

No. 190
May 2007

HISTORY SA

The Newsletter of the Historical Society of South Australia Inc.

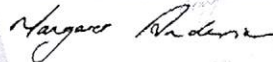
SA HISTORY WEEK

18 > 27 MAY 2007

Once again the South Australian historical community has worked together to showcase the extraordinary wealth of our history and heritage. From museums and archives to historic buildings and archaeological sites, we have a veritable treasure trove to draw on in this State.

I would especially like to thank all of those community partners who have joined with the History Trust to make History Week such a success over the years. They come from all regions of the State and from all walks of life. Each community has a different story to tell and sometimes those stories are surprising. But together they add up to that precious commodity - our collective community memory.

I hope that something in this program will encourage you to delve into the past a little and, perhaps, to discover something new and surprising!



DIRECTOR

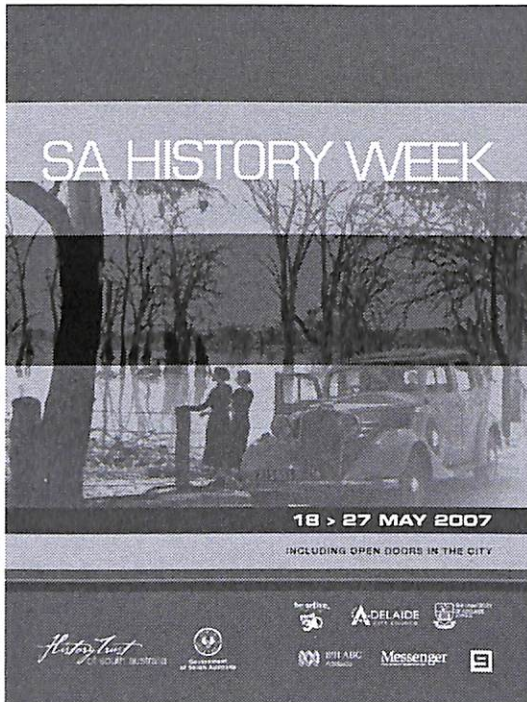
History Trust of South Australia

For a programme for History Week contact
History Trust of SA
ph 8203 9888,
e-mail staff@history.sa.gov.au,
www.history.sa.gov.au.

As part of the **Open Doors in the City** program during History Week the Adelaide City Council will open many heritage buildings in the city. A visit to Adelaide's first hotel, the Beresford Arms, which was built on Gilles St in 1839, is a feature of the week. Adelaide Gaol will be open Sunday 20 May and Sunday 27 May, and Ayers House will be open after dark for a special candle lit tours of the premises, including into the shadows of the "haunted" domestic quarters.

Other events of the week are a footy match where the SA Football Club players will wear replica 1877 guernseys to mark 130 years of organised football matches, and a city walk revealing the silent stories of the city's bronze and stone memorials.

Regional areas are well represented in **History Week**. It is possible to wander down memory lane at the Loxton Historical Village. The Murray River 1956 Flood Exhibition will be on show and there are 45 fully furnished buildings and sites exhibiting farm equipment, machinery, and household goods used by early settlers. It is possible to explore historic Port Willunga and Aldinga, looking into fishermen's caves and learning about ship wrecks. Buildings visited include Pengilly's blacksmith shop, White's flourmill and house, and the Temperance Hotel.



Law Week 14-18 May

Where Lawyers Work: An Historical Walking Tour of some Adelaide Legal Precincts

Take a lawyer's eye view of Adelaide and explore the heritage hidden in some of its streets. Consider the work and work places of practising lawyers in courts, government offices, and law offices over a dozen decades. Peter Moore is a former practitioner currently completing a history of the South Australian legal profession up to 1945, to be published in 2008. The walk takes about one and a half hours and covers one kilometre. It starts at the Adelaide Magistrates Court, and goes on to the Supreme Court of South Australia, the Samuel Way Building, Morialta Street, the Victoria Square and King William St law firms, Waymouth St's legal precincts, Pirie St legal precinct, the Town Hall building and the Crown Law Offices finishing at the Treasury building. For bookings contact Peter Moore, mobile phone 0414 828 253. E-mail plm.crossingpress.com.au

From the President

Welcome to this edition of History SA.

The success of the 2007 HSSA year has been impressive! The Society's first three meetings have all enjoyed attendances of over one hundred, with the April meeting attendance of 144 one of the largest in many years, and our average 2007 attendance is 120 members. Please help to continue this great start, and I issue the challenge of achieving one hundred or more members for each of the Friday meetings.

I have no doubt that the success of our meetings has been due to our new home at Burnside. For those of you who haven't attended a meeting at the new venue, it is comfortable, there is plenty of room for supper and book sales, toilets are conveniently located, there is ample car parking and the grounds are well lit. If you haven't seen for yourself, please come and do so.

Thank you to the large proportion of members who have renewed their memberships. If you haven't done so please attend to this immediately, ensuring you receive society mail, saving us the cost of sending you a reminder notice, and better utilising the time of the volunteers who run the group.

I extend my appreciation to Robin Coles for his excellent presentation at the March meeting concerning Aboriginal art in the Mount Lofty Ranges. As I said in my vote of thanks this was a topic about which I knew nothing, and had little idea what to expect. I came away amazed at the number of indigenous art sites throughout the hills, and impressed by Robin's knowledge of and commitment to his topic.

