

Journal Excellence Honoured

EDMUND
WRIGHT
HERITAGE
AWARDS



Heritage Stories:
Promotion, Education & Interpretation

The Journal of the Historical Society
of South Australia

Historical Society of South Australia

Commendation

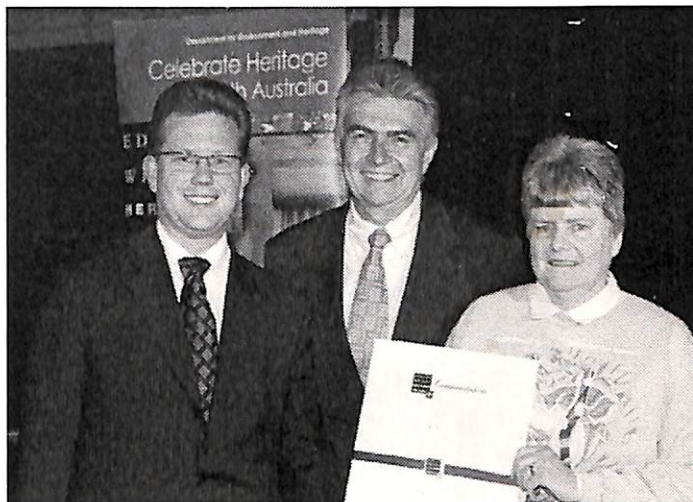


The *Journal of the Historical Society*, the flagship publication of the Historical Society of South Australia, has been recognised for excellence with a commendation in the Edmund Wright Heritage Awards, which were announced at a ceremony held at Edmund Wright House on 16 September 2005.

The Edmund Wright Heritage Awards, which are conducted annually by the Department for Environment and Heritage, recognise excellence in seven categories: Planning for Heritage, Heritage Trades and Products, New Development in Heritage, Heritage Volunteers, Heritage Homes, Heritage Places (non residential) and Heritage Stories: promotion education and interpretation.

The *Journal* was nominated in the Heritage Stories: promotion education and interpretation category. The nomination focused on the unique role the publication has played in publishing and promoting high quality writing on South Australian history. The *Journal* has fulfilled this role for 33 years, and over this time has been produced almost entirely by volunteers.

HSSA President David Cornish was joined by the *Journal* editor, Dr Jenny Tilby Stock, at the awards ceremony. Five nominations were short-listed for our category, and in the absence of a winner a commendation was awarded to the Society for the *Journal*, and to the John Reynell Heritage Park at Old Reynella. The President and Editor accepted the certificate from the Hon John Hill, Minister for Environment and Conservation. (see photo)



(Courtesy Heritage Branch, Department for Environment and Heritage)

The citation accompanying the commendation stated:

Since its inception in 1974 the Journal has covered a broad range of topics of South Australian history, including those relevant to the State's built heritage, all researched and prepared by amateur historians, undergraduate students and academics.

All contributors are required to work to a style manual prepared especially for the Journal, and to submit their work for peer refereeing.

In its 33 years the Journal has been acknowledged as the leading publication of its type in South Australia - a worthy achievement for a publication produced on a limited budget and entirely by volunteers.

The judges commented that it was an excellent publication based on high quality research that demonstrates best practice in its approach. The Journal provides excellent information for the assessment and protection of the State's heritage assets.

The awarding of a commendation in the Edmund Wright Heritage Awards is a wonderful tribute to the current editor, our graphic designer and the editorial committee, whilst also acknowledging the contribution of previous editors and participants in the *Journal's* long history. Well done!

May I thank the Minister and the Department for Environment and Heritage for once again conducting the Edmund Wright Heritage Awards. I encourage all readers of *History SA* to find out more about the awards program and to consider projects or organisations who may be worthy of nomination. For further information please contact the Department or visit www.heritage.sa.gov.au/awards.

From the President

In the past twelve months I have travelled to India and spent a reasonable amount of time interstate, and it has been a busy but enjoyable year. However, a recent weekend afforded the opportunity to join a couple of friends on a trip to Quorn. This brief sojourn turned out to be the most interesting of my domestic travels this year.

The purpose of the journey was to enjoy the Pichi Richi Railway's steam motor coach No 1, affectionately known as the Coffee Pot, during its centenary year. Quite unintentionally the weekend turned into one with an engineering and history flavour, and led to some interesting discoveries.

