for two hours by Ian Flannery, the audience was captivated by his readings and the beauty of the images on the screen. Such was my enjoyment of *South with Douglas Mawson* that I contacted the organisers and congratulated them on a wonderful evening and encouraged them to run the show again, as I am sure more full houses would result. This is a significant presentation, and one not to be missed should it be staged again.

Finally, may I remind you to please pay your membership subscription should it still be outstanding. Your membership renewal is very much appreciated.

Best wishes

**David Cornish  
President**

## Field Trips

### June 2005

Wednesday – June 8 10am

#### Adelaide Town Hall Heritage Tour.

The foundation stone of the Adelaide Town Hall was laid on 4 May 1863. The building, in Corinthian style, cost £16,000. Though citizens were proud of the building many rate payers were concerned about the expense and it was not until 1935 that the clock faces were installed in the Albert Tower.



After some decades, however, the building was considered out of date and dowdy, and was considered for demolition. Glen Woodward will tell us more about this building on the coming field trip. (Information and image from *After Light, A History of the City of Adelaide and its Council* by Peter Morton )

## Historical Society Profile

### South Australian Police Historical Society

The genesis of the South Australian Police Historical Society could be said to have begun in a schoolroom at Millicent, where a schoolboy was enthralled by the stories of early police history as told by his teacher, wife of the local police officer. In 1977 the boy from Millicent, now Constable Robert Clyne with a B.A.Hons degree, was still imbued with the romance of the long police history of the state since its inception on 28 April 1838.



### July 2005

Sunday – July 17, 2pm

#### South Australian Police Historical Society- Tour of Thebarton Barracks

(see profile of the South Australian Police Historical Society below)

For details and bookings contact Mrs Avis Huckel  
ph.82772953

*South Australian Police Historical Society (cont)*

An approach to the then Police Commissioner, Harold Salisbury, for permission to establish a Police Historical Society received warm approval.

In 1978 the South Australian Police Historical Society was formally launched by a group of people long interested in helping to record and preserve the pageant of past events. Now commenced the steady stream of donations of long cherished photographs and items of interest.

The Society was provided with temporary accommodation in spare rooms at Police Stations, first at Port Adelaide, then Hindmarsh and North Adelaide...always like some hermit crab struggling to find a bigger home, having outgrown the last. Loyal volunteers carried the burden of all the moves.

Published in 1987, Robert's book *Colonial Blue* gave the history of the South Australian Police from its provincial days under Governor Hindmarsh until 1916.

Since 1996 the Society has made its home at the Police Barracks, Gaol Rd. Thebarton, spreading its wings over several buildings...and still searching for more room. One building is in the process of becoming a Police Museum. A large outbuilding is the home of an enthusiastic group dedicated to restoring old police vehicles.

Each year on 28 April we celebrate our Foundation Day with the unveiling of a plaque in honour of some significant event.

The Society has over 300 members, many of them regular volunteers. A monthly newsletter, the "Hue and Cry" is produced for members.

Meetings are held at the Barracks at 8p.m. on the first Friday in the month. Visitors are welcome and parking is available. For enquiries phone (08) 8207 4099. Website: [www.sapolicehistory.org](http://www.sapolicehistory.org)

Dorothy Pyatt

## Dr David Symon

### *The Botanical and Social History of the Sturt Pea*

**7.30pm Friday  
3 June 2005**

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

After graduating in Agriculture at the University of Adelaide Dr David Symon worked in the Agronomy Dept. of the Waite Institute. For many years he was in charge of the arboretum and recalls a difficult time when sheep grazed among the young trees. He has always been interested in taxonomic botany and since his retirement has spent many hours working at the State Herbarium, recently renamed as the Plant Biodiversity Centre.

Dr Symon will talk to us on 3 June, and explains that "my talk on the Sturt Pea will cover its discovery in Australia and the visions of explorers. One Aboriginal legend will be discussed. The growth of the plants in Europe and Australia will be considered as well as the great deal of research work that has been done to improve its horticultural performance. The use of the striking flower as a decorative element and its use in logos and advertisements demonstrates that most people can immediately identify with the plant. Lastly the response to the flower in literature and particularly in verse will be explored."



