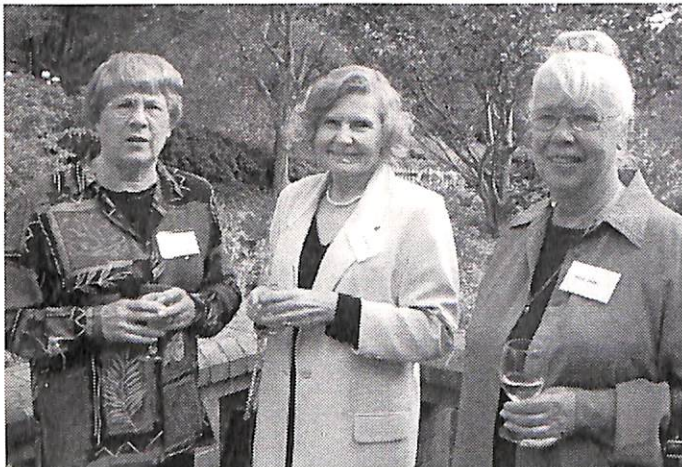


HSSA 2005 Christmas Function

Following the success of the 2004 HSSA Christmas Party at Cummins House the Society's Council looked for an interesting venue at which to celebrate Christmas and to conclude the 2005 program. Old Government House at Belair National Park was selected, and what a wonderful choice it turned out to be!

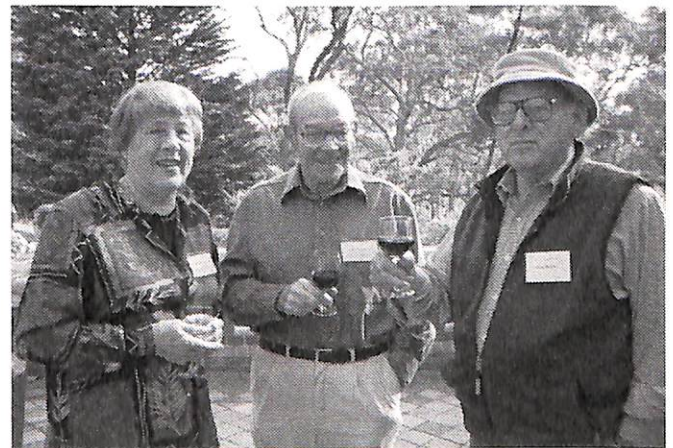


Father Christmas spreads good cheer with the help of Margaret Goleby



Mary Cole, Nelia Thomas and Wendy Judge enjoy the delightful surroundings of Old Government House.

Seventy five members and guests took the opportunity to view the historic property, and to enjoy refreshments on the terrace and in the beautifully maintained and very pretty garden. Guides from the Friends of Old Government House made us very welcome and took great pride in sharing their knowledge of the building and its contents. Father Christmas handed out sweets to the good (and the not so good!) and Pauline Payne was the winner of the Christmas cake baked by HSSA President David Cornish.



Mary and Eric Cole toast the Festive Season with Sean Dawes



Margaret Wilson assures Father Christmas she has been a good girl!

The 2006 Christmas function will be held in the delightful grounds of Loreto College, Marryatville, and guests will have the opportunity to inspect the recently opened school museum and to tour the magnificent Acacias, once the home of Sir Edwin Smith.

Happy New Year!

Welcome to the first edition of *History SA* for 2006 and the Historical Society of South Australia's program of events for the next twelve months. Once again Council has worked hard to prepare for your enjoyment a quality lecture program and itinerary of field trips to places of interest. *History SA* will appear bi-monthly and will keep you informed of Society activities and profile forthcoming speakers and their topics.

A copy of the 2006 program is enclosed with your copy of *History SA* and, as was successfully introduced last year, a magnetised version of the program for your fridge is also provided. Once again the Society has a busy year planned and I look forward to seeing you at as many events as possible. Mark HSSA dates in your diary now!