The first discovery, known to only one of the party, was a marvellous wrought iron aqueduct (see photo below) which forms a part of the network of twenty miles of channelling which feed into the Bundaleer Reservoir. The structure, which is approximately 250 metres long and 10 metres high and of riveted construction, still plays an important role in feeding water to the reservoir, and was flowing when we inspected it. I have no precise date for its construction but assume it would be during the 1899-1903 period when the reservoir was built, and would be interested in knowing more of its history from anyone who reads *History SA*.



(Photo courtesy Philip Groves)

It was then my turn to show off a part of South Australia not known to my travelling companions. With great glee I told my friends how, many years ago, I had won a quiz on South Australian place-names by knowing the answer to the clue 'you have to be quick to beat this thunder box'! Any ideas? Well, having bought lunch in delightful Laura we took back roads to the pretty Beetaloo Valley, and to the reservoir which was completed in 1885. The Beetaloo Valley is known to my family as it was the childhood home of my father, and he received his early education at the one-teacher Beetaloo School. How times change!

Our journey continued to Quorn where we enjoyed the wonderful experience of travelling by steam-train through Pichi Richi Pass, an experience shared with hundreds of long-weekend visitors to this rugged and beautiful part of South Australia. Riding on the century-old Coffee Pot is

always a pleasure and our sedate trundle through Pichi Richi Pass was very relaxing. Maintaining and operating the trains is a credit to the Pichi Richi Railway Preservation Society and its corps of volunteers.

Avoiding the long-weekend snarls which blight Highway One, we returned to Adelaide via Wilmington, Melrose and Clare, enjoying the scenery, looking at old buildings, and forcing ourselves to sample such delights as quondong pie, Golden North ice cream and sars and ginger ale from F.C. Grubb and Co of Gladstone.

South Australia and its history has so much to offer, and my two days away reminded me how fortunate we are to live in this State.

Turning to Society matters. The 2006 program is well underway and the full programme will be provided with your copy of the first edition of *History SA* in early 2006. Please mark lecture nights, day and field trips in your diary when you receive the programme.

Last year's Christmas function, held at Cummins House, was the first of its type put on by the Society and was a really enjoyable occasion. Council invites you to celebrate the festive season with fellow members at historic Old Government House, Belair National Park on Sunday 27 November 2005. Further information is contained in this edition of *History SA*.

On Friday 23 September, I was invited to attend the launch of the exhibition of photographs submitted by members of the public showing life in South Australia during the 1950s. It was a most enjoyable occasion and ably launched by the *Advertiser* journalist Rex Jory. It was interesting to meet the people who had taken the photographs, who appeared in them, or who had submitted them. Whilst looking at a photo of Lieutenant-Governor Sir Mellis Napier with a group of woman at a Legacy Debutante Ball at the Palais, I was amazed to be told by the woman next to me 'I'm the one second from the left'! Congratulations to the National Trust for organising this exhibition.

Finally, I would like to congratulate *History SA* editor Janet Callen who has recently published *Forgotten Industries, the brick-works of Eden Hills*. Janet is well-known for her interest in local history, and has published several works relating to her local area of Eden Hills and Blackwood.

May I wish you a Happy Christmas and I look forward to seeing you at Historical Society of South Australia events in 2006.

David Cornish
President

Christmas Gathering

November 2005

Sunday – November 27, 4-7pm

Members are invited to attend the Christmas gathering at Old Government House, Belair, on Sunday 27 November 4pm - 7pm. Tickets are \$15 per person and include a tour of Old Government House, drinks and nibbles. Please book for this event with Mrs Avis Huckel ph 8277 2953.

Old Government House – our first Vice-Regal summer residence.

Old Government House was built in 1859-1860 on the Government Farm at Belair. Later, in the century, the Farm became South Australia's first National Park, declared in 1891. The Vice-Regal building, known in the 19th century as Government Farm Cottage, was a small Hills retreat in the style of a hunting lodge. It was used by Sir Richard MacDonnell (for whom it was commissioned) from its completion in 1860 until he left the colony in March 1862, then by the following Governor, Sir Dominick Daly, until his death in 1868. Both Governors were keen horsemen and hunters and Governor Daly hosted the first royal hunt in the colony. Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, Queen Victoria's second son, asked, at short notice, to take part in a native animal hunt during his visit to South Australia in November 1867. The Governor hastily convened a party of over sixty good riders, men and women, who rode up to the Farm late in the day, dined *al fresco* on the wide, balustraded terrace around the cottage, then after sunset, shot several dozen possums silhouetted against the moonlight on the branches of the trees. The party returned in good spirits to Government House by midnight, and the Duke recorded, at the time, as being "a good sport".