*Sturt Pea.*

Source : C A Gardner, West Australian Wildflowers

## Complete Our Survey and Win!

HSSA members who take a few minutes to complete the 2005 member's survey will go into a draw to win a voucher for Wakefield Press publications, or a magnum of Centenary of Federation wine. Prizes will be drawn at the June 2005 lecture.

From time to time Council seeks to update the profile of Society members and to offer the opportunity of suggesting lecture speakers and field trip venues. With this edition of History SA you will receive your copy of the 2005 survey, alternatively copies can be collected at the June HSSA lecture. It would be greatly appreciated if you would complete the survey and return to PO Box 519 Kent Town SA 5071, or bring it to any Society event.

Thank you in anticipation of your response.

**David Cornish  
President**

## Supper

A feature of HSSA meetings has always been the mouth watering supper. Please remember to bring a plate of supper to share at our monthly lectures.

Assistance with preparing supper near the end of each meeting is sought. Please let me know if you are able to assist.

**David Cornish  
President**

## Matthew Magarey *John Martin's Christmas Pageant; Adelaide's Christmas Pageant*

**7.30pm Friday  
1 July 2005**

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

Do you remember Nipper and Nimble, the two ponies who were such an integral part of John Martin's Christmas Pageant? And waiting in the crowd of anxious parents and excited children anticipating the appearance of Father Christmas? There were those who journeyed to South Tce to watch the lining up of the floats and to share the excitement of the Pageant Queen, a beautifully attired young employee of the firm. Families came from the country to swell the crowds lining the city streets and to share the spectacle. The visit could include a trip to the Magic Cave full of mystical creatures and toys, to sit nervously on the knee of Father Christmas himself. The Cave opened the Monday after Saturday's Pageant. John Martin's Christmas Pageant began in 1933 when Sir Edward Hayward, Managing Director of John Martins, decided to bring some life to the streets after the sombre years of the Depression. By the 1960s the event had become one of the State's biggest spectacles. It became a major television feature. With the closure of John Martins the Pageant has been revamped and is now known as Adelaide's Christmas Pageant. Many old favorites have been retained.

Matthew Magarey will speak on 1 July about Adelaide's Christmas Pageant. He is the Marketing and Development Manager for the CU Pageant Company, and has been involved with the Credit Union pageant for over 8 years. It is his role not only to ensure that the long standing tradition is safe in the hands of the Credit Unions, but also to help the public understand the role the Credit Unions play in bringing the Christmas Pageant to the streets of Adelaide.

He will tell us a little about the history of the Pageant, how it was started, and about the groups of people behind the event and how they manage to put it onto the streets of Adelaide every November. His talk will take us from the planning stages in January through to the second Saturday in November when the Christmas Pageant graces the streets of Adelaide.

Website [cuchristmaspageant.com.au](http://cuchristmaspageant.com.au)  
ph 8274 9155

*The Christmas  
Pageant 1966.  
The photographer  
was crouched  
inside the barrel-  
organ float.*

*Courtesy 125  
Years of The  
Advertiser,  
compiled by  
Peter Lord, 1983*



## HSSA Activities - Field Trip to Port Wakefield April 05

Following the hottest April day on record 42 people, dressed for all sorts of weather with some carrying umbrellas, assembled at 10 am to meet our Premier Touring Coach driver Justin. Colin handed us strip maps of the Highway and a large one of Port Wakefield. We were soon passing the I C I Salt Fields at Dry Creek and Ian Schomburgk spoke of the area and migratory birds. We turned off Highway A1 into Lower Light, Dublin and Windsor. Colin read us some interesting facts about each town. At Wild Horse Plains we heard that early settlers looking for country fit for sheep came to a small plain where about 20 horses were grazing. The horses bolted as the settlers approached. Inkerman is named after a battle fought in Russia in November 1854. We were reminded that one of our members, Adrian Brown, once preached a sermon at the church on a nearby hill near the windy road.

