

No. 192

September 2007

HISTORY SA

The Newsletter of the Historical Society of South Australia Inc.

Christmas Function

Sunday, 25 November at Chiverton (St Peter's Collegiate Girls' School) 3.30-5.30pm.

We will share the 50th Anniversary celebrations of the school which moved to this site from North Adelaide in 1957.

Our Christmas celebration will be held at "Chiverton" the beautiful 2 storeyed blue stone house with its gracious garden, now part of St Peter's Collegiate School. The home was originally built for John Thomas Nankivell and in the 1880s was tenanted by Harry Bickford, partner in the firm of A. M. Bickford and Sons, wholesale druggists. It was bought by Mrs Jessie Ferguson in 1896 as a home for herself and her six children after the death of her husband Dr Hugh Ferguson. Part of the property has been left to the public as Ferguson Reserve.

The occasion, from 3.30-5.30 pm, will include afternoon tea in the garden and a tour of the old house and stables. The Friends of Music, the school music group, will perform for us. Entry is from Stonyfell Rd. The cost of approximately \$20 is to be confirmed. Bookings essential. Please contact Avis Huckel ph. 8277 2953.



Chiverton St Peter's Collegiate School, where the Historical Society of SA will hold its Christmas Function.

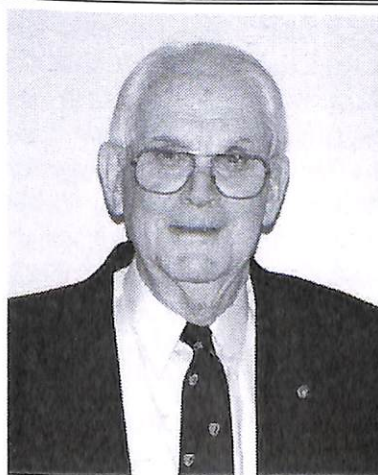
Chinese Immigrant Ship Project Awarded Funding

From the Dept. of Environment and Heritage comes the news that a Heritage Branch project to locate the sites of three small wooden vessels has been awarded funding under the Australian Government Historical Ship Wrecks Program. The vessels, the *Phaeton*, the *Sultana*, and the *Koning William 11* were lost near Robe in 1857 when they were carrying Chinese Immigrants heading for the Victorian gold fields. They were going via South Australia to avoid Victoria's "head tax."

The Echuca Wharf has been included in the National Heritage List. It is a survivor of the booming Murray River Trade of the late 1800s. Three storeys high, the wharf accommodated variations in the river's height and allowed for year round trading.

John Harvey OAM

HSSA member John Harvey was among those awarded an Order of Australia Medal in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours list. This was for his service to the brewing industry through the Institute of Brewing and Distilling and to the community through Rotary International. John is an active member of the Henley and Grange Historical Society and the Charles Sturt Local History Partnership.



From the President

Welcome to the final edition of *History SA* for 2007. In this edition you will find details of our guest speakers for the October and November *Discovering SA's History* lectures, our *Visiting SA's History* outing to Burnside, and our Christmas Party at St Peter's Girls' School. I am determined to keep HSSA members busy until the end of the year!

Much has happened at the HSSA since my last column. Members have had the opportunity to enjoy two Friday night lectures, and I thank Bill and Robyn Barker for their presentation at the July meeting, and Graham Vincent for addressing the August meeting. Two Wednesday outings have also been held. Sincere thanks to the congregation of Christ Church, North Adelaide, for their hospitality and for sharing their historic church and charming rectory. Members also enjoyed the opportunity to inspect the Treasures Wall at the State Library and the Flinders Art Museum.

Council has also met and is well advanced in formalising the Society's program for 2008. I look forward to sharing details of this with you shortly, and advise that I will be sticking to my promise of providing Society members with a busy and interesting year!

I received a letter from the outgoing Governor of South Australia, Marjorie Jackson-Nelson, advising of her retirement and thanking us for our support during her term of office as our Patron. It was a pleasure to represent the Society at a range of functions at the invitation of Her Excellency, and I thank Mrs Jackson-Nelson for filling the role of Patron and for a job well done as Governor.

I extend a warm welcome to the new Governor of South Australia, Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce, and was delighted to receive an invitation to attend his swearing in ceremony at the Adelaide Festival Theatre. It was a privilege to be present and to witness Rear Admiral Scarce assume office.

On a personal note, I convey my apologies for the October meeting as I will be travelling to London to attend the Prince Alfred Old Collegians' Centenary London Dinner, which will be held at the Oxford and Cambridge Club. I set myself the task of researching and writing the history of this unique event, culminating in the publication of *Old Reds in the Old Country – a centenary history of the PAOCA London Branch*. My year 12 Modern European History teacher David Mattingley, of whom I have written in this publication recently, will be in London following the UK launch of *Battle Order 204* at Lincoln Cathedral, and has done me the honour of agreeing to launch my work.