The house itself is fairly small, with two large main rooms, a small library/office for the Governor (see photo) and, a remarkable feature for its time, a large interior bathroom, complete with spring-fed plunge pool. Sir Richard MacDonnell may have been well pleased with the pool, but Governor Daly, elderly and with a history of gout, was likely to have been much less impressed. Sir James Fergusson's younger brother and private secretary, Major



Old Government House, above, exterior, and below the dining room and the Governor's study (Courtesy Friends of Old Government House Collection)

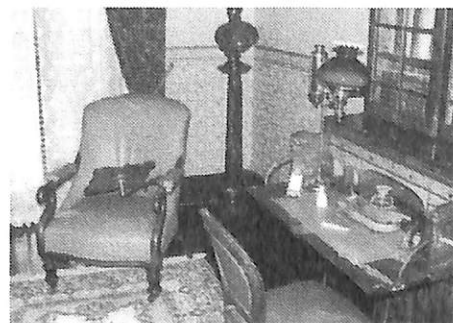
John Adam Fergusson, lived in the cottage in the early 1870s, but by 1875 it had outlived its usefulness and a larger vice-regal summer residence was built at Marble Hill in 1878. The Government Farm Cottage became the home of the curators of the adjacent Woods and Forests Nursery after 1886 until 1958 when the buildings on the site were taken over by the Commissioners of the National Park and restored as a national heritage monument.

Old Government House was re-interpreted as a Vice-Regal residence in the period 1860-1880. The latest round of renovations were done as a Centenary of Federation Project in 2001. New wall coverings, soft furnishings, lighting, floors and woodwork were installed and the bathroom was restored

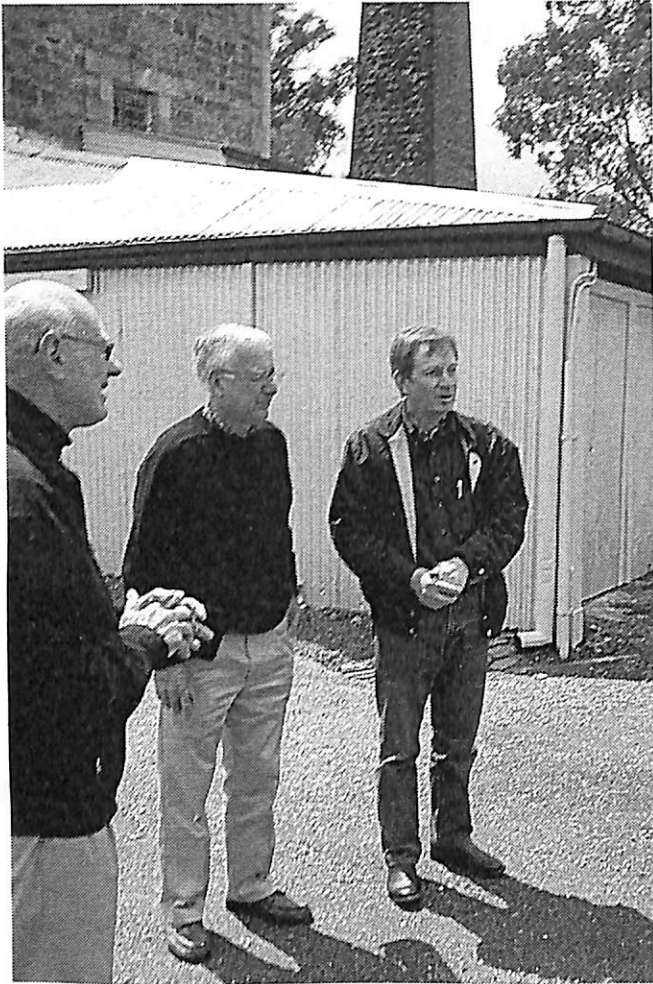
in its original manner, with slate flooring and lead lining to the plunge pool - in all a very attractive presentation of the building.