Margaret Ford, a member of the Society's Council, presented *General Stores and Draperies in rural South Australia* at the April meeting, which was held a week later than usual as it would have fallen on Good Friday. Margaret's extensive knowledge of the Ford family and their Orroroo business was thoroughly enjoyed by her audience, along with anecdotes of small town marketing, how the business adapted over the years, and the decline and eventual closure of a once prosperous business. It is always a pleasure to hear repeated Sir Charles Todd's quip 'that there was no need for a post office in Orroroo as there will only ever be two letters in Orroroo!' Thank you Margaret for a most enjoyable evening.

Our first *Visiting SA's History* day trip was to Prospect Hill and Kuitpo on March 18. I extend sincere thanks to HSSA council members Colin Deed and Geoffrey Bishop for their organisation and leadership of this outing, and to Joyce Smart of Prospect Hill and Rob Robinson of Forestry SA for their enthusiastic participation. An enormous amount of

work is required to bring day outings together, and it was pleasing that this outing was well supported.

In my capacity as President I was recently invited to be included in the inaugural edition of *Who's Who in South Australia*, published by the publishers of the venerable *Who's Who in Australia*. Whilst the production suffers from 'teething' problems (one man appears twice, the artist Nora Heysen who died in 2004 has an entry, and proofing could be more thorough), the inaugural edition is invaluable for many reasons and will in time become a useful tool for researchers. I am delighted that the Society was considered a peak state body worthy of inclusion. HSSA secretary Terry Saunderson is also included, and I hope that our entries will help to increase the Society's profile.

In preparing information to go in *Who's Who in South Australia* entrants were invited to state what South Australia meant to them for possible inclusion in the book. As is the case with the biographical entries, some people prepared a manifesto whilst others kept it brief. I was unsure about this innovation but decided to give it a go, and wrote:

South Australia has a rich and fascinating history. Through my role as President of the Historical Society of South Australia, I have come to appreciate the commitment of volunteers, amateur historians and professionals, who research, document and present our state's history. I admire their dedication.

These aren't idle words. Where ever I go I meet people who are doing exactly what I mentioned in my *Who's Who* entry. I find it particularly rewarding to meet people who are taking the time to record aspects of their lives, documenting their family history, and making these available through institutions. For example, I recently found much of interest in the history prepared by Dr John Lavis AM of his days as a Dentistry student at Adelaide University during World War Two. Dr Lavis includes recollections of fellow students, course material, and reminiscences of pioneers in Dentistry such as Raymond Begg, who is honoured with a plaque on North Terrace. We all have stories to tell and topics to research, but for it to be of future use it must be written down, and I encourage you all to do this.

In this edition you will find details of future *Discovering SA's History* presentations and *Visiting SA's History* field trips. I look forward to your participation in these events.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Historical Society of South Australia.

David Cornish
President

Visiting SA's history

Christ Church

Palmer Place, North Adelaide

Wednesday 18 July 2007

During History Week 2006 the congregation of Christ Church, North Adelaide, welcomed the public to their historic church and rectory. Historical Society members are invited to enjoy the hospitality of the congregation at a special tour of the church and rectory as a part of the society's *Discovering SA's History* series of tours to places of historical importance.

Bishop Augustus Short arrived in South Australia in 1847 carrying with him plans for Christ Church. The church's foundation stone was laid on Ascension Day, 1 June 1848, and was consecrated on 20 December 1849. Built in the Norman style, a feature of the church is the apsidal sanctuary with its pattern of stars, and the beautifully presented Ten Commandments, Apostles Creed and Lord's Prayer. Tasmanian blackwood which replaced the original cedar joinery is featured throughout, and recent restoration of the windows has highlighted the beautiful glass contained within. The memorial garden is a tranquil resting place for those linked with Christ Church and North Adelaide. Christ Church is one of South Australia's treasures.

Also facing Palmer Place is the imposing limestone Christ Church Rectory, plans for which also came from England with Bishop Short, and which was completed in 1850. The Rectory is rarely open to the public, and participants in the Christ Church tour will have the opportunity to view the formal downstairs rooms, including the study, drawing room, dining room and wide wooden staircase.

At the conclusion of the tour morning tea will be served by members of the Christ Church community in the adjoining hall.

Please meet at the Palmer Place entry to Christ Church at 10am. Tour cost is \$5 per person. Please note that Christ Church is wheel chair accessible, but that Rectory access is difficult. Parking is available in Palmer Place.

Bookings can be made by phoning Avis Huckel on 8277 2953.



Christ Church Rectory. Image supplied by Christ Church

Back Copies of the *Journal of the Historical Society of South Australia*

Complete your collection! Past copies of the *Journal* will be available free of charge to members at the next meeting. They will be situated under the notice board.

MILITARY HISTORY – WITH WINE

Historians are invited to a forthcoming military history seminar at the University of South Australia (Magill campus). It's free, there are some distinguished presenters, and those attending on the Friday evening will be served wine and finger food.