I would like to thank the Friends of Old Government House at Belair National Park for making seventy-six HSSA members so welcome at the Society's Christmas function on 27 November 2005. Old Government House is beautifully situated, the garden at its spring best, and the house and its contents a source of interest to members and great pride to the volunteer guides. The party on the terrace was a most enjoyable occasion, and no one went home hungry! It was indeed a wonderful way to finish the Society's year.

The 2006 Christmas function will be held at Loreto College in the pleasant surroundings of Sir Edwin Smith's grand home The Acacias. The party will provide members with the opportunity to view the magnificent interior of the house, the stables, and the delightful Loreto College Museum which tells the history of the school. Members will also have the opportunity to visit the nearby Clayton Wesley church, which celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2006, to hear the recently restored organ.

Following my trip to India last year members have asked what I got up to in my annual January holidays. This year I took advantage of low airfares and hopped around the east coast. I find Tasmania wonderfully relaxing and spent time with my cousin in Hobart where we ate our way through the Tasting Tasmania Festival, enjoyed New Year's Eve and watched a few overs at the picturesque Bellerive Oval.

Then up to Sydney where I walked the Spit Bridge - Manly track and spent time in the company of family and friends. I then hired a car and drove to Canberra to view the exhibition *Shared experience: art and war - Australia, Britain and Canada in the Second World War* at the Australian War Memorial. This moving exhibition brought together

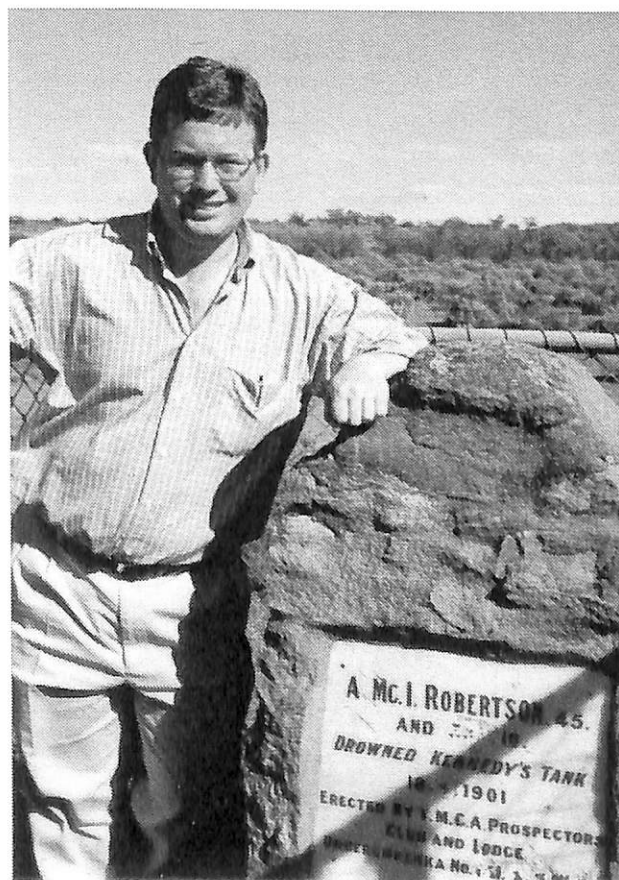
examples of World War II art from the collections of the Imperial War Museum (London), the Canadian National War Museum (Ottawa) and the Australian War Memorial. South Australia's acclaimed war artist Sir Ivor Hele was one of the artists featured in the exhibition.

I returned to Adelaide from Sydney by way of the 15 hour daylight train to Broken Hill, and by plane from there to Adelaide. In Broken Hill I paid my respects to my great, great Grandfather who, with his young son, is buried by the side of an outback creek following their accidental deaths by drowning 105 years ago. A cairn marks the grave site twelve miles from Broken Hill and bears the words 'Honour the Pioneer'. It is a lonely but strangely peaceful place, the creek bordered by large gums in an otherwise treeless landscape.

Returning to Society matters. Subscriptions for 2006 are now due and I would ask that you please renew promptly to ensure ongoing membership benefits are yours. Payment can be made by mail or at any Society function, and your prompt renewal will ease the workload on our already busy Treasurer.

