

## Story on Adelaide's Clandestine Past

### Awarded Prize

Patricia Sumerling, a long standing member of HSSA, was again awarded the History Trust of South Australia's "Tales of the City" essay contest. The win was announced at the recent State History Conference.

Patricia's essay, entitled *Madam Harpur; the Trials and Tribulations of an Adelaide Doctress*, concerns the life of Madam Harpur alias Melissa Fairburn who worked in Adelaide between 1893 and 1908. She performed as many as five abortions a day, some almost full term, in dreadful conditions which led to infection, blood poisoning, and death. During her life she had three court appearances for procuring abortion and two for murder, and was convicted and imprisoned for manslaughter. Madam Harpur worked from various premises including 148 Flinders St, and Edmund St Unley. From Botanic Chambers North Tce she worked with her husband Dr Samuel Brierly, providing "treatment for all private and special complaints of women."

The Catherine Mary Gilbert Prize is funded by Professor Susan Magarey in honour of her mother. It aims to encourage new writing and research into the history of Adelaide.

Congratulations Patricia.



Winner of the *Tales of the City* essay contest Patricia Sumerling and the History Trust of South Australia Board of Trustees Chair Philip Broderick at the announcement during History Week (Courtesy History Trust of SA)

## One Hundred and Thirty Years Ago

From the Yorke Peninsula Regional Visitors Centre in Kadina comes the information that the jetty in Port Victoria was built in 1876 because farmers were complaining about the difficulties of loading grain into boats at the port. By the time the jetty was opened in 1878 two large sheds had been built to provide dry storage. The L shaped extension was built in 1883 to provide shelter from south westerly weather. The last really large sailing ship to come into the port was the *Cardigan Castle*. She left Port Victoria in February 1879 loaded with 1,800 tons of wheat. The last square rigger to use this port was the *Pamir* in 1949.

In Port Turton also the jetty was built in 1876, to service the community and to ship local stone. Stone quarrying ceased in 1917. The jetty continued to be used by ketches and steam ships to ship grain, fertilizer, heavy freight and local provisions. Nowadays it is used by the fishing industry.

The Ardrossan jetty was built in 1876 and Ardrossan was proclaimed a port in 1878. Bags of grain were carried along the jetty by horse drawn trolleys and stowed on board so that they would not shift in heavy seas. Tuesdays and Fridays were steamer days providing a service to and from Adelaide. The trip across the gulf took about 4 hours.

## From the President

Welcome to the July edition of *History SA*.

What a busy time it has been for history lovers in South Australia over the last few months! In addition to the Society's program many members took the opportunity to make the most of SA History Week 2006.

The History Week program is like those for the Adelaide Festival or the Fringe Festival in that there is so much on offer and not enough time to do everything! From my conversations with members it was evident that many of you would agree with me, and that an extension to History Week would provide more scope to enjoy the many activities on offer, and be a welcome improvement to a successful and growing event.

What struck me most about History Week was the willingness of organisations and individuals to get involved, making many otherwise inaccessible places open for our enjoyment. I enjoyed the opportunity to visit the Robin Boyd designed house in Palmer Place, North Adelaide, and this was only possible through the community minded actions of the owner. Jim Everett, our June speaker, opened the Smyth Chapel in West Terrace Cemetery and explained the interesting features of this delightful building. Similarly, a member of the Society of Friends welcomed visitors to the their meeting house.

I also enjoyed the wonderful open day hosted by the members of Christ Church, North Adelaide. The parishioners had gone to an enormous amount of effort to have the Rectory open for inspection, displays in the church, guides on hand, the organ playing and afternoon tea in their hall. A really good example of a community group getting involved with History Week

The History of Science, Technology and Ideas Group welcomed Melbourne based HSSA member Dr John Jenkin to their History Week lecture at Adelaide University. John spoke of the Nobel laureates Sir William and Sir Lawrence Bragg, with particular emphasis on their lives during World War I. John's knowledge and enthusiasm for his topic was palpable, and hopefully a book by him on the Bragg's is on the way.

I am sure the experiences I enjoyed during History Week and the spirit I noted amongst participating property owners and community groups wasn't isolated, and that this was a hall mark of the event. I congratulate the History Trust of South Australia and partner organisations on the coordination of the week, the quality of the History Week guide, and the informative notes provided at many venues. South Australia is well known for its busy calendar of special events and I can see History Week taking its place in the ranks of these. Well done to all involved with SA History Week 2006.

At the Society's May meeting a full house enjoyed Kevin Kakoschke's presentation telling the story of Radium Hill and marking its centenary. Kevin, a former resident and worker of Radium Hill, spoke of operations at the mine, the sometimes rough and tumble lives of those who worked it and, most importantly the strength of the community who called Radium Hill home, a strength which continues to this day through reunions. Archival footage helped to tell the story. Thank you Kevin for sharing this little known aspect of South Australia's history with us.