My time in London will include various activities in conjunction with the Centenary Dinner. I am then escaping to the Scottish Highlands to do what I like best – ride steam

trains, marvel at stunning scenery, and enjoy a wee drop of whiskey! I am looking forward to my time away.

A recent innovation of the society has been the Christmas function. The concept commenced with a party at 'Cummins House', and we have since enjoyed functions at Old Government House and in the garden of the mansion 'The Acacias' at Loreto College following an organ recital at Clayton Wesley church. Christmas Party guests this year will enjoy the delightful property 'Chiverton', the impressive main building of St Peter's Girls' School at Stonyfell. Coincidentally 2007 marks the 50th anniversary of the school relocating from Kermode St, North Adelaide, to its present site.

Each year the party has grown, members have enjoyed one another's company, and Father Christmas has spread Christmas cheer. Some party goers even go home lucky with a win in the raffle! I have (unfortunately!), established a tradition of baking a Christmas cake for first prize in the raffle. I will do so again this year, and to have a chance to win the Presidential Cake you had better join us at the Christmas party.

I had better get my apron on and start baking!

David Cornish
President

Bethany

One of the towns highlighted in the 2007 State History Conference was Bethany, or Bethanien. Bethany was the first village established in the Barossa Valley. It was settled in 1842 by 28 families under the care of Pastor G.D.Fritzche. They came from Prussia (now Poland) on board the Skjol; on the voyage from Hamburg 51 people died. The village was laid out in German Hufendorf style, with houses built along the main road with the farm land stretching out at right angles in long narrow strips. Most settlers had access to water from the Tanunda Creek. They grew cereal crops, fruit and vegetables. Traditional Prussian customs were observed in the village. For example the duty of the village herdsman, elected by the villagers, was to collect the village cattle every morning and take them to the village common. He would return them in the evening announcing their arrival with a blast from his horn.

Community life centred round the church and school. The first church was built by settlers in 1845 under the direction of their Pastor. It had mud walls, a thatched roof, and was built on the site of the present manse. The present church, Herberge Christi, was built in 1883 with

Visiting SA's history

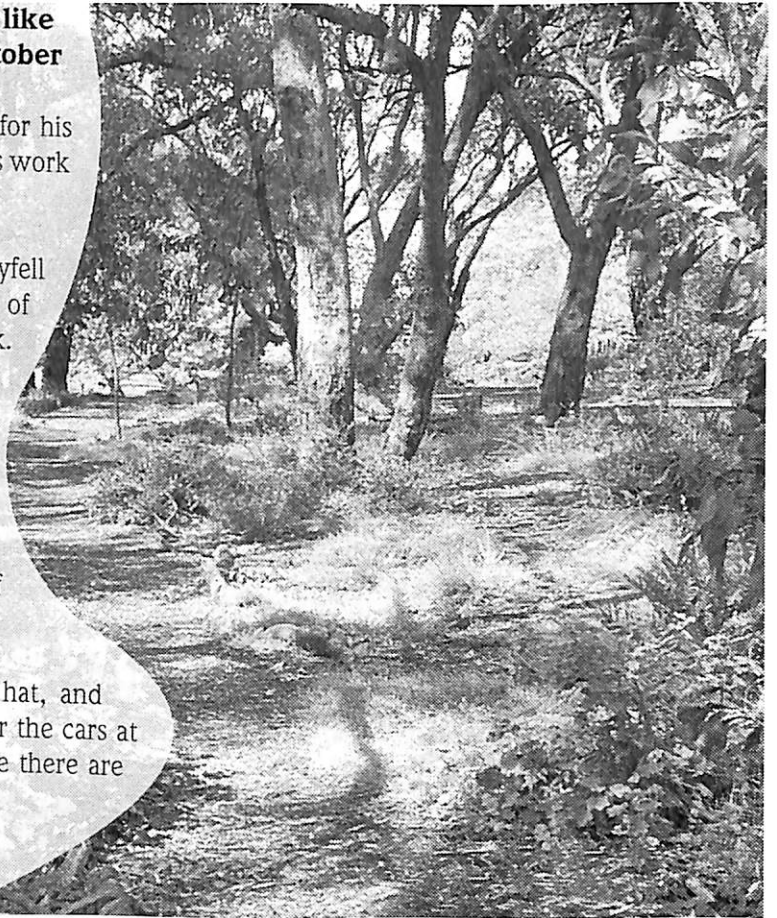
The Natural History of Burnside- What was it like and What is being created? Sunday 21 October 10am-3.30pm.