I look forward to welcoming you to 2006 HSSA year at our February lecture.

David Cornish
President



David Cornish visits the creek side grave of his great grandfather Alexander Robertson a short distance from Broken Hill on the Tibooburra Road.

Gene Vecchio

The Telegraph, the Weather and the Goyder Line

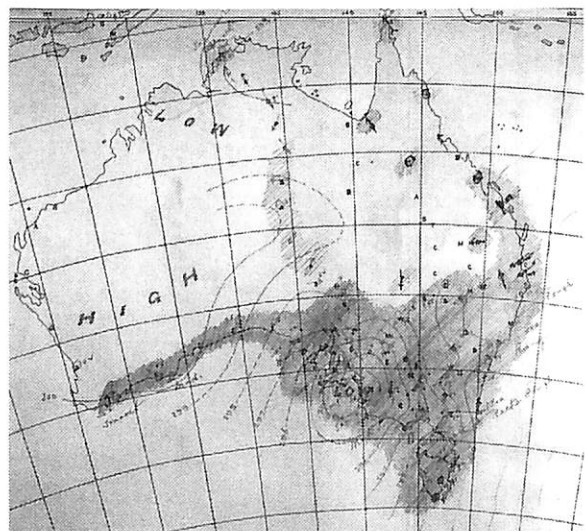
**7.30pm Friday
3 February
2006**

Prince Philip Theatre,
Prince Alfred College,
Kent Town

As a colony of free settlers, the steady economic growth of South Australia was made possible by the broad acre production of wheat and barley and their world wide exportation of both. Blessed with a suitable climate, enterprising colonists used new farming techniques and together with the support of rail, ports, telegraphic and weather reports played a major role in the successful growth of SA. There were a number of key players among these are two great SA icons, Sir Charles Todd and George W Goyder. This lecture will outline their contributions.



Gennaro Eugene (Gene) Vecchio, after graduating from Adelaide University in Applied Physics, and completing a post graduate course in Meteorology in Melbourne (1972) worked as a Meteorologist for the Australian Bureau of Meteorology for some 34 years. Early in his career, Gene completed further studies at Flinders University in Oceanography modelling the effects of swell and high seas generated by winter storms across southern Australian coasts. His storm surge model (completed in 1976) is still currently being used by operational forecasters for the prediction of abnormally high tides associated with passing storms and for calculations of potential flood levels for low lying coastal areas.



Left, weather chart, hand drawn by Charles Todd for 9am April 16, 1889 (Courtesy Bureau of Meteorology, SA) and, above, an image of Port Adelaide floods, 11 May, 1865.

Gene's other passions are travel, classical studies and medieval history. As a lecturer at U3A (Adelaide) and WEA he has taught history, classics and Italian language and culture since 1990 and taken several cultural tours to Europe and the Middle East. Since his retirement from the Bureau of Meteorology, Gene has continued with planning and conducting cultural tours for discerning travellers specializing in small group travels. Eugene was born in Italy and was almost 15 years old when he migrated to Australia with his family. He has three delightful grandchildren.

Lee Hammond

“Brothels,...music, dancing, revelry” in the city of churches: prostitution in the early days of the West End of Adelaide.

7.30pm Friday
3 March
2006

Prince Philip Theatre,
Prince Alfred College,
Kent Town

The term ‘West End’ has in the past referred not only to a clearly defined geographical space bordered by King William Street and South, West and North Terraces, but has also often been used to imply a reputation that was acquired quite soon after colonisation by that part of the City of Adelaide. This reputation was often associated with the prostitution trade that was seen to be rampant in the area. Early in the Colony of South Australia’s European settlement, articles and letters appeared in the press linking the West End with prostitution, and also, in colourful and explicit language, linking prostitution, and by association also the West End, with pollution.



Lee Hammond is a doctoral candidate at the University of South Australia.