We arrived at Port Wakefield at 11.45 am and Ros Nankivell and Wendy Garvie welcomed us with hand held bells and whistles! At the Soldiers' Memorial Hall tables and chairs had been laid out for lunch and tea and coffee was provided. Ros and Wendy had set up an excellent photographic display of the town. The wharf area was impressive with 1000s of bags of wheat awaiting shipment. A more modern day photo depicted Army personnel from the Proof and Experimental Establishment proudly receiving the "key to the town." Those who fell in the wars were justly commemorated on memorials.



*Members viewing the photographic display*

We were soon back on the bus for a tour of the town. Wendy and Ros provided commentary and reminiscences. A pamphlet was provided outlining the history of a proud town. Across the Highway was the old Port Wakefield motor racing track where the first Grand Prix was held in 1955. This track is on private property and not much, except for a few old tyres, can be seen from the road. We continued along the dirt road 7 miles to Bowmans. Since it had rained during the morning Ros and Wendy announced from the front of the bus that frill neck lizards and sleepy lizards were out in all their glory. One persisted on our track so out popped Ros and as the yell "She's got him!" came through the bus he was placed safely on the side of the road. Ros also reported seeing a snake.



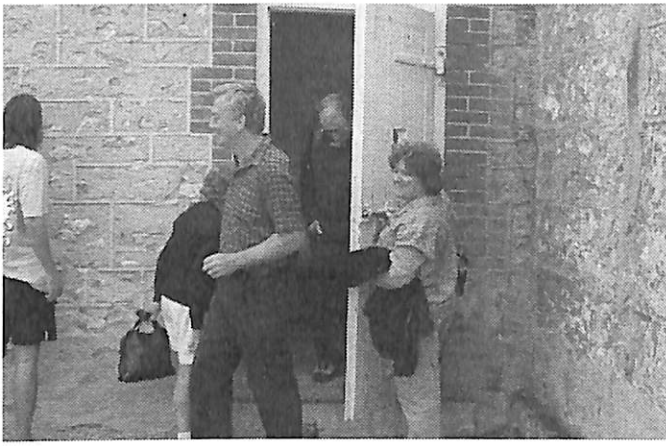
*Mural depicting Possum Kipling and Sir Jack Brabham*

Pat Summerling, also a passenger on the bus, pointed out to us a "coal hole dig", dug into red sandy soil, and about ¼ mile square. The coal was of low grade and unsuitable for use, however the mound of soil created a feature in the area. A railway platform still exists at Bowmans, once a busy railway station. On our return to Port Wakefield via the localities of Beaufort and Goyder we passed several old farm buildings and the ruin of a church. Bees were swarming in the bushes.



*Ros Nankivell with HSSA members outside the Soldiers Memorial Hall*

After a coffee break at the Memorial Hall and looking at the Court House Museum and Police Station we had some free time. Members visited the old bank building, now an antique shop, or ventured across the bridge over the Port Wakefield tidal basin. In the future in Port Wakefield Primo Meats, currently employing 300 people, plans to extend and employ 500, and poultry farming is increasing. There is also tourist potential. After a thank you presentation to Wendy and Ros, who extended a warm welcome to anyone wishing



*Pat Summerling enjoying herself at the gaol.*

## Field Trip to Adelaide University Wednesday 16 March

About 40 members of HSSA assembled near the Mitchell Building at the front of the University. Here we were divided into two groups. We learnt that the Adelaide University is the 3rd oldest in Australia, and older than many English Universities. In 1872 the Baptist, Congregational and Presbyterian churches founded a Union College designed to provide young men with an education beyond school. The seeds for tertiary education were sown. In 1872 Walter Watson Hughes, grazier and copper miner, donated £20,000 to found the University. Teaching began here in March 1876, and by 1881 women were being admitted to courses, which was very progressive at that time.