Our tour leader, Andrew Crompton, is well known for his work in conservation. The focus of his tour will be his work in protecting the biodiversity of Burnside.

At 10.00 am we will meet at Bellyett Reserve, Stonyfell Road, Stonyfell. We will examine the vegetation of Bellyett Reserve and Ferguson Conservation Park. We will car pool or take a short walk to examine Heatherbank Reserve, Simpson Reserve, and Hubbe Reserve on Second Creek. We will then drive to Hazelwood Park for a picnic lunch. After lunch we will explore Langman Reserve, Waterfall Gully Reserve and Beaumont Common Reserve. We will conclude at 3.30 after afternoon tea and a tour of Beaumont House.

Please wear comfortable shoes for short walks, a hat, and bring a drink bottle. Also a picnic lunch to have near the cars at Hazelwood Park. The cost of the tour is \$15. (Note there are no shops close by!)

Book a place on this tour with Avis at the next meeting. Contact ph. 8277 2953.



Bethany Continued

a school close by. Music was important and a choir and brass band were formed in Bethany. A pipe organ, built in the Barossa Valley, was installed in the church, replaced by a bigger organ in 1929. The original organ is now used in the Stockwell Lutheran Church. The cemetery, the oldest in the Barossa Valley, reflects the high child mortality rate in the settlement's early years.

Along the main road are several examples of houses built in the German style with high pitched rooves, exposed beams, and pug walls. The Keil house, a private home, is being restored and in the past was the premises of the butchers Heinrich Liersch and Edward Keil. The black kitchen, where meat was smoked, is in the centre of the building as is the entrance to the loft. Outbuildings include a slaughter house and a commercial meat and smoke house. This house is probably the best example of this architectural style in South Australia.

The Schultz farm shed is an excellent example of a slab sided thatched roofed implement shed. The slabs were probably cut from mature trees and the timber split using an axe, maule, and wedges. The shed was rethatched in

2003 by the Barossa Vintage Festival Heritage Group and the Bethany community.

Those of us who took part in the walk through Bethany ended up in Bethany Wines in front of a crackling fire. The tour leader was Anna Schrapel.

(Information from pamphlet produced by the Bethany Historical Committee in 1992)

Hoffnungsthal, a Valley of Hope

This little known site in the Barossa Valley was stumbled upon by one of our members on the way home from the State History Conference. The land was leased from the South Australian Company 1847-1867 and the settlement was flooded out in 1855. A memorial to those families who settled there originally has been constructed on stones from the old church and there is an interpretive sign and shelter featuring a painting of the area by the artist Eugene Von Guérard. The area was renamed Karrawirra (place of red gums).

(information supplied by Maggy Ragless)

Colin Harris

The Adelaide Plains: an Environmental History

**7.30pm Friday
5 Oct 2007**

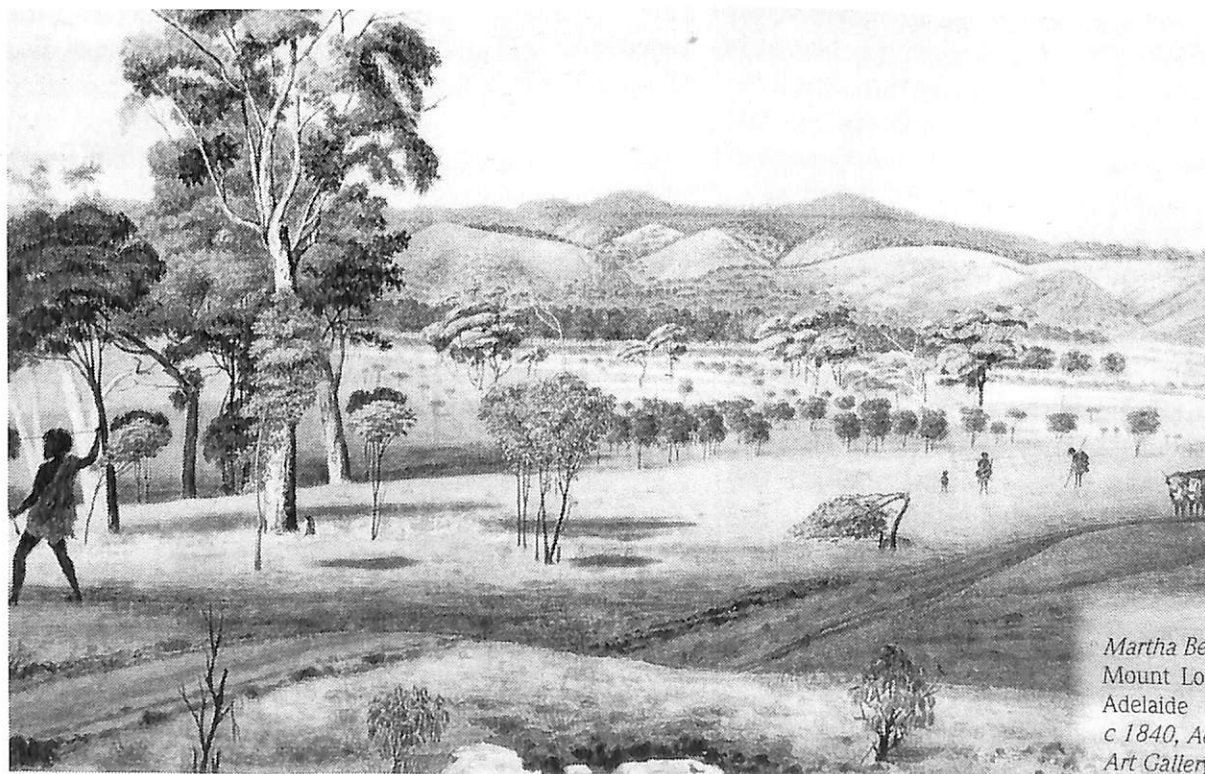
**Burnside Community
Centre,
Cnr Portrush Road
and Greenhill Road,
Burnside**

