

History Week 20-28 May

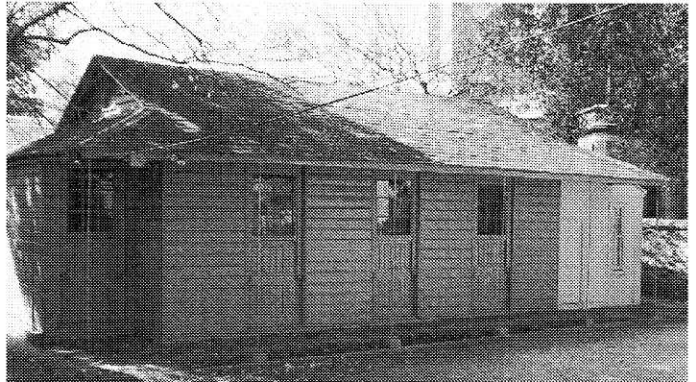
History Week is filled with interesting and exciting events and programs can be obtained from the information booth in Rundle Mall or from the History Trust of South Australia, telephone 8203 9888. Details of four special events are provided below.

- The Historical Society of the Uniting Church in South Australia will conduct an Open Day on Wednesday 24 May at the History Centre, 44a East Terrace, Black Forest, from 10am-4pm. There will be displays featuring the background of the three denominations which formed the Uniting Church in Australia and refreshments will be available.
- The Coromandel Valley and Districts Branch of the National Trust of South Australia will be displaying the newly assembled Ruth Sabine Photographic Collection of Blackwood and environs, dating back over fifty years. The display will be in Gamble Cottage, Main Rd, Coromandel Valley. The cottage and garden will be open between 2pm and 4pm weekdays and 10am-4pm at the weekend.
- At Port Adelaide the South Australian Maritime Museum will be show casing ancient trades at the Festival of Maritime Trades. South Australia's master craftsmen including sail makers, boat wrights, tinsmiths, coopers, and marine painters will demonstrate their crafts and visitors will be able to ask questions. Visitors will be able to spend a full day experiencing maritime history.
- The new South Australian Open Heritage Program will be part of History Week. A selection of local and rural activities on offer include an exhibition at Glenside Campus of historical surgical instruments from Adelaide's teaching hospitals, the opening of an underground house at Coober Pedy, the opening of Bishop's Court in Palmer Place North Adelaide, the opening of the Adelaide Mosque on Little Gilbert Street, City, tours of the Meningie Cheese Factory Museum, and tours of the Angas Family property, Collingrove Homestead, at Angaston.

2006 State History Conference 26-28 May

The conference is in Adelaide this year. It will be held once more in the excellently located Union Building at the University of Adelaide. An innovation will be the white boards dotted round the venue, for people to respond to some key questions and "hot" topics. This is to encourage debates during the weekend. Programs and details are available from the History Trust of South Australia, ph 8203 9877.

Quaker Meeting House to be open for visitors during History Week



Tucked away behind St Peter's Cathedral in North Adelaide, down a narrow lane and surrounded by trees, is one of Adelaide's oldest buildings, the Meeting House of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). A gift from English Friends and prefabricated on the banks of the Thames in 1839 by the architect/builder Henry Manning, the dismantled Meeting House was shipped to Adelaide onboard the sailing vessels *Rajasthan* and *John*, arriving in Port Adelaide in February 1840. Transported to North Adelaide in April 1840, the building was re-erected by June 1840, on land provided to the Society by John Barton Hack, and opened for worship in July 1840. Carefully maintained (the last refurbishment to restore the building to close to its original condition was completed in 1987), the Meeting House stands as it did when Friends first worshipped there.

While there are a number of other Manning buildings in South Australia and elsewhere, the Quaker Meeting House is of national and international importance as the only example of early Victorian prefabrication and construction still in close to original condition and in good repair, is the only one that contains the original furniture made by Manning, and is the only one still used regularly for its original purpose.

The Meeting House is listed by the National Trust, is on the Register of the National Estate and is on the State Heritage Register.

The Quaker Meeting House will be open to visitors during History Week on 20th, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, and 27th of May between 10 a.m. and 12 noon, and 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. on each day. A Member of the Society will be present on each occasion to assist visitors.

Bert Stock

From the President

Welcome to this edition of *History SA*.

Those of you who are regulars at HSSA meetings know that I often bemoan that 'it can't really be April, May, June...', or what ever month it is. As I wrote this column I realised that this edition of *History SA* will cover May and June, which takes us up to the second half of 2006. Frightening!

Since the last edition of this publication I have participated in two events as President, one very sad and the other very enjoyable. The sad occasion was the funeral of Society stalwart Dennis Hoskin, and I draw your attention to my tribute to Dennis published elsewhere in this newsletter. As President, I appreciated Dennis's friendship and support, and shall miss his cheery greeting at meetings.

The second event I attended, in the company of HSSA Treasurer Avis Huckel, Council member Colin Deed and my mother, Helen Cornish, was the annual garden party at Government House to which representatives of groups of which Her Excellency is Patron are invited. On a sunny autumn afternoon it was a privilege to meet the Governor and to thank her for her patronage of the Society, and to mingle with representatives from the diverse range of organisations of which she is patron.