First we were taken into the Mitchell Building, named after Sir William Mitchell who acted as unpaid Chancellor to the University from 1916-1942, covering the difficult Depression years, and the war years. The carpet design replicates that of the original tiles on the floor. There are impressive hand carved wooden picture rails and banisters on the stairs. Then we visited the Bonython Hall, completed in 1936 to be the University's Grand Hall. The Bonython family made this project financially possible. Impressive paintings of past Chancellors line the wooden pannelled walls. The Elder Hall, built in 1900, was constructed of 1000s of tons of freestone brought down from the Stirling West Quarries by 5 teams of dray horses. The Barr Smith Library was partly closed because of recent flooding but we were able to see the grand old reading room, named after another of the University's benefactors. Another memorable area was the Cloisters near Victoria Drive. The tour finished at the gates on Victoria Drive, looking at the footbridge, an all steel construction, and a gift to the University.

Thank you Barbara Potts for organizing this event.

to visit, we set off for home, driving through Two Wells and Virginia. Glen Woodward, Bart van der Wel, and Pat Summerling rounded off our day with talks on the sub artesian basin Water and Treatment Works. Two tales were told, one about a whale, and of an elephant at a hotel. We arrived back at 4.30 pm. Thank you to Colin Deed for his work in organizing the day, and thanks to the driver Justin.

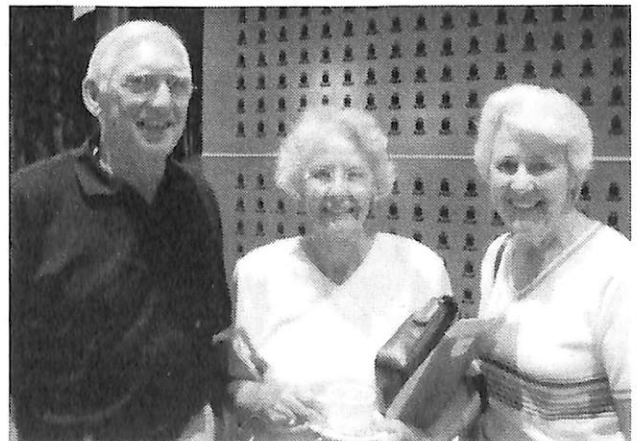
**Dennis Hoskin**

## The two wells at Two Wells

Local historians of Two Wells, Bet and Les Williams, inform us that in 1839 Captain John Ellis was the first settler in Port Gawler, and with Captain Allen stocked land from Salisbury to the Hummocks. The District Council of Port Gawler was formed in 1856. In this year Mr John Cowan built his house and the first hotel, just north of the present township of Two Wells. The town derives its name from the two watering points used by the indigenous people who called the area Pudanrla. The watering points were used by many who travelled through. A brochure outlining an historic walk of Two Wells has been compiled by Bet and Les Williams. Also an interpretive trail developed by the Two Wells Primary School, in cooperation with the Kurna Plains School, leads past the two wells, and explains local indigenous crafts, foods, and medicines. It sets off from the main street of the town. For further information ph.8520 3682



*John Bannon congratulates Jean Prest following her presentation to the April meeting.*



*Society guests Brian and Beverley Webber discuss Jean Prest's presentation with her at supper following the meeting.*

## New member of HSSA Council Denis Harper

Although Denis is employed in Horticulture he has a long standing interest in history. He enjoys bush walking and geology and these pursuits have fuelled his interest in man made heritage. Recently



he has developed a fascination for heritage walks, exploring on foot Dungog, in NSW, and Brisbane, Melbourne, Mt Gambier and Robe on foot. He has also delved into the history of Greece, Vietnam, and Turkey walking extensively in these places considering the archaeology and visiting museums.

Over the years Denis has worked in hospitals, schools, and public administration. His interest in people and their past developed during this time. In latter years he has expanded his tertiary studies in the fields of geology and the humanities, completing a Bachelor of Arts in 1989. He has worked as a volunteer guide for the Friends of Old Government House and found satisfaction in explaining the history of these old premises to many a Sunday afternoon visitor. As well he plays tennis and is busily reducing his golf handicap!

Denis is looking forward to the approaching History Conference at Whyalla on 28-29 May. He recalls the dramatic occasion in his childhood watching the launch of the *Illawarra* from the Whyalla Docks.

## History Week 21-28 May

The Director of the History Trust, Margaret Anderson, says: SA History Week will be an opportunity for all South Australians to explore and celebrate their past together and to discover what makes us different. As South Australians we have always been proud of our past and with good reason. Our state has produced a notable number of firsts. SA History Week means that we can bring South Australia's very own history into the spotlight and celebrate it as a community.