As it was for the Duke of Edinburgh's party all those years ago, the terrace around Old Government House is still a very congenial setting for a gathering in spring or early summer, with the mellow old building behind and a view over the Park in the late afternoon light, added to which is an attractive array of roses in spring bloom in the heritage-style garden around the house. The Friends of Old Government House look forward to entertaining you at this very pleasant venue on Sunday 27th November.

Pam Tamblyn



October Field Trip to the Onkaparinga Valley



(Above) Dr Geoffrey Bishop (right) with members at J & AG Johnstons Brewery.

All those who booked on the tour to the Onkaparinga Valley were at the Burnside Council car park early, so that the bus left before 10am. We went to Oakbank via Greenhill Road. Geoffrey Bishop gave us the history of the road and pointed out that the original bullock track went up over the ridge. The present road was constructed in 1856 and took two years to complete. Much of the road was quarried and some parts of the lower side were built up with stone work. It was called the Eastern Line of Road. The road was sealed in 1928.

Geoffrey pointed out many buildings and properties in Summertown and Uraidla. One was the last of the commercial crops of rhubarb in the Adelaide Hills, where they grow Driver's Red rhubarb, was developed by the current owner's grandfather. The name of Summertown and Uraidla were explained. The area was called Mt Lofty but when it had to be named for a postal district, submissions were sought. The local blacksmith suggested Newtown but Thomas Percival, owner of the Mt Lofty Hotel, said Summertown which was adopted. Uraidla comes from the aboriginal name for the ears of the giant kangaroo, formed by Mounts Bonython and Lofty. We were shown the area of the Uraidla goldfields where gold was discovered in 1896. Much of the area is undermined with tunnels.

We then arrived at Balhannah, named after the mother and sister of the eccentric James Turnbull Thomson. Balhannah was three separate towns originally Gillieston, Blytheton and Balhannah.

When we arrived at Oakbank, we split into two groups, one went to the weavers in the old Pikes Brewery and the other to Johnston's Brewery. At J & AG Johnston we were met by Chris Johnston who told us about the history of the buildings and the company.

(Below) Members listening to Chris Johnston (back to camera) at Johnstons Brewery



William and Janet Johnston and their seven children came to South Australia in 1839 they settled alongside the Onkaparinga River in 1840 and farmed. William was a cabinet-maker but the family brought from Scotland experience in brewing and this was employed when they began brewing and malting. James and Andrew Galbraith formed a partnership in 1853. James laid out the township of Oakbank in 1855 and Woodside in 1856. As the brewery grew, the company bought hotels to have a market for their products, many of which they still own.

October Field Trip to the Onkaparinga Valley (cont.)

The Johnstons were very community minded and their property was used to establish a racecourse in the 1870s. This was sold to the racing club in 1938 and is the venue of the famous Easter picnic race meeting. Members then had a chance to sample some of the famous Johnston cordials, and some purchases were made.

The two groups then changed over and we went to the old Pike's Brewery which is occupied by the The Oakbank Weavers, Peter Stapleton and Mary Cassini. They have been there since 1975 and have had continual orders for their woven products since then. Henry Pike was a cabinet-maker and undertaker, and later ventured into brewing. He started off small-scale and as the business grew added on buildings, much like Johnstons. Pike actually built the stables at Johnstons. Pikes also bought hotels to sell their products. We were privileged to be shown some of the weaving being done and how the looms work.