‘Rescuing’ the ‘fallen’ appears to have been a fairly sombre, joyless and undoubtedly sober business. Sisters of the People, Adelaide Central Methodist Mission. (Adelaide Central Methodist Mission 16th Annual Report, 1916.)

The talk will briefly explore the representation of prostitutes in the press from settlement until the early twentieth century, and how this impacted on the reputation of the West End. The identity of the girls and women who were either forced by circumstances, or chose, to enter the trade and the reasons given for the large number of prostitutes in the City of Adelaide will be discussed. Police involvement in the prostitution trade and the West End, together with the impact of the justice system on prostitution and prostitutes over that period will be considered. A map will show the known brothel locations in the West End during the period under discussion.

Thistle Anderson – “A lady of character, style and note”. According to Thistle in 1905 “it is pretty generally admitted that, in proportion to size, Adelaide has more prostitution and more young girls on its streets than any other city in Australasia.” (Derek Whitelock, Thistle Anderson in Edwardian Adelaide (including Arcadian Adelaide, by Thistle Anderson, 1905), Wakefield Press, Netley, 1985



The Coromandel Valley and Districts Branch of the National Trust

On Sunday 4 December 2005 this branch of the National Trust held a Christmas tea in the gardens of Gamble Cottage. The delightful event celebrated the 50th anniversary of the group. During the occasion two Lorraine Lee roses, planted to trail around the entrance to the cottage, were dedicated to the memory of Rosemary Magarey. Lilian Archibald, with Rosemary a member of the original local history group, outlined how the group evolved from a small band of people interested in preserving heritage into the Coromandel Valley and Districts Branch of the National Trust.

In October HSSA will enjoy a bus tour of Coromandel Valley and leader Liz Sawyer will take us to Gamble Cottage. It is to be hoped that the roses planted in Rosemary's memory will be in full bloom.



(Photo courtesy of Friends of Gamble Garden)

State Library Archives

By Neil Thomas

Recent additions include:

A Mr Newnham was a passenger on the *South Australian* in 1872 and his shipboard diary mentions the numerous entertainments he and others put on for the amusement of the cabin and intermediate travellers. One of the 'programmes' is pasted on the inside cover of the diary. The land grant for three allotments (115-117) at Redruth, one of the Burra townships, taken up by William Paxton in 1850 has been donated. Paxton's name is commemorated in the row of cottages available for tourist hire in Burra. The bequest from the donor also includes a page from the *Illustrated London News* of 2 December 1848, with engravings of four S.T. Gill scenes of the Burra Mines and township which were hand-coloured later by an artist. The original paintings are among those used to illustrate Ian Auhl's book *Australia's earliest mining era: South Australia 1841-1851*. (The images will be available later on the South Australiana Database in the Library's Webpac catalogues.)

An interesting collection of letters from South Africa written from 1898 to 1902 by Robert Alfred Tarlton to his son-in-law Herbert Phillipps in Adelaide, covers the entire period of the Boer War. Tarlton's sons enlisted in South African units and the writer makes mention of their situations during the war. Tarlton was the chairman of directors of the Commercial Bank in South Australia and left for South Africa in 1893 with his family after the bank failed that year. He was a director of G. & R. Wills & Company from 1858 to 1869 and was married to a sister of George Wills' wife. Three members of the Fiveash family are the subjects of short biographies written by Deryck Skinner: Robert Archibald Fiveash (1816-1872), his son John Lodowick Rees (1843-1895) and daughter Rosa Catherine (1854-1938), the gifted botanical artist.

Bernard Arnold has translated part of the 1841 treatise by Wilhelm August Przygoda on Millwrighting from Sütterlin script into modern German; it is based on a German textbook on the subject. Przygoda arrived in 1849 and these notes would have served as his reference material when he came to construct a mill in his home in a new land. A diary kept by Albert West Bristow of Willowie in 1897 records his farming activities; a transcription of his father Abraham's diary from 1881 mentions his farm work as well as the civic affairs of the Wilmington district. A notebook kept during 1914-1917 by Riverland irrigation pioneer Samuel McIntosh has been added to his record group. (My entry for McIntosh appears in the recently launched *Australian Dictionary of Biography Supplementary Volume 1580-1980*.) A scrapbook of newspaper cuttings about the Wirrabara Forest kept by forester F. Melville from 1899 to 1915 is now in the archival collection.