Some activities planned for History Week are the "Three Courses, Three Authors" dinner to be held at the Glenelg Jetty Hotel Water Garden Bistro on Tuesday May 17. Three authors, Geoff Manning, Robert Martin, and Alison Painter, will give short presentations during the meal. For details of this event phone Jan on 8294 0347 or email [askjan@holdfastbooks.com.au](mailto:askjan@holdfastbooks.com.au).

Mt Lofty and Districts Historical Society is holding a Sunday afternoon journey round Mt Barker on 22 May. Entitled "In the Steps of John Dunn", this journey has been arranged in conjunction with The Mt Barker Branch of the National Trust. Some of the plans of the Mitcham Historical Society are tours of 4 cemeteries and a Mitcham Mystery Tour.

For details of other activities during this exciting week contact the History Trust of S A for a full program available from 1 May. Ph 3203 9888

## State History Conference

The 14th State History Conference takes place in Whyalla 28-29 May. The extensive program, available from the History Trust of S A covers aspects of the indigenous, industrial, environmental, and political history of the Whyalla district; tours of Iron Knob, the Whyalla Steel Works, the Freycinet Trail, and museum visits are included in the cost of the Conference. For a program contact Jan Mudge, Ph.8208 9888, email [jmudge@history.sa.gov.au](mailto:jmudge@history.sa.gov.au).

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,  
I was pleased to see Peter Adamson bring your readers' attention to the book *Six months in South Australia* by T Horton James (not T James Horton) in the March Newsletter. The Friends of the State Library of South Australia reprinted this provocative book in 1999 in a limited edition, for which I wrote the Introduction. James spent not six but three and a half months in South Australia.

It appears that he had set out to be as critical as possible of the new colony, to balance what the "puffers" had to say. His book aroused considerable criticism, including from John Stephens, who denounced it as a "farrago of contradictions and absurdities", and also from a justly aggrieved William Light. It is lively and entertaining but infuriating to consult because James provided neither table of contents nor index.

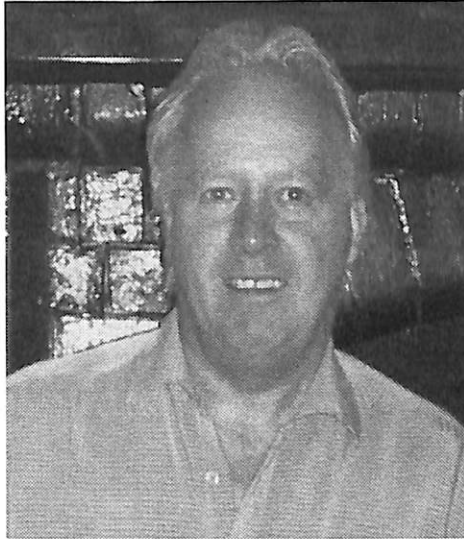
The book is available for \$121 (99 copies numbered and hand-bound in quarter leather) or \$77 (standard limited edition in blind-stamped cloth boards) from the Friends of the State Library of South Australia, GPO Box 419, Adelaide 5001, telephone (08) 82077255, email [friends@slsa.sa.gov.au](mailto:friends@slsa.sa.gov.au), [www.slsa.sa.gov.au/friends](http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/friends)

**Valmai Hankel**

## New HSSA Secretary

Following several years on Council, Terry Saunderson has kindly agreed to take on the position of Secretary of the Historical Society of South Australia. Terry fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Gaye Brown.

During his time on Council Terry has been responsible for the coordination of the Society's annual program. I welcome Terry to his new position, which is one of the Society's busiest roles, Council members and I look forward to working with him.



David Cornish  
President

## The Pioneers' Association of South Australia Inc.

announces the "Pork and Grindstone Blowout" to be held on Sunday 22 May at the Banquet Room in the Adelaide Town Hall. This will be a re-enactment of the grand dinner held in 1838 to commemorate the anniversary of the first land sales in South Australia and the establishment of Adelaide. The dinner will commence at 5 pm, the same time as the original dinner held at the Adelaide Tavern in March 1838. The menu will be similar to that of 1838. For details contact the Pioneers' Association Ph 8231 5055 Tues-Thurs 10 am-1pm or e-mail [pioneersa@chariot.net.au](mailto:pioneersa@chariot.net.au).