At the April lecture ninety members and guests warmly received Professor Donald Simpson's presentation on the history of Neurosurgery in South Australia. Professor Simpson spoke of the early Neurosurgical procedures performed by Joseph Verco and Davies Thomas at the Adelaide Hospital. He also paid tribute to SA born world authority Sir Hugh Cairns, acknowledged the contributions of Adelaide specialists Sir Leonard Lindon, Dr Trevor 'Jim' Dinning and Dr Brian North. He also looked to the future through his explanation of the Neurosurgery Research Trust, which aims to raise funds for brain injury research in South Australia. Professor Simpson's well rounded and thoroughly researched presentation illustrated a little known but highly interesting chapter of medical history.

The Society's Annual General Meeting was conducted at the April meeting. Whilst keeping my report brief as it has already been published in the *Journal*, I would like to reiterate the thanks I extended to all members of the HSSA Council, the editorial committee and editor of the *Journal*, Ron Gibbs for his management of the Society's Endowment Fund, and to anyone who has given their time to assist in the successful operation of the Society during 2005.

Audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December were tabled and I am pleased to advise the Society's financial state is very healthy. Of particular satisfaction is the strength of the Life Members and Endowment Fund, and Council is considering options for the worthwhile expenditure of some of the interest received from this fund. Any member interested in obtaining a copy of the financial statements is invited to contact the secretary, Terry Saunderson.

At the AGM I paid particular tribute to Avis Huckel, who has stepped aside from the demanding office of Treasurer after the best part of twenty years service. Avis will continue on Council and will remain the contact for field trips and be responsible for Society mailings. Thank you Avis for a job well done.



HSSA President David Cornish (left) and incoming Treasurer Bill Stacy thank Avis Huckel for her outstanding service to the Society.

Bill Stacy, who has been the Society's Treasurer before will take up the Treasurership once again and I thank Bill for his willingness to be involved.

I look forward to welcoming you to Society events during 2006, and thank you for your support as I enter my sixth year as President.

David Cornish
President

Field Trip

July 2006

Wednesday – July 26, 10am

Parliament House with John Bannon

Our field trip on 26 July is a tour of Parliament House. The tour will be conducted by former Premier of South Australia and Society member John Bannon and commences at 10am.

Please meet on the steps of Parliament House. The cost is \$4 to be paid on the day. Bookings can be made with Avis at the July meeting or phone Avis on 8277 2953.

HSSA Annual General Meeting

I am pleased to advise of the Society's office holders for the next twelve months.

President: **David Cornish**

Vice President: **Geoffrey Bishop**

Treasurer: **Bill Stacy**

Secretary: **Terry Saunderson**

Council: **David Adams, Peter Adamson, Janet Callen, Colin Deed, Margaret Ford, Avis Huckel.**

Dr Jenny Tilby Stock will continue as editor of the *Journal* and **Janet Callen** as editor of *History SA*.

I look forward to working with Council in 2006 and thank those named for their participation in the management of the Society.

David Cornish

President

Flinders University Art Museum

This museum is situated on the ground floor of the State Library. Here the exhibitions change every eight weeks. The collection held by the museum is most famous for its contemporary Australian Indigenous art including works from Hermannsburg featuring Albert Namatjira and members of his family, and the Rodney Gooch collection including paintings by Emily Kame Kngwarreye. Paintings by Tim Leura Tjapaltjarri, and Old Mick Namarari are also in the collection. The European print section spans the fifteenth to the twentieth centuries. The earliest work is a page of the Nuremberg Chronicle from 1493. For further details and to arrange tours contact ph. 8207 7055.

Dennis Charles Hoskin 1936-2006

Dennis Hoskin loved life and the HSSA was but one of many community organisations in which he participated. His death in early March following a courageous battle with cancer will be noted with regret by the many members who appreciated his warmth and contribution to the Society.



Dennis documented our field trips through delightful cartoons, decorated the supper table with flowers from his garden, or with hand made decorations which tied in with the topic of the meeting. No one present will forget his enthusiastic Father Christmas at our party at Old Government House last year. His was a familiar face at all our meetings and on field trips, and will be missed.

Dennis's funeral was attended by 150 family, friends and representatives from the many organisations in which he took an interest. During his final months I visited Dennis, but would like to acknowledge HSSA Council member Colin Deed, who visited regularly and maintained links with Dennis's wife Athalie, to whom our sincere condolences go.



In pondering what to say about Dennis I was reminded of the epitaph on the grave of former South Australian Premier Sir Thomas Playford. It says 'A good man who did good things'. I can hear Dennis laughing off the comparison, but no one who knew Dennis would dispute that he was indeed a good man who did good things.