The invitation comes from UniSA's Dr Nigel Starck, who was guest speaker (on obituaries) at our February meeting. This 'Writings of War' symposium officially starts at 3.30pm on Friday 22 June, with papers on visual images of war and letters from the front. Latecomers, however, are most welcome: wine and food will be served from 5.30pm with the keynote address at 6.30pm (by Dr Peter Stanley, head of the National Museum of Australia's historical research centre).

The event continues on Saturday 23 June, with welcoming coffee served from 8.45am, concluding at 12.30pm. There are papers on the visual impact of memorials, music and painting at times of conflict, and pilgrimages to historic sites. The organiser, Ms Caitlin Fry, emphasises that there is no charge – but registration in advance would be helpful. "Just let me know if you're coming," she says. "Then I know how much food and wine to order." Caitlin can be contacted at: 0410-062-668 or Caitlin.fry@unisa.edu.au

Location: 'Amy Wheaton Lecture Theatre' (immediately behind historic Murray House), St Bernard's Rd, Magill. Parking on-site or in large car-park across St Bernard's Rd.

Doreen Bridges, AM
More than a Musician:
a life of Professor E. Harold Davies (1867-1947)

7.30pm Friday
1 June 2007

**Burnside Community
Centre,
Cnr Portrush Road
and Greenhill Road,
Burnside**



Davies, leaving behind his gifted younger brother Walford (later Master of the King's Musick) emigrated from England in January 1887 at the age of nineteen, and after working in Kapunda, Gawler, and then at Glenelg as a choirmaster, organist and teacher moved in 1890 to the inner city of Adelaide where he lived for the rest of his life. This is the story of a man who had wanted to study science but was apprenticed to an architect, and despite early struggles ended up as the first Australian Doctor of Music in 1902 after matriculating without mentors and obtaining Bachelor and Doctoral degrees at the University of Adelaide.

Davies (pictured at left) was a leading organist, choral conductor and teacher in Adelaide before his appointments as Elder Professor of Music and

Director of the Elder Conservatorium in 1919. He instigated the formation of the South Australian Orchestra in 1920 and was a foundation member of the Australian Music Examinations Board and frequently its chairman until his death in 1947. As early as 1926 he was broadcasting radio programs via a landline from the Elder Hall to an amateur radio station and was a regular broadcaster for the ABC from its inception. His radio broadcasts and newspaper articles embraced a range of philosophical and social matters as well as music. In the late 1920s his pioneering studies of Aboriginal songs he recorded during expeditions to Central Australia resulted in his election as Fellow of the Royal Society of South Australia. His breadth was unique among his musical peers.

Dr Doreen Bridges (pictured at right) was a Conservatorium student from the age of 14 until her graduation in 1941. Dr E. Harold Davies was her mentor, and she has written a book about him (*More than a Musician*, published in 2006 by Australian Scholarly Publishing). This is based partly on personal recollections, but mainly on primary sources including his own letters and papers, which she will discuss.

Dr Bridges was awarded an AM in 1984 for services to music education.



Images supplied by Doreen Bridges

Bill Barker and Robyn Barker *A botanical view of Australian History*

7.30pm Friday
6 July 2007

Burnside Community
Centre,
Cnr Portrush Road
and Greenhill Road,
Burnside

Discovery of new plant species, still happening today in Australia, is dependent on historical as well as modern pressed and dried specimens stored in plant museums (herbaria).

The collection of herbarium specimens has inevitably been associated with those who discover new places. In early times a plant specimen was physical evidence of these new places and lands. The only other way that early expeditioners could convey information was to illustrate the places and plants that had been seen or to carry seeds or living plants back with them. Hence the interest that systematists have in history and illustrations as they relate to their discipline.

Two herbarium specimens thought to have been as a result of the 1697 Dutch expedition under Vlamingh can be found in the herbarium of the botanic garden at Geneva. The notes on the specimens attribute them to Java but they are clearly from Australia. These specimens, *Acacia truncata* and *Synaphea spinulosa*, were the very first species to be described from Australia in 1768 and are probably the earliest specimens still existing.

We will deal with the less familiar botanical results of a number of expeditions of discovery in Australia, with some consideration of the conditions for the botanists and their associates and how their roles were often overlooked in favour of the leaders. We will also discuss what happened to some of the specimens collected, where they are now and the gradual shift from a European dominated activity to local ownership of the need to document the flora of Australia.



Apart from 2 years in the Papua New Guinea herbarium in Lae in the 1970s, and work in the herbarium at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in London in 1985, Bill and Robyn Barker have been associated with the State Herbarium of South Australia in the Adelaide Botanic Garden since 1970. Bill is presently Chief Botanist while Robyn is an Honorary Research Associate. They were heavily involved in the botanical activities associated with the *Encounter 2002* celebrations, including an exhibition in the State Herbarium, and have published a number of items on botanical history, the latest being a list of the plants collected in South Australia by the botanists with Flinders and Baudin.

Botanists working at the State Herbarium are responsible for the establishing of the correct names of plants and also the naming of new plants, primarily from Australia. In this field the earliest name given to a plant is the one which counts. Since many of Australia's native plants were described from collections made by the early explorers, botanists need to be able to locate the original specimens and also be aware of where these people went, what and where they collected and, sometimes, who actually made the collection.