## Correction

Alison Painter's book *Brewers and Hoteliers; The Johnstons of Oakbank* was published by J and A G Johnston. It is available from Holdfast Books, 81 Brighton Rd, Glenelg, ph 8294 0347 and also from J and A G Johnston, c/- Balhannah Post Office.

## Can You Answer?

From Bowmans to Port Wakefield is 6 miles 68 chains and 64 links. How many inches would make the distance 7 miles? The first correct answer to be given to Dennis Hoskin at the June meeting receives a prize. The answer will be given in a future newsletter.

## Migration Museum

82 Kintore Avenue  
Open 10am-5pm weekdays and 1-5pm weekends.

From early March until late May an exhibition depicting Bulgarian Culture will be on display. This is organised by the Bulgarian Educational and Friendly Society.

## Fort Glanville Conservation Park

(Corner Military Rd and Grand Junction Rd)  
Open days are held on the 3rd Sunday of the month 1pm-5pm between September and May. Members of the Fort Glanville Historical Association perform a military reenactment and provide guided tours. The area is available for special group visits. Access for the elderly and disabled is available.

## Fifty Years Ago

The camp housing workers on the Mannum – Adelaide pipeline was established in July 1950. In 1949 Premier Tom Playford approved the project with the Engineering and Water Supply Dept. and work commenced. The Premier officially opened the pipeline on 31 March 1955.

## One Hundred and Fifty Years Ago

On the stormy morning of 13 May 1855 the immigrant ship *Nashwauk* was wrecked off shore from the mouth of Pedlers Creek, at Moana. Over 300 immigrants were stranded on the shore, many of them Irish servant girls who later found domestic work in many areas of South Australia, first travelling by dray to servant depots which were established in rural areas.

## The South Australian Maritime Museum

The exhibition "Wrecked. Tragedy in the Southern Seas" continues until 5 August. It introduces the story of 850 wrecks which line the South Australian coast.

By Neil Thomas

## Recent additions include:

New archival collections being reported for this issue are mostly single format items and a few personal record groups. Jean Elder's artwork for children's books covers the period 1932-1987, and includes 'mock-ups' in watercolour, pencil and framed large paintings. She died in 2003 as Jean Towns. A large collection of scrapbooks of newspaper cuttings, caricatures and supporting documents of the career of North Adelaide footballer Ken Farmer, from the late 1920s to 1955, is currently on display in the Jervois Room of the Mortlock Wing. Farm records for a property near Langhorne Creek owned by an Attorney General of S.A. William Denny include letters to him from his farm manager Horace Perrey. The records cover the period 1920-1945.

Four shipboard diaries or letters describing voyages out comprise George Cooling's account of the *China* from Plymouth in 1852, Mary Deer(e)'s trip out on the *Morning Star* from Birkenhead/Liverpool in 1862-1863, the *Astracan's* voyage from Plymouth by Roger Wakeham, May-July 1876, and the diary by Robert Knox Sinclair of a trip with his family on an un-named P & O liner to Australia and New Zealand in 1883-1884, when he was aged 12. (The Sinclair family owned the Sinclair Tobacco Company in the United Kingdom.)

New letters in the collection include a draft of a letter from J.W. Robertson to the Chief Secretary in 1870 about railway communications between Port Augusta and Port Darwin. Letters written between 1875 and 1879 to Anne Clements by her parents William Currie and Susannah (Oakley), living in the Willunga and Kangarilla districts, report on family and farming activities. Alan Rendell was serving in the First AIF at Fovant camp on Salisbury Plain in 1918 when he wrote to his parents at North Adelaide. A droll item which accompanies the letters is 'An Address to the Food Controller' of the camp. Scots-born Alec Kerr wrote letters to friends during his travels by car north east of Alice Springs between 1924-1926. He mentions the terrible country he has to driver over, hot weather, the barren landscape and wildlife he sees.