Jim Everett's June meeting presentation focused on the history of Methodism in South Australia. From a long line of Methodists himself, Jim explained the branches of Methodism in South Australia, the Bible Christians, Primitive Methodists and Wesleyan Methodist, and their amalgamation in 1903 to form the Methodist Church. Jim also showed examples of church architecture and the styles preferred by the different groups. Many of these remain today and will now be appreciated by those who heard Jim's presentation in a new light.

A large group of members also enjoyed the opportunity to visit Tea Tree Gully and environs on the Society's day trip there on May 7. I would like to thank the Tea Tree Gully branch of the National Trust of SA and others who made the outing a success. The Society's next Sunday outing is to St Jude's cemetery, Brighton, on 13 August 2006.

The Society's Council has been busy with a number of meetings having taken place. A small group met to review the Society's finances, a second group has been reviewing promotional opportunities for the Society, whilst all Council members have been applying themselves to suggesting possible speakers and field trip destinations for the 2007 program.

Another innovation of Council is to invite the President of another historical society to be our guest at a monthly presentation, and to give a brief overview of that Society's activities. I look forward to welcoming Mrs Isabel Williams OAM, President of the Burnside Historical Society to the August meeting. We hope this will strengthen ties with kindred organisations and be of mutual benefit.

I look forward to seeing you at Society activities in the second half of 2006.

**David Cornish**  
**President**

## Field Trip

**July 2006**

Wednesday – July 26, 10am

**Parliament House with John Bannon**

**Parliament House Tour**

The Parliament of SA will soon celebrate its 150 anniversary. HSSA member and former Premier of SA John Bannon has kindly agreed to guide us on a unique tour of Parliament House, sharing his memories as an MP and the knowledge he has of the building and those who served before him. It will be a fascinating and memorable tour, please book early by contacting Avis Huckel 8277 2953. The tour will commence from the front steps of Parliament House and will cost \$5.

## Field Trip

**August 2006**

Sunday – 13 August 2pm

**St Jude's Cemetery**

Jill Golley, President of the Brighton Historical Society, will conduct this tour of the State Heritage listed cemetery. The old part dates from 1854 and contains the graves of many notable South Australians including Sir Douglas Mawson, and Catherine Helen Spence. Jill will meet us at the entrance to the cemetery which is situated behind St Jude's Anglican Church, 444 Brighton Rd, Brighton. The tour will take about one and a half hours, and a gold coin donation would be appreciated. She advises that there are many cosy coffee shops on nearby Jetty Rd for members wanting refreshments before or after the tour!

## Field Trip

**September 2006**

Wednesday – 20 September, 10.30am

**Royal Adelaide Hospital**

On Wednesday 20 September we plan to visit the Royal Adelaide Hospital, where the hospital archivist Rose Wilson will show us some of the intriguing aspects of health care in the past. We will also have the opportunity to enjoy the historic and faithfully restored home of Rosemary and Ray Michell, the only residence of its type on North Terrace. The plan is to meet in the foyer adjacent to the Main Entrance of the Royal Adelaide Hospital at 10.30 am. Advance notice of the excursion is given here and further details will be available from Avis Huckel, ph. 8277 2953.

## Adelaide Parklands Symposium

On Friday 10 November the Adelaide Parklands Symposium will commence at the University of South Australia. The theme is "A Balancing Act, Past, Present, and Future." This public event will be for three days and will include Parklands tours on Saturday 11 November and a lecture and forum on Sunday 12 November. For further information contact Dr Christine Garnaut ph. 8302 0204, email [christine.garnaut@unisa.edu.au](mailto:christine.garnaut@unisa.edu.au).

## History Council of South Australia Annual Lecture and November Symposium.

This year's lecture will be given by Professor Eric Richards and is entitled "British White Australia in Perspective". It will be held on Tuesday 25 July at 6pm at the State Library's lecture theatre, and will be followed by light refreshments. A gold coin donation would be appreciated. Further details ph 8207 7347 or email [mills.annette@slsa.sa.gov.au](mailto:mills.annette@slsa.sa.gov.au).



## Can anyone help?

This photo is of a Peace Day Procession, probably marking the end of the Boer War. Can anyone identify the location? The only obvious clues are Victoria House, and the shop along from this saying "E. Walsh, Butcher." The name on the two-storied building is too indistinct to be read. Please contact the editor if you have any suggestions.