John McDouall Stuart herbarium collection, 1859
image supplied by Robyn Barker

Visiting SA's History Prospect Hill Visit

On Sunday 18 March 37 members visited or, rather, discovered Prospect Hill, with some additional treats along the way. You could be forgiven for thinking Australia's latest tourism slogan of "Where the Bloody Hell are You?" referred to Prospect Hill. It is, in fact, approximately 7 km southwest of Meadows and getting there is half the fun.

It all started on Mother's Day last year when Avis and I made a trip to the Onkeeta picnic area in Kuitpo Forest, where we toasted marshmallows over an open fire and toured the local area. Then a chance meeting with a Prospect Hill lady at the State History Conference, plus a follow-up visit, set the wheels in motion.

With perfect weather on the morning of 18 March, we boarded our air-conditioned bus, received a "show bag" of brochures, lollies, an itinerary sheet and a map, and were on our way. I suspect many members don't realise how fortunate we were to have our vice-president, Geoffrey Bishop, on our tour, with his knowledge and enthusiasm for our history. Those on the tour were very grateful to him.

With Geoffrey's commentary we set off on the Angas River Scenic Drive which

first built in 1839 as a rough track to John Barton Hack's Echunga property, became the major route to the Victorian goldfields in the 1850s. It was the shortest route to Port Adelaide for the riverboat trade when Milang was a port carrying approximately one half to three fifths of total exports from South Australia via the River Murray. Wool, hardware, groceries, beer and clothing were transported between sheep stations on the Darling and Murray Rivers and taken to Port Adelaide by horse and bullock teams.

Towns such as Macclesfield and Echunga benefited from this trade, as did the ten hotels that developed along the route. Stage coach operators William Rounsevell and later Hill and Co. carried passengers and mail east via this route. (reprinted from the "Battunga Country" brochure)

Using our "Battunga Country" brochure for guidance, we passed by the Toll House (1841), Mountain Hut Tavern (1845), Eagle on the Hill Tavern (1853), Crafers Hotel, (the original built in 1839), Stirling township (established 1854) and its hotel (1859), through Aldgate with its tavern (1864) and on to Mylor township which was developed in 1891 when George W. Cotton's working men's 20-acre blocks were created during the 1880's depression.

We continued over Hack's bridge on the Onkaparinga River (old bridge built 1874, a new one in 1970), and past the Wheatsheaf Inn (1841-1875). This building became "Warrakilla", George Goyder's residence. Goyder was our Surveyor General for 33 years.

On to Echunga we went where Geoffrey really opened up with his knowledge of the town, the surrounding area and its people. Through to Flaxley and Macclesfield, where we turned off to Meadows.

In our "Meadows Heritage Walk" brochure we read that *Battunga was the aboriginal name given to Meadows by the Peramangk people who occupied the area. In the original survey (1840) it was referred to as The Meadows, during the 1860s as Edenbridge, then it became Meadows.*

Morning tea and a comfort stop at the Meadows Bakery provided a chance for a stretch and refreshment with a bonus of about 30 motor bike riders from the Harley Davidson Club, which provided much amusement.

A phone call to Kuitpo Forest Information Centre and 7km later we were welcomed by Rob Robinson, Manager, Community Forestry, Primary Industries and Resources SA, and his wife Mary. Rob gave an interesting and informative talk which also appears in this edition of *History SA*. We saw a number of historic photos, documents and artifacts concerning forestry. The Centre is set among three State Heritage registered plantations dating from 1900. These include a stand of Radiata Pines that are probably the oldest in Australia. We ventured outside the Centre for further discussion and questions. This visit proved to be a real surprise for our members, thanks to Rob Robinson, his presentation and the location.



Rob Robinson addressing HSSA members at Kuitpo Forest

Visiting SA's History Prospect Hill Visit

At Prospect Hill we were welcomed by Joyce Smart, who not only arranged for us to use the community hall for lunch and see several historic buildings and their exhibits, but also runs a dairy of 70-odd cows by herself. With a catered lunch and Geoffrey's homegrown apples we had great discussion around the table about the life and times of Prospect Hill with Joyce and 89-year-old Pat Connor, and Rob Robinson's parents, Jack and Reta.

The following is taken from the "Prospect Hill Heritage Drive" brochure:

Prospect Hill was originally the country of the Peramangk people (Australian aborigines of the Adelaide hills). It was settled as a farming district by English, Scottish and Irish immigrants as early as 1840.

Early crops included wheat and tobacco and early occupations included shingle cutting, roof thatching, pit sawing, blacksmithing, charcoal burning and wattle barking. The first survey took place in 1840 and the next in 1856. A Wesleyan Methodist Church was built at Mt Ephraim in 1854 and another on the northern side of Prospect Hill at Spring Grove c. 1861.

It was not until 1873 that the name Prospect Hill came into use. In that year a new church was being built, a general store opened, and a spring cart service to and from Adelaide commenced. A chance remark by a resident at that time, 'Better prospects are ahead' probably gave the area its present name.

Prospect Hill was devastated by the 1983 Ash Wednesday bushfires and lost many historic sites. Fortunately the post office/general store survived and is now an interesting and intriguing museum.

You don't see many dairy museums but I think the one at Prospect Hill is a real gem!