Diaries include the original of Thomas Whistler's journal 1851-1852 describing life in early Unley, and Bill Hayes' account of driving 350 horses from Redhill to Kingoonya to find feed during the 1914 drought (and losing 160). Colin Carl Julius Laube's reminiscences include his memories of driving a postal van from Mount Gambier to Melbourne in the early 1900s and conditions during the Depression years. A son of WW II fighter pilot Robert William Bungey has written about his father's experiences in the RAF and RAAF. The outback artist Arthur Esam is the subject of a paper by Heather Ronald. William Pres-

cott's descendant Audrey Maschmedt has researched the history of Ludlow House near Gumeracha, built in 1840 for the South Australian Company, and one of the oldest homes extant in the state. Bob Duffield has researched the story of the AIF Sewing Circle and workshop at Cowell Cottage during WW I. A history of Stockport on the Gilbert River, south of Riverton covers social and farming aspects of its past. Ingrid Eidam's paper 'The effect of the Malcolm family on provincial South Australia' includes details of Sir Pulteney and Sir James Malcolm and their families.

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## A Source of Interesting Articles

Many interesting articles are to be found on Avis' book table. These are in the many journals and newsletters which are sent to HSSA from other historical groups. For example the following excerpt :

Traffic was all horse traffic...all vehicles were compelled by law to carry at least one lamp, usually with a piece of small candle. However on the night of a full moon and 4 nights prior the lights were declared exempt and it was not compulsory to carry lights. If there was no moon-shine, these lights were still exempt from this law---

From John Bickle, "Good Old Days", *Walkerville Times* No. 50, February 2005.

and

- The women used a community shower in the day time before the men came home from work. The children used a tub which was set up in the kitchen once a week---

From "The Sintering Works" p.43 *Journal and Proceedings of the Broken Hill Historical Society Inc.* Volume 40 December 2004.

## The National Archives

The National Archives advise that their reading room is situated at 78 Angas St. Opening hours are Mon-Fri 9am-4.30 pm. Ph 8409 8400. Included in the holdings are Federation records covering customs, shipping, post and telegraph, lighthouses, quarantine, and more. There are paybooks carried by soldiers in World War 11.

# Our Railway History

To preserve our railway history help is needed. Friends of the Belair Station have been working hard raising funds to repair damage to the historical signal box destroyed by fire several years ago. The wooden shelter shed on the platform dates back to the years when thousands of picnic makers caught the train to the National Park. It is in need of repair and hands are needed to paint and help with general maintenance.

Offers of assistance can be made to Ms Farrington ph, 8388 5220.



# Our Twenty Dollar Note

Mary Reily, depicted on our \$20 note, lived from 1777-1855. She was an orphan convicted of horse stealing and transported to Sydney at 13 years of age. She married merchant Thomas Reily and after his early death continued running the business and bringing up their children. She became a highly respected Sydney business woman, but suffered always from the stigma of having been a convict.



(From the Australian National Museum.)

Source of both images is the Reserve Bank of Australia



# News from Groups and Societies

Mitcham Local History Volunteers report on the completion of their major project to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the City of Mitcham. Six ceramic tile tables, depicting the history of each of the Council wards, have been established in appropriate open space areas in the wards.

(From Mitcham Local History Volunteer Report 2004.)

**Deadline for newsletter articles and entries June 14, 2005.**

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# Coming Events

## **Burnside Historical Society**

Meetings are held in the Burnside Community Centre (corner Portrush Rd and Fisher St) at 8 pm on the third Monday of the month. Visitors welcome. On Monday 20 June Shirley Sampson will speak about Researching Family History. On Monday 18 July Colin Harris's talk is entitled "Hard Country, Hard Times: an Environmental History of South Australia's Murray Mallee." Contact phone number I Williams, 8379 4090.

## **Campbelltown Historical Society**

Meetings are held at 8 pm at 2 Newton Rd Campbelltown. On 14 June Derek Baker will speak about "The Defences of Adelaide." For details contact Di on 8336 6959.