## Dylan Walker

### *Shooting the past - early films of South Australia*

**7.30pm Friday  
4 August 2006**

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

The earliest film made in South Australia was of less than one minute in duration and featured General William Booth departing Adelaide for the eastern states in 1899. *General William Booth Boards SS 'Arcadia' at Largs North* was never screened in South Australia and no longer exists. Like so many of the feature and short films shot in South Australia during the silent era, the inexorable laws of chemistry have had their toll. Thanks to collectors like the late Vic Reeves, who addressed the Society in the early 1980s, and to the National Film and Sound Archive, a few of these films have survived.

At the August meeting of the Society, Dylan Walker will talk on the early filmmakers who captured the image of the State with a focus on Harry Krischock, a prolific cinematographer. Dylan will discuss why these films were made and what the audience reaction was to the more controversial. He will screen excerpts from the feature film, *The Woman Suffers*, and some short films such as *Adelaide's Fire Service*, Harry Krischock's fictional *Earthquake in Adelaide*, as well as sporting events.



*From The Woman Suffers supplied by Dylan Walker*

Dylan Walker graduated from Flinders University in 1984, where he majored in History and Australian Studies. He combined his interest in South Australian history with another, cinema, and continued researching South Australian cinema as a hobby. He is the author of *Adelaide's Silent Nights* which is a history of cinema exhibition in Adelaide during the silent film era, published by the National Film and Sound Archive in 1996. He also wrote the narration for the documentary *Real to Reel: South Australians Turn the Cameras on Themselves* which was screened at the 2005 Adelaide Film Festival.

Dylan is currently a post-graduate student at Flinders University researching film exhibition and distribution in rural South Australia during the 1930s Depression. He has spoken to the Historical Society on three previous occasions on the subject of Adelaide suburban picture theatres and film censorship in South Australia.

## Judith Rischbieth

### *Ross Smith - a great South Australian*

**7.30pm Friday  
1 Sept 2006**

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

Ross McPherson Smith was born in Adelaide in 1892. He enlisted in August 1914, and became a highly decorated member of the Australian Flying Corps. He was awarded the Military Cross and the Distinguished Flying Cross. After serving in Gallipoli he piloted T.E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) to his meetings with Sherif Nazir. Smith's 1918 Cairo to Calcutta flight was the longest that had been made at that time.

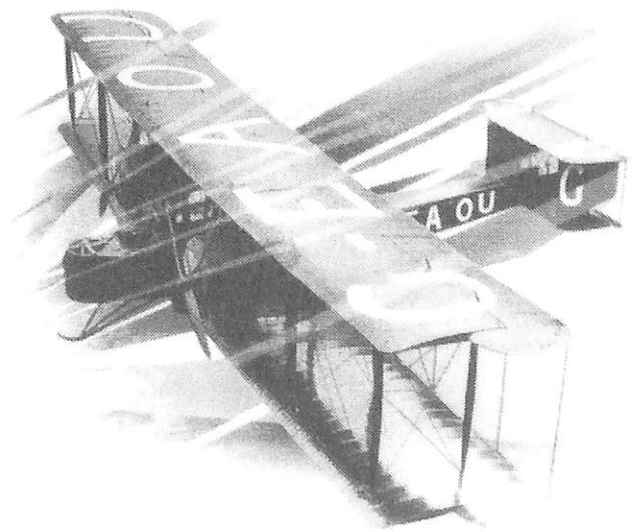


In 1919 the Australian Government, concerned at the length of time mail took to get to England, offered a prize for the first machine with an Australian crew to fly to England in less than 30 days. Ross Smith accepted the challenge with his brother Keith as co-pilot and navigator and his war time crew, James Bennett and Walter Shiers, as mechanics.

Vickers Aircraft Company supplied a Vimy bomber with two Rolls Royce engines which was converted for the long flight. Of vital importance was the weight carried, petrol and spare parts taking priority. There could be no heavy radio equipment. They had to rely on maps, a compass and Ross and Keith's navigational skills. On board was a mail bag containing about 200 letters, post marked in England before their departure.

The greatest enemy from start to finish was the weather; bitter cold, torrential rain, and in Australia searing heat. The crew had no protection. They were in open cockpits totally exposed to the elements. There were 26 landing stages between Hounslow and Darwin, with many primitive airfields. Therefore there were various unexpected problems and dangers which tested the crews' skills and endurance. Judith's talk will describe this journey with all its vicissitudes and will reveal how, on 20 December the Vickers Vimy arrived in Darwin. The young Australians had won the great race with 52 hours to spare.

The four men shared the £10,000 prize money. Ross Smith and Jim Bennett died when a trial flight nose-dived over England in 1922. Keith went on to become a director of Qantas. Come to our August meeting when Judith Rischbieth will tell us more about this important part of our history.