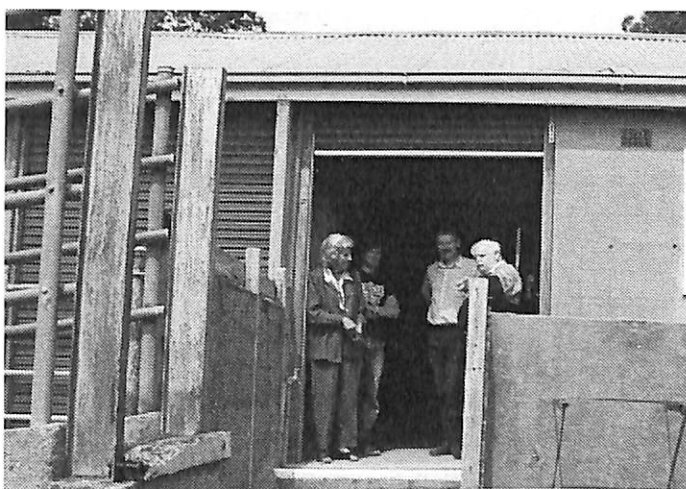
After visiting the eight or so buildings we boarded our bus with Joyce Smart and Reta Robinson supplying the commentary on our way to Mount Ephraim cemetery, passing Survey Hill on the way. The warning to be wary of black snakes in and around the grave sites did not deter us from venturing out and inspecting the 42 pioneer graves.

I cannot thank Joyce Smart enough for her work and enthusiasm in having us at Prospect Hill. Joyce and her helpers, along with Prospect Hill itself, are truly among the Adelaide Hills best kept secrets.

Colin Deed



Ann Russell's home, also served as a General Store and Post Office



Dairy Museum. Joyce Smart and Rob Robinson with his son and father



Joyce Smart addressing members around the lunch table



Inspecting the pioneer graves at Mount Ephraim cemetery

SHORT HISTORY OF FORESTRY IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Because it has few areas with high rainfall, South Australia lacks abundant native forests. Thus, the small area able to provide timber has been in high demand from the time of European settlement. Given these circumstances, South Australia's successful plantation-based forest industry has been a pioneering development of world forestry significance.

The South Australian government has taken a leading role in establishing a sustainable forest industry. In 1870 the surveyor general, George Goyder, raised concerns in parliament about over-exploitation of native forests and recommended the establishment of forest reserves. A Forestry Board, appointed in 1875, was given responsibility for the management and protection of 195,000 acres of natural forest and cleared land, and began to develop plantations and encourage reforestation of farmlands.

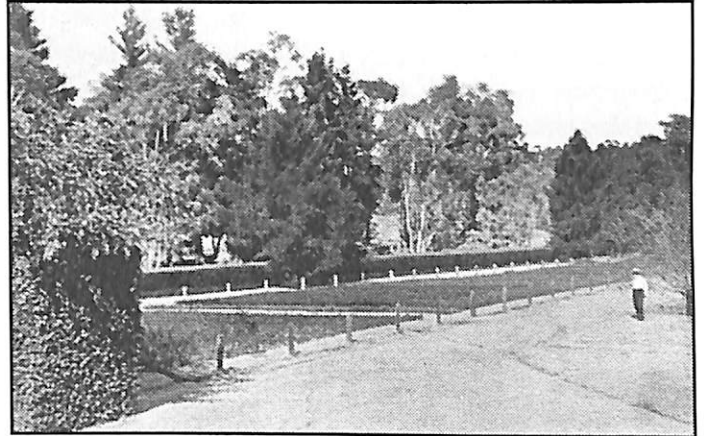
In 1876 tree nurseries and planting trials were initiated in the Mid North and Mount Gambier in the South East to find suitable tree species and locations for plantations. Bundaleer Forest Reserve near Jamestown became Australia's first commercial plantation forest.

The Woods and Forests Department (now ForestrySA) was established in 1882 and is one of the oldest plantation-based forestry authorities in the world.

The Department was charged with:

- overseeing and controlling the cutting in native forests
- demonstrating the practicability of plantation forestry
- providing trees to landholders and farmers around the colony

By the early twentieth century, Radiata pine had proven to be the most promising species and extensive planting of pine were being undertaken in the Mid North and the Adelaide Hills. Large scale plantings commenced in the



Wirrabara Nursery c.1900

South East from 1907. Rates fluctuated until growth problems due to trace element deficiencies were solved by research in 1939. Radiata pine is now the mainstay of commercial forestry for both government and private companies in South Australia.

The establishment of plantations was aided in several unusual ways. Significant funds were provided by an Australian/British government migration scheme from 1926 to 1933; federally-sponsored 'Boys Camps', established during the depression to alleviate youth unemployment, provided labour; and Italian and German internees and prisoners of war were used as a labour force from 1941 to 1945.

Radiata pine was first milled successfully in the Mid North at Wirrabara Forest in 1903, but not until 1930 was there sufficient timber to construct a large-scale sawmill in the South East. Because private industry was not interested in purchasing or milling the wood, the state government established sawmills and the associated towns of Mount Burr in 1931 and Nangwarry in 1941.