## **East Torrens Historical Society**

Meets 8pm at the Adelaide Hills Natural Resource Centre, Crescent Avenue, Norton Summit. On 13 July Pat Summerling will speak. Her talk is entitled "Off to the Park, Shenanigans in Adelaide's Parklands."

## **Enfield and Districts Historical Society Inc.**

Meetings 7.15 pm 4th Wednesday of the month at Enfield Community Centre, 540 Regency Rd, Enfield. The public are invited to an Open Day at the Enfield Heritage Museum 1-5p.m. Sunday 29 May, to celebrate History Week. For details contact Ph. 826 16747.

## **Friends of the "Marion" and Mannum Dock Museum**

Notice is given of the Rockford Steam Powered Dinner Cruise to be held 22, 23, 24 July. Also the Mannum-Morgan cruise from Tues 27-Fri 30 Sept., and the Morgan-Mannum cruise from Fri 14 -Mon 17 Oct. will be heavily booked. For bookings contact Mannum Visitor Information Centre, ph. 8569 1303.

## **Kensington and Norwood Historical Society**

The Society meets at 8 pm on the 1st Wednesday of the month in the Don Pyatt Room of Norwood Town Hall. On 1 June there will be a Show and Tell evening, and on 6 July the speaker will be Denise Schumann, "Celebrating our Area's History." Details are available from Rachel McInnes ph 8363 9003.

## **Mt Lofty and Districts Historical Society Inc.**

In conjunction with the Mt Barker Branch of the National Trust an evening will be held at Stangate House at 8 pm, 5 July. Barbara Holbourne's talk is entitled "An evening with Lola Montez." Contact A Herreman ph. 8388 6279.

## **Port Adelaide Historical Society**

Meets Semaphore Library, 14 Semaphore Rd, Semaphore, at 8 pm. 15 June "Port Shipping", speaker Mr Doug West.

## **Royal Geographical Society of South Australia Inc.**

Meets State Library complex, contact ph. 8207 7265. Thursday 26 May at 5.30 pm speaker Ms Nicki De Preu will talk about an aspect of the Flinders Ranges, "Weed Management- the Wheel Cactus Story". On Thursday 23 June at 7.30 pm. the Brock Lecture, "Cones of Stones-Exploration around the Mound Springs" will be given by Mr Rick Moore

## **Royal United Services Institute of SA Inc.**

Meets at Building 160 Keswick Barracks for monthly lunches on the first Monday of the month. Evening lectures are also planned. For details phone 8305 6378 Wed-Fri 10am-4pm.

## **Salisbury and District Historical Society**

Meets at the Folk Museum, Ann St, Salisbury, at 7pm. 8 June "Harold Mendrin, His Story." 13 July "Adelaide Trams." Speaker Ron White.

## **Tea Tree Gully District Historical Society Inc.**

Contact Carole Simmonds ph 8251 4191. Thursday 19 May at 6.45 John Ward will talk on "More on the History of Sundials".

## **Walkerville Historical Society Inc.**

Meets at 7.30 sharp at the Walkerville Town Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. 18 May "Walkerville Trams" speaker John Thompson 15 June "Walkerville's Churches." Enquiries Lyn O'Grady 8269 5982.

## **Joint NAA-State Library Seminar**

On Saturday 21 May from 2.00-4.30 pm the National Archives of Australia and State Library will present a seminar on 'Tasty Treasures: an Archival View of Food and Drink' in the Institute Building, North Terrace. It is hoped the Adelaide City Council will also be involved. Free admission, booking essential. Please call 08 8207 7269.

## **History Week 2005**

History Week will be from 21-29 May. The program will be available from 1 May from the History Trust ph. 8203 9888. The State History Conference will follow from 28-29 May and will be held in Whyalla. Registration forms are available from the History Trust, for details phone 8203 9888 or log onto the website [www.history.sa.gov.au](http://www.history.sa.gov.au).

## **SA Maritime Museum 126**

Lipson St Port Adelaide  
Open daily 10am-5pm.  
From March -August 2005 the exhibition "Wrecked, Tragedy and the Southern Seas" is on display. 850 ships have been wrecked on our coasts and the exhibition reveals some of their stories.