David Cornish
President

Jim Everett

Methodism - the differences that unite

**7.30pm Friday
2 June 2006**

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

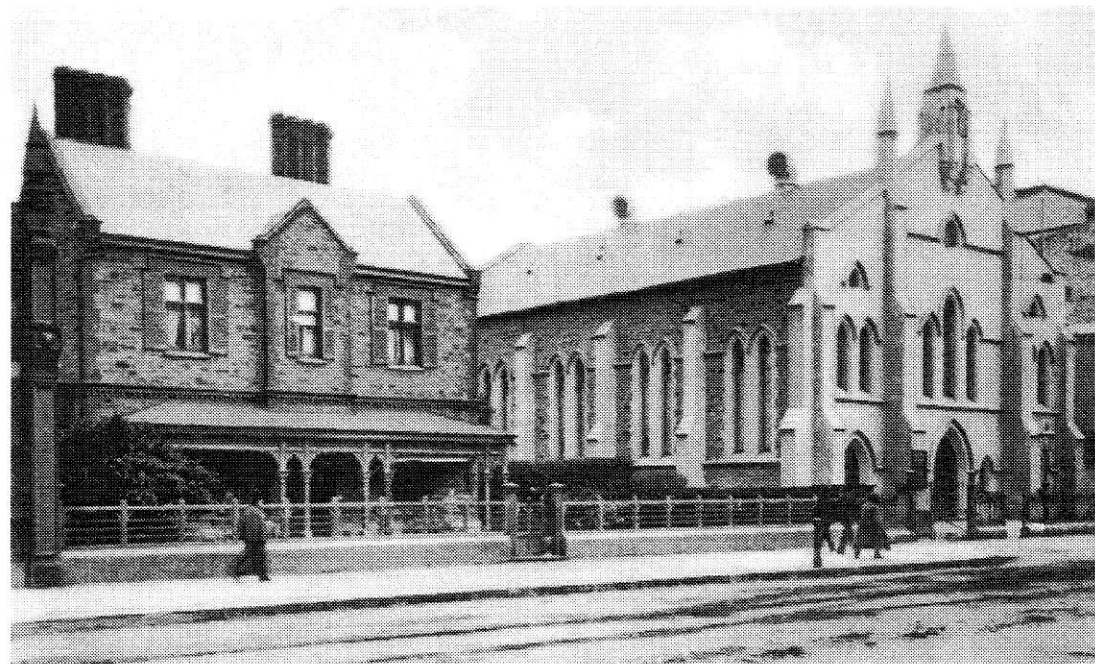
As a colony of free settlers the pioneers of South Australia brought their religious affiliations and established churches. We will trace the background of the Methodist groups; Wesleyan Methodist, Bible Christian, Primitive Methodist, and Methodist New Connexion, and their place in South Australian society and the union of the four to form the Methodist Church in South Australia on 1/1/1900. Union in Australia did not take place until 1902, and in England in 1932.

The talk will look at the differences and their common background from John Wesley, the great English preacher and evangelist. Following Union the new church grew in the 20th century where in the 1950s South Australian Methodists represented 21% of the state's population, second only to the Anglicans.

Jim will discuss styles of church architecture, social attitudes, and worship styles which can be identified and reflected in the groups that came into Union in 1900.

Jim Everett has served as the Secretary of the Methodist / U.C.A. Historical Society from 1971-1980 and is currently a member of the Society's Council.

Jim was the foundation president of the Campbelltown Historical Society from 1987 to 1992. He has published 3 church histories including the *History of Pirie St Methodist Church* in 1973. He is a member of the Uniting Church and an accredited lay preacher. He is proud of his Methodist background which has contributed to the Uniting Church. His great grand parents were original settlers at Roseworthy and he spent his early childhood on the property that they established. The family were members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.



Pirie Street Wesleyan Methodist Church and Parsonage c.1890 held by Jim Everett

Elizabeth Caldicott

Gardens as a reflection of culture

**7.30pm Friday
7 July 2006**

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

Throughout history, gardens may be seen as a reflection of the contemporary culture of those who created them.

At the time of Australia's first settlements in the eighteenth century, British garden designers were beginning to turn from the formal architectural gardens in favour of the more natural landscaped parks, but still on a grand scale. By the mid nineteenth century, when the colony of South Australia was founded, the English cottage garden had emerged as a popular small scale design in Britain, adding to the growing eclecticism of nineteenth century garden fashions in that country.



Above, Stourhead, Wiltshire typifies the grand landscaped English gardens of the 18th century.

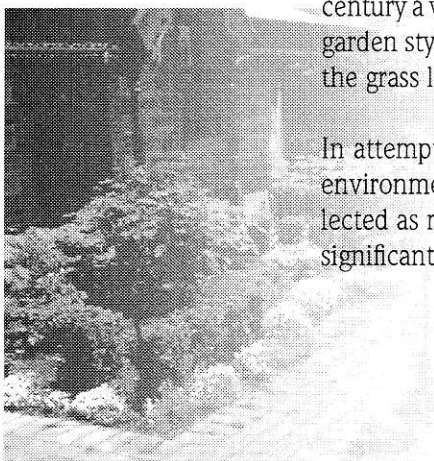
It might have been expected that early Australian colonial gardens would follow the familiar British landscape garden designs, but it has been suggested that there are a number of reasons why English garden traditions did not become more significant in the colonies:

- a. the broad acres necessary to the landscaped garden were too difficult for the settlers to clear and maintain
- b. the colonies' urgent needs were for food - grain, fruit and vegetables.
- c. the Australian soils and climate, in particular a shortage of ample and reliable water supplies, were less than conducive to encouraging English style gardens.