*Image of Sir Ross Smith from the  
Skies Remember by A. Grenfell Price.  
Image of the plane is from the pamphlet  
The Smith Brothers Walking Trail*

# Excursion to Tea Tree Gully and Golden Grove May 7th 2006

A group of happy, but cold, members of the Society boarded the bus at Burnside Community Centre just after 9am, and travelled to Tea Tree Gully. Here Carol Simmons, President of the Tea Tree Gully Historical Society and the local National Trust, joined the bus. Carol proved to be a most informative guide. Tea Tree Gully was formerly named Steventon after John Stevens who settled in the area in 1839, and the name remained until 1900. The Newman family arrived in 1854. Newman introduced many new plants to the area and spent 2 months in the Adelaide Gaol for stealing plants from the Botanic Gardens. We passed the well known Newman's Nursery as our bus climbed out of the old township. The famous Newman's Horseradish sauce had its origins here.



*HSSA members learn about the artefacts displayed at Glen Ewin*

From Glen Ewin we were taken along Range Rd from where we gained views of the hills above Golden Grove. We saw Snake Gully Rd and heard about the bridge built over Cobblers Creek which allowed the locals to get their produce to the market in Adelaide.

When we arrived at Glen Ewin we found old buildings, orchards, and a spectacular lake bounded by large willows. We were told that Murray cod had been introduced to the lake and were doing well. Here we were given a most welcome morning tea of hot coffee, cakes, and biscuits. George McEwin who was a botanist and landscape gardener, arrived in SA from Scotland in 1839 and he bought land in 1844 and planted fruit trees. The jam industry started when some of the fruit began to rot as it took two and a half days to get the produce to the market in Adelaide. Copper tanks were bought and the famous Glen Ewin jam began production. The industry grew and eventually 100 workers were employed on the site. When the property was sold new owners let it fall into disrepair. The present owners, who bought the property in 1991, are replanting the orchards and repairing the buildings. Fruit is again taken out of the valley and jam and other produce is sold through speciality shops in the suburbs of Adelaide. We were able to inspect the produce, and happily, buy some. Another interesting aspect is the development of wine cellars which people can hire for the storage of their own private collection.

We stopped at the old Golden Grove School built in 1850. This school opened with 26 pupils and closed in 1961 with 27. Nearby was the old cemetery where many of the old settlers were buried and the Presbyterian, now Uniting, Church, built in 1865, is across the road. These properties were built on land given by Captain Adam Robertson and his son John, who migrated from Scotland. We could see Golden Grove House through the trees. This was the home of Adam Robertson, named after the Captain's last ship. Unfortunately it is in disrepair although it is on the state register.



*'Hurry up! There's much to see!' says tour coordinator Geoff Bishop to the Tea Tree Gully field trip group.*

Our next stop was to visit the very well kept Greenwith Methodist Church, which was built in 1863 and passed through various stages of Methodism. Our tour then took us to the ruins of the 1840 farm house of Thomas Carter, and his wife and 10 children. Here the National Trust, Historical Society, and Council are trying to prevent the further ruin of this building.

Carol told us of the remarkable growth of Golden Grove with its population growing from 2560 in 1961 to over 100,000 now. The old Golden Grove Hall remains and is well used for many functions. It stands by the show grounds. The last show was held as recently as 1997.

## HSSA Activities

Excursion to Tea Tree Gully and Golden Grove; May 7th 2006 (cont.)

Our final stop was at "Drumminor". This mansion was the home of Robert Milne who arrived in 1839. He imported the slate tiles for the roof from Wales. The home remained in the family for 100 years and since 2000 has been Harrisons Funeral Parlour.

On the way back to old Tea Tree Gully we passed Angove's Winery. Dr Angove planted vines here in 1893; he used wine medicinally. He was well known for his car, a Stanley Steamer. He was also an ornithologist and his collection of birds' eggs is in the South Australian Museum. The last vintage of the vines at Tea Tree Gully was in 1976.

We returned to Old Highercombe Hotel, where a delicious lunch was waiting. This building opposite Haines Park, was one of 2 hotels built in Tea Tree Gully in 1854 when Tea Tree Gully was a staging post and horses were changed after the 4 hour journey from Adelaide. Coaches then went to Birdswood, another 4 hour journey. The last coach left on 30 April 1921. The land for Haines park was given by William Haines MP in 1902, "for all time", and has been the home to circuses, gypsies, and sheep.

Competition between the hotels was keen and the Old Highercombe closed in 1877 and served as a Post Office from 1880-1963. The building was subdivided inside, the northern side being occupied by the Post Mistress, and the southern by the head teacher of Tea Tree Gully School.

We were served an excellent lunch provided by the National Trust and then explored this fascinating building. It was a novelty to find a large stone in the yard on which was written "in 1875 absolutely nothing happened here." After a long stay we returned to the bus for our journey home. We were given a cloth bag from the Tea Tree Gully Council and National Trust containing sweets, pamphlets and books on the history of the district. It had been a long but very rewarding excursion, enjoyed by all.