As a sprawling, low density city of around 1.3 million people, Adelaide now extends over almost ninety kilometres of the narrow coastal plains between the eastern shores of St Vincent Gulf and the Mt Lofty Ranges. In a process of urbanization which commenced with the arrival of the first European colonists in 1836, the Adelaide Plains have been transformed: grasslands, forest and woodlands have been almost totally cleared and replaced with a built urban form, rivers and streams have been lined and diverted, wetlands drained and many of the original plants and animals replaced by introduced species.

Such has been the extent of change that over most of the Adelaide Plains it is now quite difficult to imagine what the appearance of the country must once have been. Even systematic attempts to reconstruct the original environment are constrained by the lack of records from the early years and the rapidity of the change process. Nevertheless, some reconstruction is possible: sketches and paintings, contemporary writing, early natural history collections and surviving remnants of the original environment provide the clues and in this lecture Colin will summarise the evidence. He will also remind us that Indigenous people occupied the land for many thousands of years before European colonization and that the process of human induced change really commenced with their arrival.

A geographer and historian by training, Colin spent most of his working career in the fields of natural and cultural heritage conservation, and natural resource management. In 1999 he was awarded the Public Service Medal for his contribution to these fields. At the time of retirement in 2003 he was Director of Biodiversity Conservation in the South Australian Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation.

Colin is a founding member of the Historical Society of South Australia and has previously delivered lectures to the Society on the land settlement history of the Murray Mallee and the Far North pastoral country.



*Martha Berkeley 1813-99
Mount Lofty from the Terrace,
Adelaide
c 1840, Adelaide
Art Gallery of South Australia*

Malcolm Elliot Celebrating One Hundred Years of the Repertory Theatre

7.30pm Friday
2 Nov 2007

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

This theatre group had its origins in the piano room of Bryceson Treharne at the Elder Conservatorium. In 1908 a small group began meeting there to discuss literature and read plays. After 6 months they decided, as the Adelaide Literary Theatre, to stage two plays in the north hall at the Conservatorium. The two productions, *A Man of Destiny* by G B Shaw and *Land of Heart's Desire* by W B Yeats, were a great success and the group went from strength to strength. They performed in Walkerville and Unley Town Halls and in 1914 became The Adelaide Repertory Theatre.

During the Depression cheerful plays were chosen and in the late 1930s the group moved to the Tivoli Theatre in Grote St where they performed until the 1950s. Players recall this theatre fondly, with its mice and rats causing patrons to sit with their feet up, and the planks which had to be negotiated over the mud to the toilets at the back. There was Tiddles, the theatre cat, who did his best to control things, even appearing accidentally on the stage. Eventually he learnt to return backstage when the National Anthem was played.

On 2 November Malcolm Elliot will tell us more about the "Rep" including the golden years after World War II, and the eventual purchase of the site in Angas St.



THE BIRTH OF A THEATRE...

This is the story of the founding of our Theatre, and of its subsequent growth. The story is told in three sections, for that is how our Theatre developed—first as Bryceson Treharne's Class, then as the Adelaide Literary Theatre, and finally as the Adelaide Repertory Theatre.



THE LATE BRYCESON TREHARNE
Founder of our Theatre



Bryceson Treharne's Class

Treharne (who years later was to become a piano teacher in the Royal College of Music) came from the Royal College, London, to join the Elder Conservatorium in 1902. In 1908 he was a piano teacher in the Adelaide Conservatorium, who, under his guidance, had formed a group for the study of modern literature—and discussing them among themselves. And it was decided that the group should meet in the presence of audiences made up of friends and family.