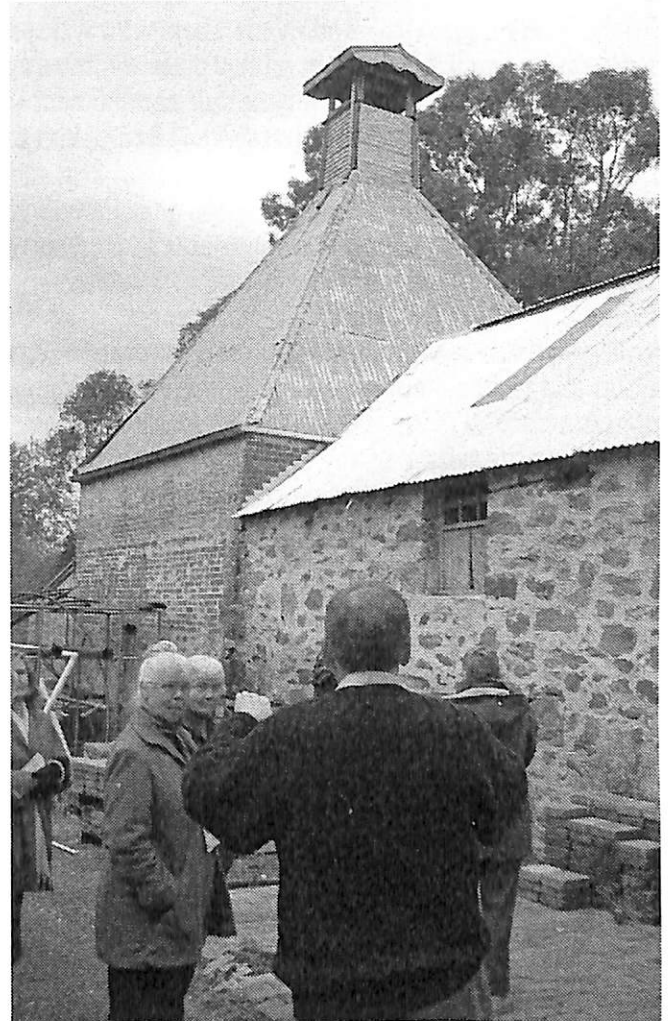
We were then carried on to the Woodside Hotel for lunch, at one of Johnston's hotels, where some sampled the Johnston's wines from their Oakbank vineyard.

After lunch, it was on to Melba's Chocolate Factory at Woodside to see the production of chocolates and toffees. The machinery is from the original Rowntree factory and have been modified for use. Many members purchased chocolates and confectionary. After a short stay it was back on the bus for a journey back down the freeway to Burnside.

We must thank Geoffrey Bishop for leading the field trip; he has so much knowledge of this part of the world and is generous with it.

Terry Saunderson

Terry and Margaret Fechner (left) Chris Johnston, Alison Painter and Patty Verco, in front of the newest building at Johnstons, built a century ago



Members appreciate Chris Johnston's explanation of the Malthouse, one of the oldest buildings at Johnston's Oakbank Brewery.



September Field Trip to Artlab Australia

Firstly, an apology to those many members who wanted to come on this tour but did not gain a place. Numbers are limited by Artlab Australia and the full complement was quickly filled on a "first come, first served" basis. With over 1,000 visitors each year it is understandable why Artlab makes these restrictions as they are very generous with their time and it is little wonder this tour is so popular with many groups.

Artlab Australia is Australia's foremost conservation organisation and is a business enterprise in the South Australian Government's Department of the Premier and Cabinet. The group specializes in the preservation and restoration of heritage items and collections incorporating easel paintings, textiles, sculpture, documentary material, books, art on paper, metal artefacts, furniture, ceramics and ethnographic material. Artlab also restores wall murals, decorative paintwork, mosaic and terrazzo floors, stained glass windows, carved timberwork, carpets and curtains.

Artlab's twenty-five staff are based in five specialist laboratories and we visited several of these where we were able to see and have explained the restoration and preservation of a wide range of items including blinds from Carrick Hill, 19th century women's underwear, a Hungarian military great-coat, ceremonial robes from Indonesia and several paintings including a discoloured and cracked Hans Heysen. We could only marvel at the skill and professional expertise of the conservators as they explained their painstaking and meticulous procedures and of their infinite patience and attention to detail.

Of all the many dangers faced by historic and heritage items, one of the least obvious but most common and important is the damage caused by insects. One of the conservators explained the strategies they use to overcome this problem and to restore the damage caused. Many months of work may be required to restore a crumpled mess of a painting or damaged item to a valuable work of art and the end results are outstanding as "before and after" photographs testify.

Also interesting was "Marvin", a Computerized Matt Cutter recently purchased with a \$40,000 grant from the Premier's Department, which in 2-3 minutes can do the work which would take a skilled professional 2-3 hours. This service is in great demand from many galleries and museums providing new, intricate painting surrounds and mountings.