**Don Drake and Glen Woodward**



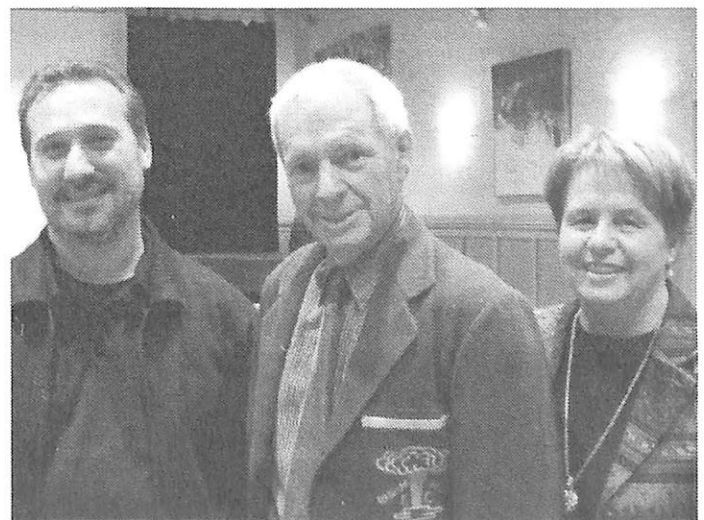
Barbara and Don Drake tuck in during the Tea Tree Gully field trip.



Elizabeth Agnew, Kay Boucaut, Sylvia Fanning and Elizabeth McRitchie enjoy butterfly cakes and coffee at supper following the June meeting.



Jenny Treloar (left) and Alison McPharlin thank Jim Everett for his presentation at the June meeting.



May guest speaker Kevin Kakoschke, proudly sporting his Radium Hill Football Club blazer, was joined by his wife June and friend John Krecu.

## New Committee Member - Profile

Margaret Ford is a new committee member of the Historical Society of SA. She is, she says, a 'passionate amateur historian', who was thrilled listening to stories told by her father, enthusiastic teachers and other special adults who talked fondly about the past.

Margaret joined the Education Department in 1962 as a *leaving teaching scholar* which meant she signed a contract and committed herself to teaching for the government in a primary school for four years, or face a financial penalty if she defaulted. No such guarantee exists today for new teachers! She remained an employee of the Education Department for 38 years and enjoyed a broad range of positions, including teacher, librarian, deputy principal in three schools, principal in four schools, educational adviser and a state-wide position as project manager for, among other responsibilities, child protection and crime prevention. The highlight of her government career was the diversity of roles and challenges she was encouraged to take up. She particularly enjoyed working with senior officials in other government agencies to represent education on new government initiatives to develop, for example, drug education programs in schools, truancy prevention and juvenile justice.

When Margaret retired in 2000 she was not planning a second phase of her career. However, she was asked, and accepted, work with the independent schooling sector, managing a national program called the Australian Government Quality Teacher Program, which aimed to improve teaching skills in independent schools. Working with head teachers and staff in a new sector was very rewarding.

Now retired, again, from education, Margaret can indulge her passion in historical activity and research. She has accepted committee positions on the Burnside Branch of the National Trust (at Beaumont House) in addition to the Historical Society of SA. She is also a long time member of other associations including the SA Genealogy and Heraldry Society, The Oral History Association, The Devon Family History Society and The Burnside Historical Society.

Her current research topics include the history of shops, shopping and general stores in rural South Australia from 1880 – 1980, writing a family history newsletter, researching issues relating to women in early South Australia and writing a book based on 300 black and white photographs taken by her grandfather Richard Coaker Ford



during his crossing by Crossley car, from Adelaide to Darwin and back, in 1925. While she published many different and varied items in education, including a new official 'roll book' for all government schools to use, she has a short list of historical publications which will, she says, grow. There have, for example, been two articles in *History Matters* and a published paper delivered at the State History Conference in 2002. In February 2003 Margaret was a well received guest speaker for a HSSA meeting. The committee welcomes Margaret and looks forward to her active participation in the society.

## Theatre History

On the side of the Arts Theatre on the corner of Moore St and Angas St is a recently painted mural depicting the history of the Arts Theatre. It has been sponsored by the Adelaide City Council and painted by Fran Callen.

An interested group of people first met in piano teacher Bryceson Treharne's classroom in the Elder Conservatorium on 24 September 1908. They met to read and discuss plays and after 6 months decided to stage "Land of Heart's Desire" by W. B. Yeats, and "A Man of Destiny" by G. B. Shaw. These were performed in the North Hall of

the Conservatorium. Between 1909 and 1910 the group performed in the Walkerville Town Hall and the Unley Town Hall. So popular were the plays that late comers queued up in the street. In 1914 the group became the Adelaide Repertory Theatre.