At the end of each Conservatorium term a series of plays was presented in the North Hall of the Conservatorium to raise a fund for the purchase of a piano. For those first two exciting years that earnest little band of actors and actresses trained themselves in dramatic technique. Meanwhile, other lovers of the theatre were drawn into the fold. A few of these recruits brought to the group some training and experience in dramatic art which helped to raise the standard of performances.

The programme for a series of these dramatic evenings in the North Hall of the Conservatorium in mid-December, 1909, is an interesting list of several reasons. For one thing, most of the nine plays and authors named in it indicate the high quality of the material upon which Mr. Treharne insisted. Among them were Lady Gregory's comedy, "Hyscimb Halves", from the repertory of the Abbey Theatre, Dublin; Laurence Binyon's tragedy, "Paris and Oenone"; Turgenev's comedy, "The Spinning of the Thread"; and George Bernard Shaw's "Press Cuttings".

Among the performers were several who later were to render the Adelaide Repertory Theatre notable service as players and administrators, and a few who were to achieve distinction in other directions—at home and abroad.

Miss Muriel Craig (now a life member of the Adelaide Repertory Theatre) was one of them, and Mr. George Whittle, who is also still a member of our Theatre today, was another. Others who took part in that series of plays included Wilfrid Neill and Douglas Walsh (also stalwarts of the Theatre of the future), Frank Wilkinson (another future administrator), Jean Robertson (who later played professionally in Australia and overseas), Henry L. Blose (future Rhodes Scholar and husband of Miss Robertson, and companion of Bryceson Treharne in an interment camp in Germany during World War I), William R. Cade (who later was to build a reputation as a violinist and S. Parsons (another who was to make a name for himself in Adelaide music circles).

That series of dramatic evenings rang down the curtain on Bryceson Treharne's Class, for it was the first appearance of the group before it was to launch out early in the following year as the Adelaide Literary Theatre.

Main images from the Souvenir Programme- Opening of The Arts Theatre June 1963, Adelaide Repertory Theatre Inc.

Christ Church North Adelaide Visit

Christ Church turned out to be quite a draw card for Society members, with over 40 turning out for the mid-week tour on 18 July. After being welcomed by Father Simon Bailey and Pauline Brooks we split into two groups to inspect the church and rectory built from stone quarried in Palmer Place.

The church, opened for public worship in 1849 and extended in 1855, owes a considerable debt to the generosity of parishioners who contributed for fittings and furnishings. Pauline drew attention to superb stained glass windows seen at their best following cleaning by Artlab. She showed us decorative encaustic tiles donated by the Dutton family in 1892, the carved font cover commemorating Mrs Jose and numerous other memorials. An elegant selection of Christ Church silver displayed on the high altar was described for us by Eileen Ralston. Several pieces were made by South Australian silver smith C.E. Firnhaber in 1849; others were the work of John Hale, who died in 1996.

We were then treated to a performance of Handel *Processionals* by David Gallasch at the organ, which has just been renovated. Pauline rounded off by giving full voice

to "Come Unto Me" from the *Messiah*, demonstrating the effectiveness of Christ Church acoustics.

Max Tomkins took us in hand for a ground floor tour of the gothic revival rectory which dates from 1850 and was, like the original church, designed for an English climate. Its dormer window, crenellated parapets and roof pitch hark back to the Tudor period. A corrugated iron roof has replaced the Willunga slate roof.

Inside Father Bailey was penning a sermon by a crackling fire in a room with heavy doors and darkly stained woodwork. Extensive wood panelling has been removed as it succumbed to white ants.

The tour concluded in the church hall where we enjoyed hot quiches, cakes, tea, and coffee. Jim Loudon gave a vote of thanks acknowledging those who had made our tour such a rewarding one.

Roger Andre

Visit to the State Library

On Wednesday 15th August a group from the Society spent an interesting morning at the State Library. The first port of call was the Treasures Wall. This is a series of 20 environmentally controlled display areas which are used to show the Treasures of the Library. The wall is 24 metres long and panelled with 40 of the various products of the state from iron, zinc, grape vine prunings, cowhides to minerals such as iron and opal. The treasures are mainly purchases by the Friends of the Library. We were taken through the exhibitions by Michael Talbot the curator of exhibitions

The current display is about communication through writing, illustration and printing. Significant among the items that we saw were a commercial transaction from ancient Egypt on papyrus, an early Renaissance example of printing in Pliny's *Naturalis Historia* by Nicholas Jensen, a magnificent example of 20th Century hand printing of the Four Gospels by Eric Gill, and architectural drawings from one of the oldest established architectural firms in Adelaide. The best known of the treasures was an Antiphonal, a Latin Christian text sung to a plainsong chant. This large manuscript (570 x 395 mm) was placed on a lectern so that at least 5 persons could read from it. This was acquired originally from the sale of the library of a Yass grazier for £77-10-0.