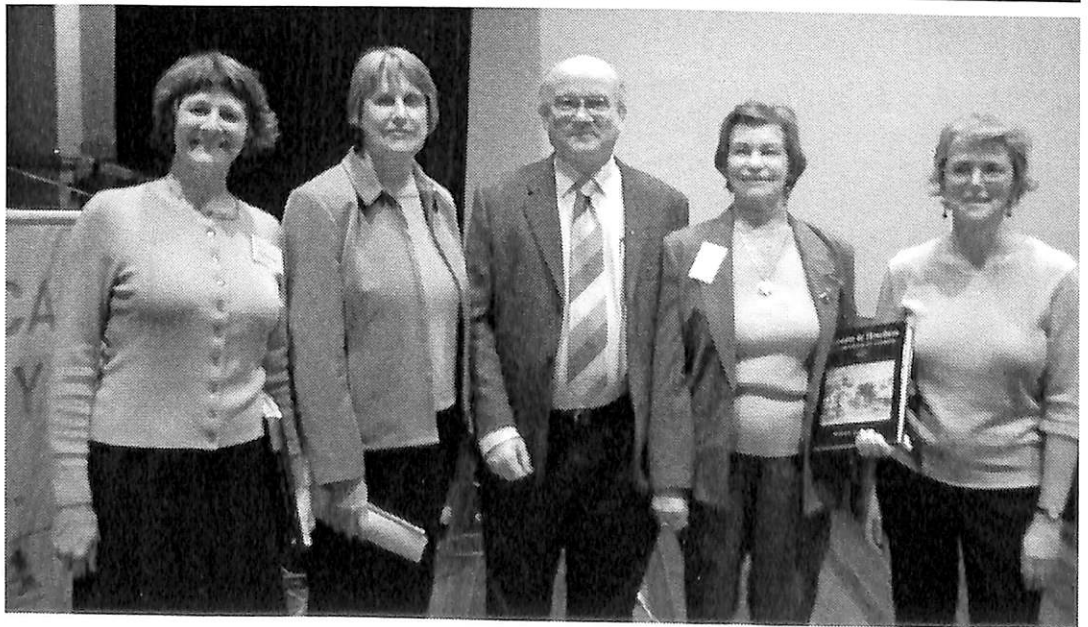
In addition to carrying out work for government and private clients, Artlab is also undertaking international projects including professional training in Indonesia, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Taiwan and Sri Lanka. As well, on the first and third Wednesday and Thursday of each month, Artlab runs Clinic Days where members of the public can discuss the care, conservation or restoration of private works of art, historic items and family treasures with a specialist conservator. Their initial consultation is free.

This was a fascinating tour. We applaud all the professionals working within Artlab Australia and their skills must bring great credit to South Australia on a national and international basis.

David Adams

HSSA October Meeting

Practitioners in the history field, Susan Marsden, June Donovan, Peter Bell, Alison Painter, and Kathy Gargett presented members with an overview of the work they undertake at the October meeting.



By Neil Thomas

Recent additions include:

The letter William Light wrote to his friend the artist George Jones in London from the *Rapid* in May 1837, has been added to the Light Collection. It has a rough sketch showing the site of Adelaide, a proposed canal link with Port Adelaide and notes about the surrounding land. The letter has been transcribed and a quality copy made for reference. It joins the archival collection with another letter to Light's Peninsular War comrade General George Napier from Light's friend Henry Nixon, in which is described his death and funeral in 1839. A transcript and copy are also available. (George Napier's brother Henry married Caroline Bennet, the sister of Light's second wife Mary.)

Papers of the Polish-born abstract impressionist artist, theatre director and actor Wladyslaw Dutkiewicz (1918-1999) cover the whole of his artistic output. Donated by his family, the papers will be available to researchers in the near future after housing, matt-mounting of artworks and conservation work is complete. Between 1951 and 1995 Wlad held

39 single and major exhibitions and over 40 mixed exhibitions of his art works, winning the Cornell Prize in 1951 and 1955. The group includes the unpublished biography by his son Adam, completed in 2002, and many papers in the Polish language.

Additional papers have been processed for Mrs Betty Fisher, feminist, Indigenous peoples' advocate and conservationist. A diary kept by Thomas Joseph Roach, born 1876, who went to one of the islands (unnamed) off Darwin in 1902 with two other men to establish a mission station, possibly for the Methodist Church, has been transcribed by a granddaughter. Trips were made on their boat *Evangel* to other places; people named in his diary whom they met included Joel Cooper, a well-known identity around Melville Island at that time. Roach returned home in June 1903.