Private sector forestry enterprises slowly became established in the South East. By 1935 SAPFOR (now Auspine) had established 2500 hectares of plantations and formed a small sawmilling company. Softwood Holdings (now Green Triangle Forest Products) commenced in 1937 and gradually expanded to become a major grower, sawmiller and particleboard manufacturer. Cellulose Australia commenced in 1941 as large amounts of pulpwood became available. As this did not absorb all the timber available, in 1958 the state government built and operated the Mount Gambier State Sawmill, then the largest in the southern hemisphere. In 1960 the large Apcel pulpmill opened near Millicent in the South East and began large-scale production of tissue paper. These operations, plus recent developments in plywood manufacture and laminating technologies, have ensured a high utilisation of forest resources.



Sowing seeds into bamboo tubes. Bundaleer 1905

Potentially significant timber supply problems arose in the 1950s and 1960s when a drop in productivity in many second rotation pine sites was detected. Research led to improved management of soil organic matter, appropriate weed control and fertiliser use. With genetic improvement through tree breeding, this has resulted in steady productivity gains.

South Australian forestry 'firsts' include sawn pine-seasoning techniques, timber-grading, preservative treatment of timber for outdoor and rural use, and cooperative tree breeding programs, all of which led to the successful establishment of the home-grown plantation timber resource. Radiata pine, once spurned by the building and construction industries in favour of imported timbers, has gained nationwide acceptance.

Fire protection has always been a major factor in managing plantations. Serious bushfires occurred in 1939, 1944, 1950 and 1959. The worst losses were on Ash Wednesday 1983 when some 25 per cent of the Woods and Forests Department plantations in the state were destroyed.

During the 1990s, the government recognised an increasingly competitive market for forest products. This was compounded in times of market downturn when the milling and marketing functions of the Woods and Forests Department had limited opportunity to reduce operations and costs compared with the private sector. Consequently the commercial timber processing and marketing operations were sold to the private sector during 1997. In 2001, ForestrySA became a government-owned corporation.

During the 1990s, the Government's native plant nurseries were also transferred from ForestrySA pending sale or closure. The Cavan site was eventually sold and the Berri and Bundaleer sites were closed. Murray Bridge and Belair continue to trade as State Flora – a business unit of the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation. The Belair Nursery celebrated 120 years of operation in 2006.

References

- Boardman, R 'Living on the Edge—the Development of Silviculture in South Australian Pine Plantations', *Australian Forestry*, 51(3), 1987.
- Lewis, NB *A Hundred Years of State Forestry*, Woods & Forests Dept (1975).
- Robinson, R and Johnston, P 'Forestry in South Australia' in *The Wakefield Companion to South Australian History*, Wakefield Press, 2001
- Woods and Forests Department *Annual Reports* (1882–1992).

Reprinted with the kind permission of Rob Robinson, Manager Community Forestry, Department of Primary Industries and Resources

Ships Reunion Days

In association with the exhibition "Destination Australia-Ports of Immigration" the Maritime Museum is holding ships' reunion days. At these occasions passengers are invited to relive their voyages and associate with fellow travellers. The Flotto Lauro Line Reunion was held in April. The Strath Ships Reunion for British immigrants is on Sunday 27 May 2007 3-5pm. The Sitmar Line Reunion for German immigrants and their families is on Sunday 24 June 3-5 pm. Afternoon tea is available and there are guest speakers. For further details and bookings contact the Maritime Museum ph 8207 6255.

Do you have an heirloom needlework sampler?

If so Peg Fraser would like to hear from you. Peg is a Master's student in the History Department at Melbourne University and is writing her thesis on Australian samplers (those pieces of embroidery worked by girls in the 19th and early 20th centuries.) This is the first academic study of Australian samplers.

If you have a piece of embroidery that you think may have been made in Australia and would like to provide any information about it please contact Peg Fraser. Ph 03 9499 8925. E-mail fraserme@bigpond.net.au. 5 Lower Heidelberg Rd, Ivanhoe, Vic 3079.

News from the Mt Horrocks Historical Society

2007 marks the 160th year of Watervale. David Davies from Camarthenshire in Wales purchased Section 145 and 146 in the Hundred of Upper Stanley on 10 June 1847, paying £160. On this day it appears that he sold land without survey to the people who had already established homes and businesses.

Thursday 22 March marked the first anniversary of the twinning of Penwortham with Penwortham in Lancashire, England. There were activities and afternoon tea was served at John Horrocks Cottage. Elderly residents of Penwortham in UK are being matched with pen pals in the Penwortham district in South Australia.

Details of charges for research undertaken by the Society are available on request. Ph 8849 2410.

News from the Federation of Australian Historical Societies

The Federation has produced a guide to publishing history, *Publishing History: A Guide for Historical Societies*, by Helen Doyle and Katya Johanson. This book contains advice on all aspects of printed and electronic publication and includes information on planning and financing a project, self publishing, the use of illustrations, and editing and design. There are suggestions concerning selling the finished product. The Society has a copy on the book table for reference and copies are available for \$12 from the Administrative Officer, Federation of Australian Historical Societies, GPO Box 1440, Canberra, ACT, 2601.

THE RIDLEY STRIPPER - THE DEBATE CONTINUES.

We know not the source of the 1940 article reprinted in the January *History SA* but it appears to have been based on an article published in West Australia 1937. That article was not well researched, being largely based on secondary and tertiary sources. State Archivist Mr Pitt strongly criticised both some aspects of the content and the conclusions prior to its publication. In writing his book *The First Stripper*, Jack Reddin relied heavily on primary sources, i.e. what is recorded as being written at the time to clarify who did what when and why as did Dr Jones in his thesis. That word "why" is vital in examining some of the claims.