A heritage study in 2002 on the 'Mission to Seamen' building at Outer Harbour by Ron Danvers for Flinders Ports and a research paper on *Bungala House* at Yankalilla by teacher Rosie Egan mention the architectural merits of these buildings. Groups have been created for the Union of Australian Women, which began in 1950, with records handed over up to 2005, and for refrigeration business Coldstream Pty Ltd. These were processed with the help of four volunteers, formerly Kelvinator Pty Ltd employees who worked for three years in conjunction with a Library archivist to appraise and sort the nineteen metres of records accepted for the collection.

Four Trains and Three Gauges: Adelaide to Sydney Via Broken Hill in 1937

A train trip from Adelaide to Sydney via Broken Hill in the 1930s was a much different affair from the comfortable cocoon of today's *Indian Pacific*. I contemplated these differences when reading the September 1938 edition of *The Chronicle*, the magazine produced by Prince Alfred College, where I found a delightful article written by a student¹ documenting a journey made by himself and his elder brother² by rail from Adelaide to Sydney via Broken Hill in December 1937. The article, which I have used as the basis of this piece, is a wonderful insight into rail travel at that time through the eyes of a 14 year old boy.

It is worth noting that the brothers were regular travellers between Adelaide and Sydney during the 1930s and, as they explained to me, they always travelled to Sydney via Melbourne and Albury. The only reason that the 1937 journey was via Broken Hill was to avoid the Poliomyelitis epidemic in Melbourne.

Thus their journey began. 'On 20th December last year, at seven o'clock in the evening, we left Adelaide to travel over a thousand miles by rail to Sydney. Our carriage was one of the best I have travelled in. There were panels made of beautiful polished redwood, and the windows of each compartment were made in one big piece. We travelled in this train until half-past eleven, up till which time I did some writing on the card table provided. Then we changed trains at Terowie'.

Departure from Adelaide was at 6.55pm from the magnificent Adelaide Station, completed nine years earlier in 1928, on board *The Broken Hill Express*. The train would probably have been hauled by one of the SAR's thoroughbred 600 class Pacifics introduced to service in 1926. The comfortable carriages favourably mentioned were the new all welded steel corridor cars placed in service during

1936 and 1937 for use on the broad gauge line to Port Pirie, opened five months earlier in July 1937, and on Terowie services. A refreshment stop would have been made at Riverton, and again at Terowie where all changed for the narrow gauge train to Broken Hill, which departed at 11.47pm for the 196 mile journey to Broken Hill.

The account continues; 'We tried to sleep in the narrow gauge train, which was a great contrast to the first. The night was very cold, and the compartments of the carriage lacked any privacy or comfort, even though we were travelling first class. We travelled on, with very little variation of the scenery, until we could see Broken Hill in the distance.'

With the change at Terowie came the distinctly different standard of the SAR's Peterborough Division narrow gauge operations, which didn't impress the young travellers in 1937, and which would remain the same until standardisation in 1970. This train would have been hauled by a member of the ubiquitous SAR T class of locomotive, introduced to service between 1903 and 1917. Passenger accommodation was provided in comfortable sleeping cars named *Coonatto*, *Alberga* and *Nilpena*, or in first and second class sitting cars. The type of car referred to in the article would have been a 300 class semi compartment vehicle, built before 1920 and upgraded to the semi compartment layout from 1936. At Cockburn, on the SA/NSW border, a Silverton Tramways A class 4-6-0 locomotive built twenty five years earlier would have replaced the SAR locomotive for the 35 mile journey to Broken Hill's Sulphide Street Station.