Reminiscences of Joy Mathew, nee Creedy, about her father, J.H.H. Creedy, mention his employment with an electrical engineering company Parsons & Robertson Limited and

his work on lighting at the Waterfall Gully Reserve in 1936. There are photographs of company employees and the waterfall area.

A photographic composite of items relating to the visit of the Duke of Edinburgh in 1867 includes an illuminated address from the Friendly Societies of South Australia and his reply.

Ms Marisa Loren's impressive photographic record of the churches and chapels of the Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide, with historical information, has been augmented with additional albums and excellent indexes to her collection.

A major new society record group for the Baking Industry Association of South Australia has records covering the years 1926 to 1990. They include minutes of city and country group meetings, a register of new bakery business names and name changes, correspondence, lists of bakers and bakehouses in metropolitan and country areas, scrapbooks and films.

Deadline for newsletter articles and entries December 7, 2005.

Historical Society of South Australia Inc.
PO Box 519
Kent Town, SA 5071
email or secretary@hssa.org.au
website www.hssa.org.au

President: Mr David Cornish

Vice-President: Dr Geoffrey Bishop

Secretary: Mr Terry Saunderson ph 83542736 (business hours)

Treasurer: Mrs Avis Huckel 8277 2953

Newsletter Editor: Janet Callen 8278 8922 or email newsletter@hssa.org.au

Journal Editor: Dr Jenny Tilby Stock ph 8303 575 or email journal@hssa.org.au

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National Archives News

From the National Archives of Australia comes information concerning Australian civilians who were interned by the Japanese during World War II. Derina McLaughlin, Director of Accessibility Development, writes:

Around 1,500 Australian civilians were interned by the Japanese throughout the Asia-Pacific region during the war. While the most famous internment camp was perhaps the one at Changi Prison in Singapore, Australians were also interned in many other camps, including the Stanley Internment Camp in Hong Kong, the Santo Thomas Internment Camp in the Philippines and the Yangchow Internment Camp in China. The National Archives of Australia has a rich collection of records dealing with civilian internees of the Japanese, particularly their liberation from the camps and their postwar attempts to gain compensation. These records would be of high interest to family history researchers.

Dr Christina Twomey of Monash University has written an article entitled *Australian Civilian Internees of the Japanese* to coincide with the Anniversary of Victory in the Pacific. To obtain more information email Derina at derina.mclaughlin@naa.gov.au or phone 02 6212 3600.

Launch of the Manning Index of South Australian History

The Manning Index of South Australian History was launched into cyberspace by the Minister for Environment and Heritage on 29 August 2005. Ten years in the compiling, it was purchased from Geoffrey Manning by the SA Government on the recommendation of the State Heritage Authority and is being made available to the world via the State Library of SA web site <http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/manning> It selectively indexes articles in a large number of newspapers and periodicals 1837-1937. It is an extraordinarily useful resource, leading users to a host of items that they would never have time to find for themselves. It is also invaluable for the variety and scope of the subjects it covers, many of which are often only briefly mentioned or entirely overlooked in published histories.

The Index is organised in four sections:
 South Australia
 Adelaide
 Port Adelaide
 Place Names

Each has many sub-headings including 'Miscellany', which leads to yet more delights for the researcher. A fuller description of the Index, its coverage and how best to navigate it is available on the homepage. It is also worth checking the 'About the Manning Index' page to get an overview of the Index.

Brian Samuel

The Hon. John Hill - Minister for Environment and Heritage and Geoffrey Manning at the launch of the Manning Index. (Courtesy Heritage Branch)

Calling for news items

Members are encouraged to contribute items of news relevant to our newsletter. Articles should be up to 500 words and accompanied by photographs, if possible. Please contact the Editor on phone 8278 8922 to discuss your contribution. The deadline for the next edition of History SA is 7 December 2005.

State History Conference 2006

The History Trust of South Australia is calling for papers for the 2006 State History Conference. The deadline is 31 December 2005. For more details please contact the State History Trust ph. 8203 9888.

Correction: Concerning the \$20 currency note mentioned in our May newsletter, the correct name of Mary, pictured, is Mary Reibey.