Adelaide's history of development differs markedly from the larger eastern cities due to a combination of ample space, relatively flat land, the nature of the first colonists and the orderly growth of the residential suburbs following closely on Col Light's original plan. Added to this was the early provision of a permanent reticulated water supply which enabled the establishment of modest household gardens. A neat front garden became a mark of respectability in the local suburban community. The front garden became a "showplace" while the back garden was a private area, combining the economic features of fruit trees, a vegetable patch, a chook house and a clothes line, as well as providing a safe play place for children.

Traditionally Adelaide's early front gardens followed the English style of formal flower-beds and, later, lawns and small perennial shrubs. However in the second half of the twentieth century a widespread transformation occurred both in the nature of plants being cultivated and garden style itself. Australian plants became popular, native trees and large shrubs appeared, the grass lawn diminished or disappeared, and a low maintenance informality emerged.

In attempting to explain this "metamorphosis" a number of social, economic, physical and environmental factors were identified. As a case study the Mitcham Council area was selected as representative of a continuous historical sequence of suburban development, with significant contrasts in microclimate and topography.



*Left, the cottage garden is a 1990s restoration in Hawthorn, SA.
(Photos supplied by Elizabeth Caldicott)*

150th Year of the South Australian Museum

To celebrate its 150th year the South Australian Museum has launched a program revealing secrets of the museum's history and collections. Throughout the year a series of Talks and Tours are being conducted. The next talk will be held on Wednesday 24 May, 5.30-7pm, in the Main Museum building foyer, North Terrace entrance. Dr Philip Jones's lecture is entitled "150 Years, a Potted History of the Museum and its Collections." On 21 June Robert Morris, Head of Collections at the museum, will provide insights into the history of collecting in his talk entitled "Profiling the Collector." For bookings contact Ph 8207 7575. Further details of activities at the museum will appear in future newsletters.

Our Railway History

It is worth spending time in the concourse of the Adelaide Railway Station currently being revitalised. "Stops in Time," exhibited in the old telephone boxes under the Honour Roll on the western wall, takes the viewer on a tour through the history of Adelaide's public transport. There are large images of the 1850s horse bus service introduced to connect suburbs such as Norwood, Glen Osmond, and Mitcham, to the city. Passengers can also be seen waiting outside the Burnside Inn at Burnside. The horse drawn railway line linking Port Elliot to Goolwa and the river trade opened in 1854 on the first iron rails to be laid in Australia. In spite of the opening in 1856 of the Port Adelaide Railway line using steam locomotives, horses remained the main form of transport for years. Cobb and Co began coaches in the Glenelg area going from Glenelg to Marion and the city in 1867. There is a picture too of John Hill and Co.'s horse coach preparing to leave from outside the Criterion Hotel on the corner of King William St and Rundle St. Horses and drivers became confused along King William St, as bells were used as signals for the horses drawing trams and coaches to stop and start. With the chiming of the Post office clock it was all too much!

However in 1906 The Municipal Tramways Trust formed and was granted by Parliament £280,000, the equivalent of \$32,000,000, to buy all the horse tram services and to convert them to an electric service over three years. In 1912 a law forbade women to wear sharp hat pins on board a tram. Ouch!

Meanwhile the motor car was on the increase. The first fleet of Adelaide taxis is pictured, with 2 De Dions and 1 Renault, in 1915. Ten years before this Inspector Shakespeare had organised driving tests for motor cab drivers.

At the other end of the concourse on the western wall is Curiosity Corner. Here there is a picture of the horsebox used by Pharlap on the tram journey from the Adelaide Station to Morphettville Race course in 1930. This especially designed tram carriage is on display at the St Kilda Tramways Museum.

Art Exhibition at Carrick Hill

The exhibition is entitled "George French Angas, South Australia Illustrated," and is an exhibition of watercolours and lithographs from the collection of the Art Gallery of South Australia. It is open until 30 June. The address is 46 Carrick Hill Drive Springfield. Contact ph. 8379 3886.

The Opening of the Smith Brothers Walking Trail at the Adelaide Airport.

On 12 February the members of the committee of the Walkerville Historical Society were among the 100 invited guests celebrating the launch of the Smith Brothers Walking Trail. The ceremony was held at the Vickers Vimy Building. The trail is a series of 20 brass plaques set in the footpath leading from the western door of the new terminal, to the Vickers Vimy Building near the old terminal. The plaques describe stages in the epic flight in 1919, when Ross and Keith Smith, and Walter Spiers and James Bennett completed a 27 day flight

from England to Darwin. Ross and Keith were South Australians and their flight ended with their landing at Northfield.