The display on the wall is changed regularly.

After morning tea in the Library café we looked at the current works in the Flinders Gallery. We saw works by six local artists inspired by Treasures from the Library collection. The exhibition was called 'Identity: Portrait and Place – Document or Insight.' The curator explained the display.

Di Barret, inspired by a religious painting, had produced a large work showing women in places where males were usually depicted as well as a large, nude pregnant Madonna. Darren Siwes took his inspiration from coinage and displayed images of himself as an aboriginal bust on gold, silver and bronze coins, with the aboriginal bust in place of the Queen. The coins were dated 2010. Other artists with work on display included Ann Newmarch, Anna Platten, and Christopher Orchard.

Altogether a worthwhile and interesting morning with many promising to come back and review the Treasures and Paintings.

John Little

A forgotten Adelaide church

Sunday morning - this early 1900s photograph shows Mrs Alice Stuckey (third from left) and possibly her daughter, Alice Mary (behind Mrs Stuckey), outside the Hindmarsh Square Congregational Church, Adelaide. This church stood at the south-east corner of Hindmarsh Square and Grenfell Street.



Alice Stuckey (1844-1928) was a daughter of Adelaide lawyer Charles Mann Q.C. She married Joseph James Stuckey (1843-1917) in 1875 at Flinders Street Congregational Church (now Pilgrim Uniting Church). Joseph was a son of Robert Stuckey (1812-1897), originally grocer and draper of Rundle Street, and later a land agent and investor in partnership with Peter D. Pranker. Joseph Stuckey was admitted to the English Bar in 1865 and from 1867 practiced as a barrister and solicitor in Adelaide. The Stuckeys lived at 333 Wakefield Street, Adelaide, from about 1886. J.J. Stuckey died at his Wakefield Street residence in April 1917.

The Hindmarsh Square Congregational Church was designed by George Abbott and constructed in 1865 at a cost of £3094. Abbott designed many Adelaide churches and manses, including the original Clayton Congregational Chapel at Beulah Park (1856). The church was purchased by the Australian Broadcasting Commission in 1935. The impressive frontal arcade was blocked up and, in 1954, the domed octagonal towers were removed down to their square bases. The 'church' remained the ABC's Adelaide studios until 1975. The church and the adjoining manse were demolished in 1983.

In his reminiscences, *I'm Speaking to You* (1984), ABC broadcaster Bob Caldicott writes of 'The Square', as it was affectionately known:

In October 1975 the last of the ABC staff still working in Hindmarsh Square said a very reluctant farewell to the greatest architectural disaster in Adelaide and moved out to the clean, sterile and completely characterless new architectural disaster in North Adelaide, leaving 'the

Square' to its final destruction. It seems ironic that the demolition experts should have crept in almost furtively at night to do their work on the eve of Christmas 1983.

He went on to comment about the building.

I can't imagine even the most dedicated conservationists wanting to preserve those emasculated relics which, after the ABC had finished with them, bore no resemblance whatsoever to the original buildings. Over the years, additions and subtractions had taken place, all of them of the cheapest and most unprepossessing kind, to meet, hurriedly, the need either for more studios or more office space. The resultant rabbit warren was not only an eyesore but a first-class fire trap.'

All in all, this was an ignoble end to a once fine building.

John M. Bishop and Geoffrey C. Bishop

Details re Stuckey family are from *Flett & Stuckey: Diversity of Fortune* by John M. Bishop (2003).

Pioneer Women's Memorial Trust

Senator Penny Wong's speech relating to the Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden can be accessed on her website <www.pennywong.com.au> A hard copy can be ordered through Chris Hockey ph 8223 5588. The speech is recorded in Hansard and follows her attendance at the Australia Day Ceremony 26 January 2007.

The History Council of South Australia

The History Council of South Australia represents voluntary organizations throughout the state as well as universities, professional bodies, schools, and government agencies. The Council aims to provide a representative voice on historical issues affecting the community. Currently South Australia's Terquasquicentenary in 2011 is being considered! It is hoped that events in that year will be as successful as those held in the Sesquicentenary in 1986.

John Horrocks' Cottage

The Mount Horrocks Historical Society inform us that the restoration of the cottage has resulted in an increase in visitor numbers and for anyone passing through the area, a guided visit through the interpretive centre is well worth while. Contact ph 8849 2410.