Briefly, the large crops and labour shortages lead to much activity including a public competition to develop a mechanical wheat harvester in August 1843. Miller, John Ridley had a real need for workable machines to supply his mill. He set his large team of carpenters, blacksmiths etc to work. Their design was based on a rotary beater, rather like the stern paddle wheel on the "Murray Princess" with 4 flat blades which smote the ripe wheat ears, shattering them and releasing the grains. Some chaff was separated in the machine but the two horses pushing the machine could not provide sufficient power and the final winnowing was done afterwards. This design was a resounding success from the outset. The first two machines worked well on the 1843/44 Ridley crops in Adelaide from November 14th on and later the Patterson and Bull crops at Mt Barker as did the 16 built for the 1844/45 harvest.

Walter Patterson made a number of practical improvements and over the next 40 years some 16,000 plus Ridley/Patterson pattern strippers were in action in South Australia alone. This development plus other evolutionary farm management method changes lead to South Australia becoming a world leader in dry land farming as well as a major wheat producer.

John Bull on the other hand was a very talented mixed farmer but his needs were different. He wanted complete heads as feed to fatten his livestock. His proposed design appears to be a basically similar (both being based on an old Roman idea) but differed significantly in having a high speed rotating beater fitted with narrow blades which cut the stalk to remove the ears intact. As far as I am aware no commercial machines were built although there is a record of Ridley assisting Bull on one of the fundamental design problems – namely how to handle complete heads in the machine. I have no wish to denigrate the Bull design but it seems to me that two other major problems were design of

and obtaining suitable metal for the high speed rotor and balancing it. Bull's principles are seen in modern form, but tipped over, in rotary lawn mowers.

To my mind Jack Reddin's study makes it pretty clear that John Bull was working alone and that it is unlikely that Ridley would have known much if anything about it when his first machine was being built – vide Reddin p. 32. He was not a formal entrant in the competition and his own work was widely publicised in the three local papers as was the original basic Roman/Gallic design.

The sad part about this long standing argument claiming that Bull originated Ridley's design is that in the course of the arguments both people are denigrated whereas both were brilliant in their own way doing different things for different purposes. Bull was rewarded by the Government for his contribution for farming techniques. Both men deserve their respective credit.

As for the story about Mr Bull swinging a stick around this may be correct but as recounted it completely misses the essential point that he would have been hitting the stalk below the head to sever it, again like a Victoria rotary mower. There is no record of Ridley planning to cut the stalks.

A part of the "anti Ridley" denigration has been what I see as a stupid claim that his first machine was a failure. Not so. The context is that the machine was ready some weeks before the wheat had ripened but they were uncertain about the design of the comb which guided the wheat stalks into the path of the beater. Thus, they undertook some trials on green wheat using a wooden comb on October 26th. Not surprisingly some teeth broke when they hit stones etc. but they got enough information to design an iron comb. Dunn reports his delight in finding enough half inch square iron bar to make it (Reddin p38). One of the three reporters covering the event did not understand the purpose of the trial and reported it as a failure. The other papers reported that claim "as false as it is malicious" (Ridley p13 and 37). If one looks at the later strippers and indeed the modern ones the cutters and much else has changed but the comb is little changed from Ridley's design. So much for the "failure".

Ian Schomburgk

By Neil Thomas

Recent additions include:

Small groups of personal papers include a daily diary kept by Belvidere farmer and local preacher Henry Waters from 1864 to 1900, the year of his death. Local events, family and business matters were recorded without fail over this period, giving an interesting insight into country life near Strathalbyn. The Cropley family headed by Slack and his wife Susan kept letters, wills and other papers over the period 1884 to 1948, including particularly personal character statements written in 1865 about the pioneer couple. The Cropleys lived firstly in Wallaroo and came to Adelaide when Mr Slack Cropley died in 1927. A research paper on Samuel Peter Lichagary Besly (1817-1852), emigrant ship's surgeon between England and Australia, by his descendant Bryan Besly has been compiled from various archival sources.

Papers of Johann Carl Engelbrecht (1833-1914) of Mount Gambier and his family include personal photographs and detailed engineering plans for a distillery for the Berri Distillery Company and a pasteurising plant, both designed by his son Louis William Engelbrecht in the 1920s. Engelbrecht senior established a distillery in 1885 which his sons took over after his retirement. The personal diaries of (David) Edgar Mundy who grew up at Port Lincoln cover the years 1921 to 1954; he died in 1958. The papers of Eric A. Baker (1920-2004) include his log book of flights for Guinea Airways in New Guinea from 1937 to the beginning of World War Two, and details of his service in the R.A.A.F. in England to 1945. His schoolboy passion for aircraft is reflected in three scrapbooks he kept. After the war he became the owner of an Amilcar; his papers include a history of his car and its various ownerships up to 1987, written by Richard Fewster. A research file compiled by Dene Cordes of the Department for Environment and Heritage about early environmentalist Samuel Dixson includes his work to have the parks at Belair (1891) and Flinders Chase, Kangaroo Island (1919) declared National Parks. The information was collected to support the heritage listing of his grave in St Jude's Cemetery, Brighton.