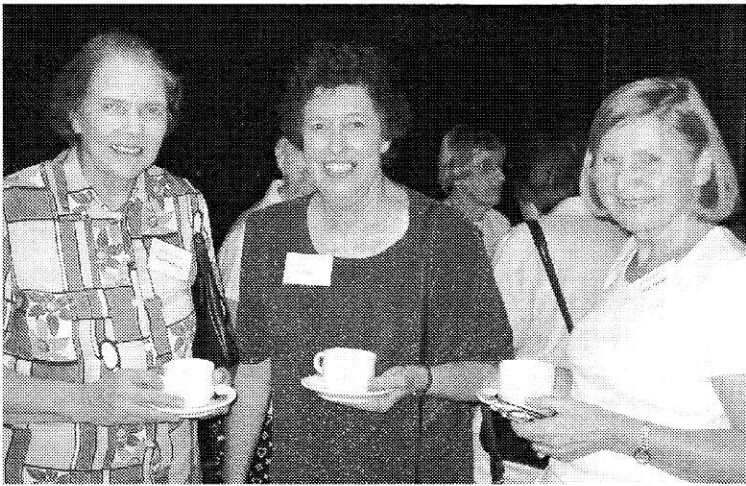
The idea for the trail grew from a talk which Judith Rischbieth* gave to the Walkerville Historical Society, where she commented that with the opening of the new terminal the Vickers Vimy Building and its importance to aviation could be overlooked. The project gained the support of Jane Lomax Smith and Tourism Australia, the Airport Authority, and the History Trust

of South Australia. A leaflet describing the trail is available from Tourist Information in the city, the Adelaide Airport, and the Walkerville Historical Society. The commemorative plaque is to be placed in the new terminal and will encourage passengers to walk the trail while awaiting their flight.

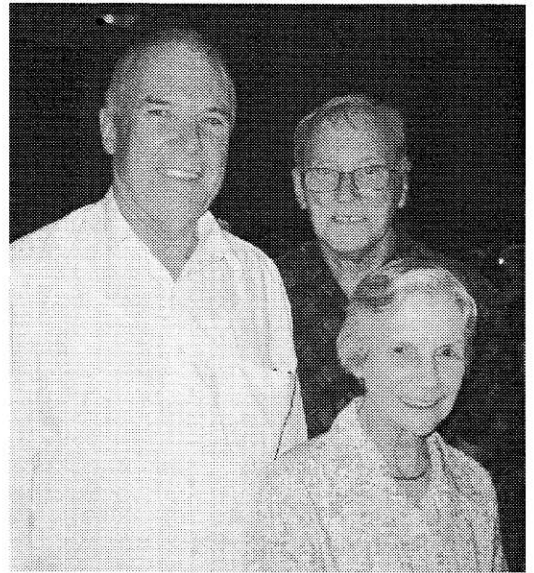
(information supplied by the Walkerville Historical Society.)

*Guest speaker at the September HSSA meeting.

HSSA Activities



Cora Nankivell, Pat Jackson and Nelia Thomas enjoy supper at the March meeting.



Melbourne based member John Jenkin (left) is welcomed to the March meeting by Helen and Frank Cornish



March guest speaker Lee Hammond (centre) is thanked following her presentation by Pat Sumerling (left) and Kathleen Patitsas (right)



Member's of the family of Sir Leonard Lindon, L-R Fran Lindon, Mary Lindon, Jenny and Bob Burston, thank Professor Donald Simpson AO for his lecture at the April meeting.

Early Adelaide In Colour

A Display of Historic Postcards

Adelaide City Council Archives is presenting a display of early postcards depicting scenes of Adelaide's streets and buildings, the Torrens Lake, Victoria Square, parks and gardens. The items on display are large format reproductions of the once popular coloured postcards which the Archives has digitised and printed in large full colour format.

Adelaide at the beginning of the 20th Century was almost unrecognisable from the City we know today. The images presented here show the extent to which the City has changed since that time.

In 1906 Adelaide was a model English provincial city abroad. The images show a clean, picturesque, garden city in which grand boulevards, stately Victorian buildings, splendid parks and scrupulously maintained public gardens are all apparent. Like most postcard images they portray a sunny, sanitised, almost pristine view of what the civic landscape was like at the time, one that probably did not resemble reality all that completely.



Black and White photographs of Adelaide around this time are plentiful and are well represented in a number of archival collections and publications. Colour photography was not available until much later so colour images of the City before about the 1960s are few and far between.

The views on display are not colour photographs, they are copied from a fascinating collection of hand tinted historic postcards, a technique that

was commonly used around this time to present a more vivid portrayal of subjects. They were commissioned by the newly-formed SA Intelligence and Tourism Bureau around 1906 as a way of promoting the State's attractions and progress to prospective immigrants and tourists.

The display is located in the Archives' shopfront window in Topham Mall and will run until the end of June.

Copies of the historic postcards are available from the Archives or may be viewed online at http://www.adelaidecitycouncil.com/archives/gallery/civic_collection_gallery_Early_Adelaide.htm and http://www.adelaidecitycouncil.com/archives/gallery/civic_collection_gallery_postcards.htm



Thirty Years Ago

Farewell "Blue Hills."