TREES OF SIGNIFICANCE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Part 2

The National Trust of South Australia Significant Tree Steering Committee was re-convened three years ago after a hiatus of several years. Its current briefs include campaigning to raise the awareness of politicians, local councils and the general public about the recognition of significant trees and the appropriate legislation needed for their retention, conservation and augmentation; the review and digitising of existing entries on the South Australian Register; the formation of a streamlined process for nomination, possibly to be used as a national template; and the assessment of new nominations. All of these initiatives are progressing well. Although some suburban councils also have lists of significant trees, a more universal and cohesive policy for local government would be beneficial.

You will all be familiar with some of the best-known National Trust Significant Trees – the Old Gum Tree, the Kangaroo Island Mulberry Tree, the Herbig Tree. The four examples which follow are among the most recent acceptances to the National Trust Register, each demonstrating several of the criteria now required for nomination (see Figure 1).

Natural value:	Aesthetic value:
• Remnant vegetation	• Beauty
• Provides habitat	• Dimensions
	• Extreme age
Historical/cultural value:	• Landscape/landmark
• Denotes historic event	• Curious form/topiary
• Planting connected with VIP	
• Aboriginal/ethnic	Endangered/rare species:
• For local community	• Vulnerable species
• In public/private garden	• Horticultural/genetic value
	• Juvenile genetic stock

Figure 1. Significant Tree criteria

Swamp paperbark, (Kangaroo honey-myrtle), *Melaleuca halmaturorum*

This remnant is a good example of a naturally occurring element of Adelaide's urban forest and is all that remains of extensive stands of Swamp paperbark along the Patawalonga Creek to the Reedbeds. Photographs taken in the 1880s show belts of healthy trees in this location. In the 1950s only about 80 trees were left; now there are only 14. Apart from environmental health benefits, retaining and safe-guarding the trees maintains understorey, ground cover and habitat.



Figure 2 Swamp paperbark, Patawalonga Creek, 1880s Photo courtesy D. Kraehenbuehl

Holly-leaved cherry – *Prunus ilicifolia*

The Holly-leaved cherry, a very attractive Californian evergreen, was used as a shade tree in the recreation areas in Belair National Park c.1900-1910 to replace the native Grey box (then considered an "untidy" tree). Walter Gill, Conservator of Forests in South Australia and a National Park Commissioner (1892-1923), responsible for the selection of trees for planting in the Park, was also vice-chairman (in absentia) of the Forestry Society of California and was impressed with this species, rarely planted outside of its limited natural range in California. It suited South Australia's similar climate, and fortunately, unlike many other exotics, has not gone feral.



Figure 3 Holly-leaved cherry, Belair National Park Photo J. Skinner 2003

Article - *Spirits of Endurance*

The Canny cypress (Cypress cultivar) — *Cupressus glabra* 'Canny'

Many conifer species were trialled in the Woods and Forests Nursery at Belair (now State Flora) for commercial purposes in the early 20th century and several were investigated for landscape gardening. Jack Canny, long-serving curator of the Nursery from 1914 to 1957, often searched overseas for suitable stock for the Australian market. On a trip in 1955 to the United States, he saw a couple of unusual golden sports of the Arizona cypress in the wild. He took a couple of tiny heels of each, secreted them on his body to get through Customs, grew them on at Belair, and made material from them available to commercial nurseries. The 'Canny' cultivar and its companion, the 'Aurea', are the parent stock of many modern ornamental cypresses. Both are still thriving in the State Flora Nursery.



Figure 4 Canny cypress, State Flora, Belair Photo J. Skinner 2003

Bethany Reserve River red gums — *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*

There are at least six ancient remnant River red gums on the Bethany Reserve near Tanunda. These River reds form a remarkable treescape. All of the gums are close to the Tanunda Creek, have massive proportions (over 35 metres tall, with girths ranging between 5.20m. and 11.05m.), are estimated to be from 200+–500+ years old (D. Kraehenbuehl) and have good habitat sites. Three of

the gums are highly likely to be pre-colonial Aboriginal habitation trees. Surrounding native vegetation was documented by several botanists in early colonial times, so this Eucalypt woodland is botanically, as well as historically and culturally, significant.