Productions were staged in various locations, a memorable venue being the Tivoli Theatre in Grote St. 1939-1953. Actors and audiences remember with horror the mice and rats that lived under the stage, and those sitting in the front rows lifted their feet to avoid visitors climbing up their stockings!

It was at this stage that Tiddles was employed as the Theatre Cat.

In 1950 the site at Angas St was purchased and after hard work money was raised and in 1963 a Commemorative Plaque was unveiled by the Governor Sir Eric Bastyan. The Repertory Theatre had a permanent home, and still performs there today. For more details of the history take a look at the mural!

(Compiled from information supplied by B. George, Historian for the Adelaide Repertory Theatre Inc.)

# In History We Trust: Fifteenth State History Conference 26–28 May 2006

I went to the recent State History Conference and was glad I did.

At the opening reception on Friday evening the winner of the *Catherine Mary Gilbert Essay Prize* was announced. This year's winner was historian and HSSA member Patricia Sumerling for her essay *Madam Harpur – the trials and tribulations of an Adelaide doctress*. Congratulations to Patricia. At the reception we were entertained with food, drink, a talk and songs from folk historian and musician Warren Fahy: a good evening and a positive indicator of the weekend conference to come.

On Saturday morning about 200 people sat down in the Union Building at the University of Adelaide to hear a wide range of papers. Presenters were asked to reflect critically on the histories that have been written and presented about South Australia, especially in the last 25 years.

Just before morning tea a huge 25th birthday cake was rolled in to mark the 25th year of the State History Trust. It was appropriate to mark this anniversary of government support for the work of the history community in South Australia. It took conferees the rest of Saturday to devour the large celebratory cake and two days to digest the various presentations.

In his opening remarks on Saturday Professor Dean Jaensch commented that the faces in the audience seemed familiar. Dean also remarked on the lack of a history museum in South Australia and the need for continuing government funding for matters historical. What is being done to keep history in front of young people? Old Parliament House, before it closed, was a great source of inspiration for young visitors. Is the history community aging? A survey of the age of conferees would have been interesting. Youthful participants need to be encouraged to participate in things historical.

Perhaps a dilemma for a conference is to get the right balance between papers of a rigorous academic nature and stories that appeal to a broader audience. One speaker said in her abstract that Australian history is made up of "little stories, told in a variety of accents and from a range of points of view".

My favourite session was a presentation from the Channel 9 Postcards team of Keith Conlon and Ron Kandelaars. They explained a strategy for keeping history in the public eye, by deliberately developing stories with several layers to appeal to a range of viewers. If the survival of historical interest in South Australia's past depended on 'ratings', how would the current historical community plan for the future?

Other sessions I enjoyed were presentations about persistent myths and celebrations of South Australia. The stories of tunnels under King William St, the old gum tree at Glenelg and celebrations held in 1836, 1936 and 1986 were fascinating. I didn't know, for example, that the statue of Colonel William Light, pointing his finger today from Montefiore Hill, was once sited in the middle of the busy intersection of Flinders, Franklin and King William Streets.

I admired the words of Brian Samuels who asked "What does the history of [South Australia's] cultural institutions tell us about the community's ability to establish appropriate institutions to conserve the artefacts, documents and publications from its past and celebrate their relevance in the present."

**Margaret Ford**

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## SA History Teachers Association Conference

HSSA members are invited to hear Simon Nasht, biographer of Sir Hubert Wilkins, at the History Teachers Association of SA Annual conference on Friday 1 September in Prince Philip Theatre at Prince Alfred College.

The session commences at 9.00am. Registration to attend the address will be open from 8.15am and the cost will be \$10.00.

For further information please contact Andrew Buxton at Prince Alfred College: telephone 8334 1200 or email [abuxton@pac.edu.au](mailto:abuxton@pac.edu.au)

Cassette audio tapes of the HSSA monthly lectures are available at a cost of \$5. If the tape is returned further orders are \$3. Orders from the Treasurer ph.82772953

## News from the Book Table

The assertions that George Strickland Kingston, not Colonel William Light, discovered and proposed the site for the City of Adelaide and that Kingston, not Light, drew the town plan were initially argued by Professor Donald Langmead in his PhD thesis well over 20 years ago. In his subsequent book *Accidental Architect: The Life and Times of George Strickland Kingston*, published in 1994, Professor Langmead wrote

*Without exception, refutation of the claims about Kingston as designer and practical founder of Adelaide has been characterized by a cavalier dismissal of the documentary evidence (p 236)*

The ensuing controversy continues to this day. One illustration is the article by Professor D L Johnson, who was Langmead's doctoral supervisor, on the Kingston/Light plan in the *Journal of the HSSA*, 2004. More recently, evidence that the argument has not yet been settled, was provided by the 2006 Colonel Light Ceremony presented by the Adelaide City Council where the issue was debated,

very entertainingly, by two prominent QCs. So for anyone wishing to become informed about the foundation of the city, *Accidental Architect* is indispensable, as it provides all of the essential basic primary sources.