It was thirty years ago, in 1976, that listeners and fans heard their last episode of the lunch time radio serial "Blue Hills." For 27 years the fortunes of Fleur, Jack, Hilda, Ed, and the others could be followed after the 1pm news in homes throughout South Australia. Gwen Meredith (left) recorded 5795 episodes between 1949 and 1976. *The Lawsons*, and the sequel *Blue Hills* have been published in book form. Gwen Meredith was born in 1907 and for many years has lived in the NSW Southern Highlands. (adapted from *The Weekend Australian Magazine* February 25-26 2006)

News from the Book Table

The following snippets about our public transport system can be found in *A Strip of Seashore known as Henley Beach; a History of its Catholic Community 1899-1999*, by Frank Sweeney.

This detailed history contains lively memories of the way of life in a bygone age.

Since 1910 the electric tram from Adelaide had spanned the swampy reedbeds of the River Torrens with a 400m viaduct about 2m high. The ride across was an event for visitors and exemplified the separation of the township from the surrounding countryside, particularly after rain when the ground below was a series of billabongs. The Municipal Tramways Trust subsidised a new shopping block and band stand in Henley Square and in the summer season the band would play weekly. The band travelled in an open tramcar from Adelaide playing selections along Henley Beach Road to encourage customers to come on the tram at concession fares. The promotion was very successful. (p 7)

Later there was a new church hall, the position of which made it a popular venue for dancing.

It faced the sea and the tram from Adelaide now terminated at the intersection of Seaview Rd and Marlborough St. After 1923 there was also a rail station at the corner of Military Rd and Marlborough St which, through Woodville, catered for suburbs from Port Adelaide to Hindmarsh. Although private motor transport was increasing most people relied on public transport. Dancing was a popular form of entertaining and the hard wood floor of the new church proved to be of excellent quality and its fame was widespread among dancers. (p17)

As mentioned memories are called upon to enliven the book.

The priests often cycled to and from early Mass at Henley Beach. The Brady family recalled that Michael Brady, the chemist of Victoria St, would occasionally cycle to his pharmacy at Welland with the priest returning to Hindmarsh after celebrating 7 am Mass as his riding companion. Cycling was a common form of transport. Even in inclement weather there was a steady stream of cyclists along Henley Beach Rd morning and evening. (p19)

The interesting excerpts below are quoted from *The Register* newspaper and are included in the book *A Pioneer History of South Australia*, by The Pioneers Association of South Australia Inc. The description is of the city streets in 1839.

One rainy evening I was proceeding home in Gilbert St from the residence of Doctor Nash in Grenfell St, duly furnished with a lantern as well as an umbrella, when I unexpectedly walked into a cold bath, the surface of which just failed to reach my chin; from the uncomfortable sensation I experienced I sincerely hoped that I was the first bather therein, a hope no doubt well founded because no previous rain had fallen since the removal of my predecessor in the hole, an enormous gum tree. I forgot what became of my lantern and umbrella but scrambled out somehow. (*The Register* 15 January 1878.) quoted from an article by G D Mudie in *A Pioneer History of South Australia* p136.

In 1846 a correspondent to *The Register* wrote;

My first impression of Adelaide was a long straggling street, very red, very sandy, and very hot. The sand which was a bright red colour seemed to have stained the houses, the bullocks, and even the very inhabitants. Drays were tagging slowly along the street. The people were walking at a very business like pace, passing each other with slight nods as if time were precious. They all had a jaunty-like faded air. Several horsemen were riding along through unpaved streets that were beaten and trodden into a solid crust equal to any macadamized road in England. (*The Register* 19 December 1846), article by GD Mudie in *A Pioneer History of South Australia* p137.

This book contains an absolute treasure trove of information, impressions, and memories. Both publications are available from Avis at our monthly meetings. There is also a 20% reduction on some items.

Australian UNESCO Memory of the World Project Register

The Convict Records Archive recently inscribed onto this register is one of the most important and extensive penology archives in the World, covering the period 1787-1842. Other important Australian documents already included on the register are Captain Cook's Endeavour Journal and the Eddie Mabo papers, both from the National Library of Australia. Details of the Australian UNESCO Memory of the World Project can be obtained from <http://www.amw.org.au>

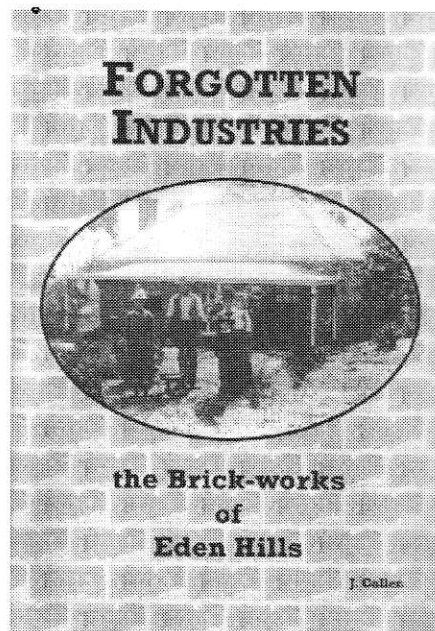
Janet Callen *Forgotten Industries, the Brick-works of Eden Hills*. Blackwood, 2005 (available from Blackwood newsagencies and Blackwood bookshops and from Avis's Book Table)

With some trepidation I agreed to review *Forgotten Industries* by my good friend, Janet Callen. I knew nothing about the subject and would, of course, be biased.