Our narrative continues: 'We arrived at Sulphide Street Station at nine o'clock, and took a taxi straight across Broken Hill to Crystal Street Station, where we caught the next train, which left soon after. The train, *The Silver City*

Comet, as it is called, is fully air-conditioned, and we realised how warm the day had been only when we left the train at Parkes, which is about the first big town after the desert'.

The taxi fare to the Crystal Street Station was a part of the through Adelaide - Sydney fare, and only 34 minutes between connections was provided. In December 1937 *The Silver City Comet* had only been in service on the Broken Hill line for two months following its inaugural run in September 1937. Much has been written about *The Silver City Comet*, particularly its speed, comfort, diesel propulsion and, as noted by our traveller, the innovation of air conditioning. Its rough riding nature and the hazards drinking tea was recalled by the elder of the brothers!

'As we left Parkes the sun was just setting, and the air was stifling. However, it soon grew very dark, and the night was very cold. We travelled the last stage of the journey in a steam train, *The Forbes Express*, where I soon went to sleep'. Our writer recorded passing through the Blue Mountains early in the morning, and then concluded: 'After travelling for another hour we reached the industrial districts, and when we had passed through a maze of factories, houses and divergent train lines, saw the Harbour Bridge. Then we passed through the last stations of our journey - Strathfield and Redfern - and finally reached the Central Station.'

The Forbes Mail connected with *The Silver City Comet* at Parkes, from where it departed at 6.58pm and travelled through the night, arriving in Sydney at 6.19am the following day. The NSWGR composition book of September 1937 gives the composition of this train as seven sitting passenger vehicles, and a VHO brake van. The 220 ton train would have been hauled by a C32 class on the leg to Orange, where a 36 class Pacific locomotive

was attached for the heavy grades across the mountains to Sydney.

Nearly seventy years have elapsed since the brothers undertook their journey of 1074 miles from Adelaide to Sydney via Broken Hill, travelling on four trains on three gauges. Seventy five years on much has changed. Trains can no longer run to Terowie, and the refreshment stop at Riverton is a fondly held memory by those who passed through. Sulphide Street Station is a museum where a set of *The Silver City Comet* has been preserved, alongside examples of broad and narrow gauge rolling stock used on *The Broken Hill Express*. Steam hauled mail trains are but a memory, and spotting the Harbour Bridge when approaching Sydney unimaginable.

¹ I am grateful to Dr Graham Holland (Sydney, NSW) for discussing the journey and the piece he wrote for *The Chronicle* with me.

² Tom Holland (Canberra, ACT) also provided his recollections of the journey. Refer *History SA* No. 172 May 2004 for further information about Mr Holland.

The assistance of the Australian Railway Historical Society (NSW Branch) archives in the preparation of this article is acknowledged.

This article has also appeared in *Catchpoint* (July 2005) published by the National Railway Museum, Port Adelaide.

Compiled by David Cornish.

Membership renewals are now due! Please use the membership form attached to your 2006 program to renew your membership. Payment can be made at any HSSA function or by mail. Your prompt payment will be much appreciated.

History SA editor Janet Callen is always on the look out for material for possible inclusion in the newsletter. If you have a short item of interest, or know someone who may have, please contact Janet (details inside rear cover of *History SA*).

Bank SA Heritage Icon; Menz Fru Chocs

In 1849 German migrants John Menz and Magdalena Lass migrated to South Australia and after marrying a year later the couple set up a small grocery store in Wakefield Street. After John's death Magdalena struggled on alone until sons William and August were old enough to join the business. They now focussed on confectionary and biscuit production. August's son Herman joined the firm in 1898, staying on until 1963. By the beginning of World War One 100 workers were employed and the produce sold all over the State. In the Centenary year, 1950, business was booming. A list from this time includes Yo-yos, Scotch Fingers, Orange Creams, and Milk Arrowroot biscuits, and Scorched Almonds, Frogs, Easter Eggs, Jubes, Crown Mints, and Fru Chocs. At the time Fru Chocs were bought loose by the ounce but later many types of packaging were used. The firm moved to Marleston and in 1992 was exporting to more than 20 countries. (From list of Bank SA Heritage Icons available in History Week)

Deadline for newsletter articles and entries February 14, 2006.