Three new society record groups have been created. The Sex Industry Network papers (1998), relate to the Cameron Prostitution Bill which was defeated in the Upper House in the 2000-2001 parliamentary session. The Over Sixties Education Association (Tuesday group), formed under the auspices of the South Australian Council of the Ageing, has papers covering 1978 to 2004. The Reynella Recreational Ground Committee papers (1912-1965) relate to the establishment of an area for sport and recreation.

Disclaimer

Views and opinions expressed in articles in the Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Historical Society of South Australia. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of articles printed responsibility is not accepted for any errors they may contain that are out of the Society's control.

The Privacy Act

Personal information collected by the Society for example name, address, and telephone number will only be used for forwarding the newsletter and relevant information concerning the Society. The information will not be shared or given to any third party without the member's consent. Any e-mails will be treated as above but the Society will not be held responsible for any unintended disclosure of this information.

Deadline for newsletter articles and entries June 14, 2007.

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

President: Mr David Cornish

Vice-President: Dr Geoffrey Bishop

Secretary: Mr Terry Saunderson ph 8354 2736 (business hours)

Treasurer/Membership: Mr Bill Stacy

Bookings: Mrs Avis Huckel ph 8277 2953

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

Journal Editor: Dr Brian Dickey ph 8201 2375

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 7.30 pm on the first Thursday of the month in the Kingston Room, 24 Jetty Rd Brighton. Contact ph 8298 1959.

Burnside Historical Society

Meets 8 pm at the Burnside Community Centre on the third Monday of the month. On 18 June Marie Maddocks will speak about "Irish Orphans in South Australia." On 16 July Don Drake will speak about "Showing Films at the Burnside Library." Contact ph 8379 4090.

Campbelltown Historical Society

Meets in the old Council Chambers, 2 Newton Rd, Newton at 8 pm on the second Tuesday of the month. On 12 June Ian Reddy will speak on the "See-sawing history of Darwin." Contact ph 8336 6959.

East Torrens Historical Society

Meets at 8 pm at the Adelaide Hills Natural Resource Centre, Crescent Ave Norton Summit. On 11 July Bill Stacy will speak about "The Battle of the Roads." His talk will outline the struggle for funding for the Greenhill and Norton Summit roads. Contact phone 8390 3138.

Enfield and Districts Historical Society

Meets 7.15 pm 4th Wednesday of the month at the Enfield Community Centre, 540 Regency Rd Enfield. Contact ph 8240 5200.

Kensington and Norwood Historical Society

Meets at 7.30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month in the Don Pyatt room of the Norwood Town Hall. Contact Ph 8363 9003.

Migration Museum

The exhibition "Finns Down Under; a photographic record" is free and is open until 27 August weekdays 10 am-5 pm, weekends and public holidays 1pm-5 pm. Address 82 Kintore Avenue, contact ph 8203 9868.

Mount Barker and District Branch of the National Trust of South Australia

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month. On Tuesday 5 June there will be the annual visit to the Mt Barker Community Library from 1.30 pm. Afternoon tea at the TAFE canteen. On 3 July we will meet at Stangate House at 7.30 pm for the annual combined heritage meeting with the Mt Lofty Historical Society. Meet at the Uniting Church Hall at Mt Barker for car pooling. Contact ph 8391 1985.

Port Adelaide Historical Society

Meets the third Wednesday of the month in the Semaphore Library at 7.45 pm. On 20 June Geoff Rawson will speak about police history and we will have the AGM. Contact ph 8345 5930.

Royal Geographical Society of South Australia

Meetings are held in the Goodman Building Hackney Rd. at 6 pm on the 4th Thursday of the month. On 24 May Mr Peter Forward will talk about "Salt Interception, Morgan to Lake Victoria."

On 28 June Mr Michael Mc Bride will talk about "Exploration and History of S.A. Pastoral Lands." (Brock Lecture). Contact ph 8207 7266.

Salisbury and District Historical Society

Meetings are held at the Folk Museum, Ann St Salisbury at 7 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. During History Week (18-27 May) we will have a Salisbury Historical Walk on 27 May.

On 13 June Allan Griffiths will show us toys from the Museum of Childhood.

Tea Tree Gully and District Historical Society

Meets at the Tea Tree Gully Library 571 Montague Rd Modbury. On 20 June Judith Rischbieth will speak about "Ross Smith, a Great South Australian." Meet 9.45 am. Contact ph 8251 4191.

Uniting Church History Centre

The Centre is open to the public Wednesdays 1-4 pm. It is situated at 44a East Avenue Black Forest. Contact ph 8344 8840.

Walkerville Historical Society

Meets at 7.30 pm on the third Wednesday of the month in the Walkerville Town Hall. On 20 June the Reverend David Paech will speak on "Persecution, Detention, or Internment of Lutherans in South Australia during the two World Wars."

On Wednesday 18 July Professor Chris Daniel will speak on "The ecology of Adelaide, a developing city." Contact ph 8344 5939.

Grand Colonial Ball

Polly Clark, president of the Adelaide Colonial Dancers, advises that the annual Grand Colonial Ball will be held on 30 June at the Wonderland Ballroom. Guests dress in the style of our colonial era. If you are interested in attending the ball the e-mail address is doc7@picknowl.com.au