Nevertheless I enjoyed reading this booklet. Janet is a very good story teller, lucid, and always entertaining. Local history is her specialty. The opening page includes an excellent quote from a diary dated 1838, and throughout the text there abound similar commentaries about specific contemporary settings or events.

Janet tells us that in the early days of the colony bricks were made by hand and brick moulders were very well paid. The quality of the finished product improved as the process of making bricks by hand was altered with the use of steam to heat the kiln and finally with the use of electricity. By the 1880s, at Eden Hills, eight thousand first class bricks were produced per day to be used for lining tunnels on the Adelaide to Nairne railway line. As a consequence this brick making business was expanded and eventually taken over by the Metropolitan Brick Company. Reputedly the "best building bricks in the State and probably in the whole of Australia" were those made at Blackwood out of glacial till (p 18). The company prospered in response to increasing demand, particularly after WW1. Then the impact of the Depression and the subsequent closure is discussed. There is a chapter on the Wade's Brickworks at Eden Hills.

The booklet is well illustrated with either photos, advertisements, maps, newspaper articles and sketches on every page. Oral histories were supplied by several local residents and their comments enliven the text. There is a brief summary of some of their personal views in the final chapter 'Snippets and Memories'.



Much information was provided by members of the Wade family for the chapter on their brickworks.

Today very little physical evidence remains. Janet has ensured that significance of the brick-works of Eden Hills will be recognized and recorded.

Marie Steiner

This is an independent review

At the Maritime Museum

126 Lipson St, Port Adelaide

South Australia on the Map 1606-2006. (13 April-21 June 2006 10am-5pm daily)

The exhibition marks 400 years of exploration since the first recorded sighting of the Australian continent by a European vessel. Drawing on the State's major collections the museum has brought together many historical treasures never displayed before. On show are beautifully executed maps, one dated 1722, showing a perspective of Terra Australis from the South Pole, navigational instruments and the first Dutch proposal to settle a colony in Nuyts Land (South Australia) dated 1718. This exhibition coincides with the visit of the replica vessel *Duyfken* to Port Adelaide, 19-28 May. In 1606 Captain Willem Janzoon sailed the *Duyfken* from Indonesia to Australia and charted part of the coast of Cape York Peninsula. The *Duyfken* arrives as part of a 12,000km journey commemorating this 400th anniversary.

South Australian Genealogy Society

Applications for membership are welcome from all those with an interest in genealogy and family history. Members then have access to the library at 201 Unley Rd. and receive a quarterly journal free of charge. There are seminars conducted by the Society. A research service is offered to people living out of Adelaide. A document service supplying certificates and extracts of documents 1858-1943 is available.

Special interest groups cater for members interested in particular areas of research. The groups meet at the library at varying times. Germanic and Continental European groups meet at 7.30pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, Irish 2nd Monday, Midlands(England) 3rd Wednesday, North of England 4th Monday, Scottish 3rd Monday, South East England 1st Thursday, and West Country England 1st Wednesday.

For details phone 8272 4222.

By Neil Thomas

Recent additions include:

Transcripts are now available for the letters and diaries written by Methodist missionary the Rev. Matthew Wilson (d. 1876) and his wife while *en route* to, and serving in, Tonga and later in South Australia Methodist circuits in the 19th century. A diary kept by Max Venables while a prisoner of war in Changi prison camp has been donated, together with other family papers he collected. The diary was published as *From Wayville to Changi and beyond* in 2002. It also records the wider experience of the unit in which the writer served, the 8th Division Ammunition Support Unit. A letter written on 16 August 1945 by 17 year old Alice Helen Cook (later Helen Dewar), to her parents Frank and Henrietta Cook at Minnipa, Eyre Peninsula, describes in some detail the nature of the victory celebrations in the streets of Adelaide over two days, following the cessation of the hostilities in the Pacific and the end of World War II.

More research papers by Deryck Skinner have been added. *A brief biographical account of the Murray family of Coromandel Valley, South Australia* draws on his research of both original and published sources to document the family, including Alexander Murray (senior and junior), Albany Murray and wife Beatrice (nee Fiveash), and business activities including the Murray Biscuit Factory. *A brief biography of Rev. John Baptist Austin (senior and junior), Edward Austin, Henry Howard Austin [and] Henry Lashbrooke Austin jnr.* outlines the lives of the various Austin family members. The papers of Bruce Muirden (born 1928) include manuscripts and galley proofs of his published works, correspondence, scrapbooks of newspaper cuttings and book reviews, political and historical literature, papers of the Humanist Society, the Campaign for Peace in Vietnam, and the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, and photographs.

The recent very successful joint seminar in which the State Library, State Records and National Archives participated, on the theme *More than just shipping lists: archival records of the migrant experience*, highlighted the variety of available documents and records in Adelaide on this subject. A recent accession in this vein is the collection relating to migrant organisations in South Australia including correspondence, meeting records, leaflets, flyers, menus and programs covering Asian, Indo-Chinese, Buddhist, Cambodian, Khmer, and Vietnamese associations.