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ISSN 1444-8459

History SA is published with the assistance of a grant from the Federal Department for the Environment and Heritage. Articles may be reproduced without permission provided they remain unaltered and *History SA* is acknowledged.

Coming Events

Brighton Historical Society

Meets at 8 pm on the first Thursday of the month, except for January, in the Kingston Room, 24 Jetty Rd, Brighton. Speakers are announced in the Community Noticeboard section of the Messenger newspaper. Contact ph. 82981959.

Burnside Historical Society

Meets Burnside Community Centre 8pm third Monday of the month.

Monday 16 January St Marks College tour, led by John Bannon. This is to be followed by dinner.

Monday 20 February Wendy Griener's talk will be entitled "Twenty twenty Vision."

Contact Ph 8379 1039 or Ph 8379 4090.

East Torrens Historical Society

Meets 8pm at the Adelaide Hills Natural Resource Centre, Crescent Avenue, Norton Summit, on the second Wednesday of the month. Contact ph 8390 3138.

Kensington and Norwood Historical Society

Meets at 8 pm on the first Wednesday of the month in the Don Pyatt Room of the Norwood Town Hall.

Wednesday 1 February Dr Trevor Martin will speak about "The History of Dentistry."

On 15 February there will be a walking tour of Payneham Cemetery led by Jim Everett. For details contact Rachel McInnes ph 8363 9003.

Wednesday 1 March-Denise Schumann will speak about C J Dennis and members are invited to bring their favourite C J Dennis poem.

The Society has a new website

www.kensingtonandnorwoodhistoricalsociety.com

Port Adelaide Historical Society

Meets the third Wednesday of the month in the Semaphore Library at 8 pm.

18 January there will be a visit to Ripple Studios (The old Ezywalkin building on Commercial Road). Members will be conducted over this restored building. 15 February there will be a visit to the Australian Museum of Children at 95 Dale St, Port Adelaide. For details contact ph. 8248 8244. The January and February visits are at 7.30pm.

Salisbury and District Historical Society

Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Folk Museum, Ann St, Salisbury, at 7pm.

On 8 February Michael Talbert from the State Library will talk about old photographs.

On 8 March Lydia Laube, author and nurse, will talk about her experiences abroad. For details contact James Potter ph 8258 3016.

Tea Tree Gully and District Historical Society

Meets third Thursday of the month at the Old Highercombe Folk Museum, 3 Perseverance Rd, Tea Tree Gully at 7 pm.

There is no meeting in January and on 15 February there will be a Wednesday morning meeting at 10 am at the Tea Tree Gully Library Learning Centre. Di Love's talk is entitled "Some History of the Campbelltown area and St Martins."

16 March at the Folk Museum at 7 pm Dr Victor Gostin will talk about the geology and history of the Adelaide Hills and Flinders Ranges.

Contact ph 8288 0195.

Walkerville Historical Society

Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm in the Walkerville Town Hall.

On 15 February Tony Reade will discuss the aerial photography of D. Darian Smith.

On 15 March the CEO of the Adelaide airport will talk about the building of the new Terminal.

Contact ph 8269 5982.

Advance notice is also given of a seminar hosting historical societies of the Eastern region. It will be on 8 April at Wilderness School. For details contact Walkerville Historical Society.

The Federation of Australian Historical Societies

This organisation is the peak body representing the interests of historical societies throughout Australia. Membership of the Federation includes the Canberra and District Historical Society, the History Council of South Australia, the Historical Society of the Northern Territory, the Royal Historical Society of Queensland, the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, the Royal Western Australian Historical Society and the Tasmanian Historical Research Association.

The Federation aims to encourage the study of Australian history and the preservation and publication of historical material, and to facilitate public access to historical resources. It also provides a forum for the exchange of historical ideas throughout Australia.

More details can be obtained from URL <http://www.history.org.au>. E-mail ascribe@cyberone.com.au