We can interpret much about a community from its architecture. Although "only two of Kingston's twenty public buildings – Adelaide Gaol and Government House – survive" (p 198) all of his work as an architect is discussed. Private commissions are listed in chronological order, as are his public works in Appendices. The delightful illustrations in the book, conveniently collected together, include early photos and sketches, some by S T Gill, of original buildings, many now demolished, as well as building plans. Details of the earliest years of the colony, the increasing availability of other architects, Kingston's involvement with the Mount Monster copper mine at Burra, his extensive political career and his family life, are all examined. Compulsory reading for any student of architectural or colonial history.  
**Marie Steiner**

## The Australian Heritage Magazine

*Australian Heritage* is a glossy magazine produced quarterly, published in Brighton, Victoria by Hallmark Editions. "Written by leading historians and authors, each issue includes vividly illustrated articles about explorers and pioneers, artists and inventors, engineers and builders, and leaders in many fields" claims its publicity. The Autumn 2006 issue certainly is well written, beautifully illustrated and a pleasure to read. The reproduction of

old etchings, water colours, archival photos from State Libraries and private collections is superb. The articles in this issue cover a wide range of topics, from Dutch explorers, to the Bishop and the Architect, to Bennelong. Subscriptions are \$28.00 per annum. Highly recommended. see <http://www.heritageaustralia.com.au/>  
**Marie Steiner**

## Assistance for "Aussie Kids View World War 11."

This project, co-ordinated by Joan Beddoe, aims to publish a collection of memoirs of people born 1935-1940, willing to recount their personal experiences of childhood during the war years. More contributors from South Australia would balance the project. If you can help please contact Ms J Wundersitz, Unit 12, 17-19 Church St, Marden, S A 5573, ph. 8132 0446.

## Melrose Courthouse Heritage Centre

This Heritage Centre and Museum has been awarded accreditation by the History Trust of South Australia. The old court house is on the site of a police outpost established in 1848 and the current complex dates from 1862. For nearly 20 years it was the largest police headquarters in South Australia. The courthouse has been restored and you can read the hand written records of trials and the punishments given. Outside is the exercise yard, cells, and stables. In the yard stand the Working Mens' Shed and the Centenary of Federation Building. Here the latest technology allows the

visitor to share in the indigenous history of the area, and the struggles of the men and women who first settled the farming and mining district. The Melrose and Districts History Society invite you to visit and advise that three hours at least are required

Guided tours are available. The complex is open daily 2-5pm or by appointment, Ph 8666 2141.

(adapted from a brochure compiled by Bob Currie July 2003)

By Neil Thomas

## Recent additions include:

Single items accessioned include a tongue-in-cheek account of a family camping trip to the Cudlee Creek area of the Adelaide Hills in 1890 entitled 'Record of the Mount Beevor Exploration Party'. It is believed to have originally been part of the George Fowler Collection at Stangate House. Deryck Skinner has donated two more research papers, one entitled 'A brief biographical account of the lives of Rowland Rees M.P., J.P., C.E. and Architect Dr. John Rees, John Newman Stace Rees in South Australia'. The other is 'A brief biography of some members of the Henstridge Family of Mount Gambier, Snowtown, Balaklava and Adelaide'. James Dodds' diary, 'Flying Circles in the Sky', is his record of the times he flew photographer Douglas Darian Smith on 57 aerial photography assignments between 1975 and 1981. It includes an outline of their professional working relationship, copies of some of Darian Smith's aerial photographs, maps of the locations of assignments and newspaper articles about his work. The diary of J. W. Scholefield, welfare officer on the S.S. 'Balranald', which brought 50 'Barwell Boys' to South Australia in 1924, includes newspaper cuttings, programmes of social events during the voyage, and a photograph of the 'Barwell Boys' taken in Adelaide on 23 April 1924.

Research notes and personal recollections by Ray Honeychurch relate to his work at the Jacobs Dairy Produce Company at Mount Barker from 1933 to 1983. An exercise book containing the Minutes of the Glenloth (Tarcoola) Goldfields Prospectors and Miners' Association covers the period 1934-1942. A collection of pamphlets, booklets, newsletters, photographs and related ephemera produced ca. 1965 by the development company Realty Development Corporation (RDC)

to promote its development at Clovercrest Estate (now Modbury Heights), seems to have been directed at British migrants.