Interviews recorded in 1980 with J.D. Cheesman and Sir James Irwin relating to architecture and building heritage in South Australia, and their own careers in this field have resulted in the transcripts being donated to the collection. Marisa Loren has compiled two more albums of pictorial and historical information on Catholic places of worship in South Australia.

The original 1863 Deed of Settlement for the South Australian Gas Company Incorporated has been donated, in which the original directors of the company are identified (Henry Ayers, George Hall, Abraham Scott, Arthur Blyth, Randolph Isham Stow, Philip Levi and Alfred Watts among them) and the terms of operation of the company spelt out. The possibility is being currently investigated that the archival records of SAGASCO could be transferred to the State Library at some future date.

Deadline for newsletter articles and entries June 14, 2006.

Historical Society of South Australia Inc.

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Coming Events

Brighton Historical Society

Meets at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of the month in the Kingston Room, 24 Jetty Rd, Brighton. On 1 June Brenton Wilkinson will speak about the history of the Morphetville Racecourse. On 6 July David McGowan's talk is entitled "A Grave Look at South Australia." ph. 8298 1959.

Burnside Historical Society

Meets at the Burnside Community Centre at 8 pm on the third Monday of the month. On Monday 15 May David and Kay Gill will speak on "Cornish Migration to South Australia." On 19 June the talk is entitled "A Celebration of Older Australians." ph. 83794090.

Campbelltown Historical Society

Meetings are held at the old Council Chambers, 2 Newton Rd, Newton, at 8 pm on the second Tuesday of the month. The AGM will be held on 13 June. ph. 8336 6959.

East Torrens Historical Society

Meets 8pm at the Adelaide Hills Natural Resource Centre, Crescent Ave, Norton Summit, on the second Wednesday of the month. On 12 July Dr Pamela Smith will speak about the built heritage of the Hills Face Zone in the East Torrens area. ph. 8390 3138.

Enfield and Districts Historical Society

Conducts evening meetings at 7.15pm on the 4th Wednesday of the month and day time meetings at 1.30 pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Meetings are held at the Enfield Community Centre, 540 Regency Rd, Enfield. ph. 8367 7838.

History of Science, Ideas, and Technology Group

Meets at 7pm in the Ira Raymond Exhibition Room at the Barr Smith Library. On Monday 28 August Dr David Paton will speak about "The History of the Coorong." Visitors are welcome. ph. 8361 8040.

Kensington and Norwood Historical Society.

Meets at 8pm on the first Wednesday of the month in the Don Pyatt Room of the Norwood Town Hall. The AGM will be held on Wednesday 7 June, followed by a members "Show and Tell." ph. 8363 9003.

Royal Geographical Society of South Australia

Meets in the Mortlock Wing of the State Library. On Thursday 25 May at 6.30 pm Professor Diane Mather will speak about "Genetic change in plants; from crop domestication to molecular breeding." The Brock Lecture will be held at 6.30pm on 22 June. The topic is "Old Quarrels and New Approaches: Matthew Flinders and Nicolas Baudin." ph. 8207 7266.

Port Adelaide Historical Society

Meets the third Wednesday of the month in the Semaphore Library at 8 pm. On 21 June as well as the AGM Mr John Leonard will continue his stories of the "Changing Face of Outer Harbour." On 19 June Mr Terry Duggan will speak about the 74 gun H.M.S Hercules and her eventful journey to South Australia in 1853 with 375 immigrants on board. ph. 8248 3344.

Salisbury and Districts Historical Society

Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Folk Museum, Ann St Salisbury, at 7 pm. On 14 June Gordon Oates will speak about the Parafield Aerodrome. During History Week there will be a display in the John Harvey Gallery. For details ph. 82500763

Tea Tree Gully and District Historical Society

Meets the third Thursday of the month at the Old Highercombe Folk Museum, 3 Perseverance Rd, Tea Tree Gully at 7 pm. On 21 June Mr Graham Polglase will speak about "The History of David Jones Department Store." ph. 8288 0195.

Walkerville Historical Society

Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm in the Walkerville Town Hall. ph. 8269 5982.

Special Invitation: The Field Geology Club of South Australia

This club is inviting members to attend their meetings and excursions. Saturday 30 September- Saturday 7 October there will be an 8 day excursion to Eyre Peninsula exploring the geology, scenery, oysters and wine of the area. Details contact Bob Major, ph. 8352 8949.

At the Migration Museum

82 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide

Three Sides of the Coin, Gambling in South Australia

(7 April -9 October 2006, 10am-5pm weekdays, 1pm-5pm weekends)

This exhibition looks at the variety of games brought to South Australia by migrants from different places. It examines games played for fun and those played for high stakes. Items on display include Mahjong tiles, Bau Cua Ca Cop games, cards, and board games.

At the Motor Museum

Shannon St, Birdwood

Weird Wheels

(Open 9am-5pm daily until August)

This exhibition presents the changes in car design from the earliest days of the motor car. The main factors influencing design are advances in technology, particularly the advent of the computer, tax laws, and economics of design.