A small record group for fashion eccentric and collector Sophie van Rood (1916-1998), comprises correspondence, a sound tape, photographs, newspaper cuttings and cards. Ms van Rood was well known for her Banana Room, selling vintage and antique clothing and accessories. Her business collection was sold interstate by Lawson-Menzies in November 2004 after no buyer could be found in SA. The records of David John Edmeades comprises 135 films, sound recordings and papers relating to his interests in diving, photography and film making. The films include documentaries of overland 4WD trips around Australia, cave diving explorations, scripted 'light dramatic' productions made in conjunction with the SA Amateur Cine Society, and other documentaries of subjects and events that interested him. The papers include scripts, production notes, maps and diaries of the overland trips, and biographical notes. Edmeades was drowned in 1972 in a cave diving accident near Mount Gambier.

Among many new oral history additions are transcripts of older interviews with people on the theme of Architecture and Building Heritage in SA, and a recent interview with the children's author Mem Fox. An unusual but significant item is an embroidery, dimensions 1.5 m x 1 m, depicting 17 women including Dame Roma Mitchell, Justice Robyn Layton QC, historian Betty Fisher, Mary Lee, Gladys Elphick MBE, and Irene Bell. The embroidery also features the State's floral emblem, Sturt's Desert Pea, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flag.

**Deadline for newsletter articles and entries August 14, 2006.**

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# Coming Events

## **Brighton Historical Society**

Meets at 7.30 pm on the first Thursday of the month in the Kingston Room, 24 Jetty Rd Brighton. On 3 August Geoff Patrilli will talk about the history of the Patrilli Winery. On 7 September Genaro Vecchio will talk about Goyder's Line. Contact ph. 8298 1959.

## **Burnside Historical Society**

Meets at the Burnside Community Centre at 8 pm on the third Monday of the month. On Monday 21 August Charles Grimes will speak on the history of Adelaide Technical High School. On 18 September John Zwar will speak about the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden, Port Augusta. Contact 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. On 13 September David Wotton will talk about the Dunn family of Mt Barker. Contact ph. 8390 3138.

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

Conducts evening meetings at 7.15pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month and day time meetings at 1.30pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Meetings are held at the Enfield Community Centre, 540 Regency Rd, Enfield. On Thursday 19 October there will be a bus tour visiting Enfield Uniting Church and Enfield Heritage Museum. Contact ph. 8263 9561

## **History of Science, Ideas, and Technology Group**

Meets 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. Contact ph. 8361 8040

## **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. Contact ph. 8363 9003

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

Meets in the Mortlock Wing of the State Library. On Thursday 24 August Margaret Nobbs and Sally Nobbs will speak about the Aboriginals of the Olary Ridge Uplands. Contact ph. 8207 7266

## **Port Adelaide Historical Society**

Meets the third Wednesday of the month in the Semaphore Library at 8pm. On 16 August Mr Graham Rees will speak about the "Settled and Natural History of Kangaroo Island." On 20 September Elizabeth Peru will speak about her overseas adventures. Contact ph 8248 2244.

## **Salisbury and Districts Historical Society**

Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Folk Museum, Ann St Salisbury, at 7pm. On 9 August Ron White will speak about the pedal wireless. Ph. 8250 0763.

## **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 7pm. On 20 July Lt Col. Sven Kuusk will give a brief history of the Army Museum and tracing military family history.

On 16 August there will be a morning meeting at the City of TTG Library. Enid Woodley will speak about researching records in the National Archives. Contact ph. 8288 0195.

## **Walkerville Historical Society**

Meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm in the Walkerville Town Hall. On 16 August Heather Bonnin will speak about a "Childhood in Walkerville".

On 20 September Betty Lewis will talk about Archie Grenfell Price. Contact ph. 8269 5982.

## **West Torrens Historical Society**

Meets at "Kandahar", 327 Marion Rd North Plympton at 7.45pm. On 28 August members are encouraged to bring information about the suburb of West Beach. On 25 September there will be a presentation by members about "Horses in West Torrens." Contact ph. 8443 3380.

## **South Australian Museum, Talks and Tours**

As part of the 150th year celebrations the SA Museum is conducting a series of Talks and Tours. On Wednesday 20 September Tom Gara's talk is entitled "Ooldea-Sacred Water and Scientific Endeavour" and will be held in the Armoury Building Gallery behind the main museum building, 5.30-7.00pm. For bookings ph 8207 7575. For further information about Talks and Tours contact ph 8207 7575.

## **Migration Museum: Monument Honours Migrant Settlers**

This monument, designed by Italian sculptor Aurelio Forte-lan as a tribute to migrant settlers in South Australia, is now a focal point at the museum. It was unveiled in June by the Governor, Marjorie Jackson Nelson.

The current exhibition, "Conquering a Continent, John McDouall Stuart's Exhibition Relived," is open until 28 August. The museum is open from 10am-5pm weekdays and from 1pm-5pm at weekends. Admission is free.