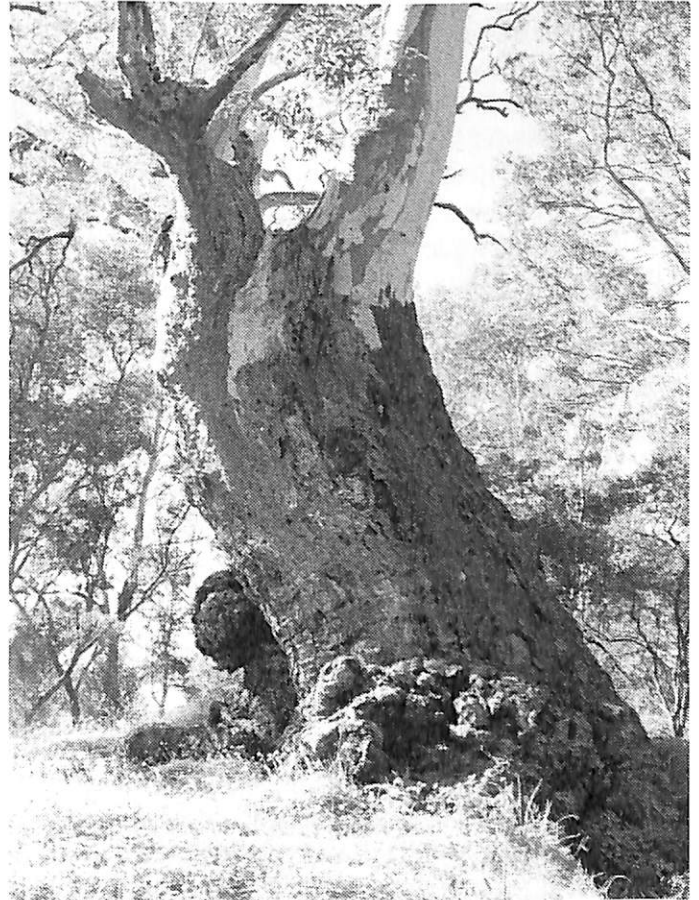


Figure 5 River red gum, Bethany Reserve Photo R. Tamblin 2006

If there are trees, native or exotic, which you feel need conserving and if they meet several of the criteria indicated above, the National Trust can be contacted on 8212 1133 to see if the trees are already on the Register. If not, to help secure their future, nomination forms can be posted to you, or downloaded from the Trust's website: www.nationaltrustsa.org.au/significant_trees

Completed forms can be sent by email to: admin@nationaltrustsa.org.au

or posted to: National Trust of South Australia
PO Box 8147, Station Arcade
Adelaide SA 5000

Pam Tamblin
National Trust of SA Significant Tree Steering Committee

Colebrook Reconciliation Park Celebrates 10th Anniversary

By Treena Clark

On the 2nd of June 2007, the 10th Anniversary of the opening of Colebrook Reconciliation Park was held. Along with the Anniversary was the unveiling of the plaque; a tribute to all the children who attended the Eden Hills Colebrook home. The Anniversary was held to bring together everyone, especially the children and the families of the Colebrook Home, and to also create a sense of healing. 'We've created this place of healing, with the fountain of tears, and with the grieving mother' said Professor Lowitja O'Donoghue.

Colebrook Home officially opened in 1924 at Oodnadatta. By 1926, the home moved to Quorn, and by 1943 the home relocated and settled in the Adelaide suburb, Eden Hills. Colebrook Home closed in 1972 and in 1997 the site became the Colebrook Reconciliation Park, and includes the Fountain of Tears and the Grieving Mother sculptures. The Colebrook Reconciliation Park is now a place to heal and to remember all the children who attended the home.

The day started with an introduction to the day and a welcoming ceremony. Karl Telfer welcomed everyone to Kurna Land by performing a smoke ceremony and a kangaroo dance, which was accompanied by a didgeridoo. The smoke ceremony was an appropriate start to the day as its purpose was to bring the hearts and minds together. Following the introduction was the memorial service which was dedicated to the children who attended the home, with the mention of their names, and also reflections on the Colebrook Home. There were also readings from the Bible, and prayers such as *To God be the Glory*, *Fruit Salad Chorus*, and, *God be with you til we meet again*.

Following the memorial service was the awaited unveiling of the plaque. Guest of the day, Amy Levai unveiled the plaque alongside Avis Gale, where the names of all the children who attended the Eden Hills home were showcased. Immediately after the unveiling, 30 doves were released by the honoured guests of the day, namely the Colebrook Home attendees, and their family and friends. The doves were released into the air as a symbol of peace.

For a small donation participants enjoyed a light lunch while music played. There was also a fairy floss stand for those with a sweet tooth. Throughout the day, people had the opportunity to honour the memory of those who went to the Colebrook Home, by lighting a candle and placing it in the memory sand.



Avis Gale and, guest of the day, Amy Levai unveil the plaque.



Professor Lowitja O'Donoghue and guests, with the dove.

The 10th Anniversary of the Colebrook Reconciliation Park was a very emotional day, especially for the children who attended the home and their families and friends. Emily Hayes, who travelled from Alice Springs for the event, said that it was good to be back, but also sad, because as children they used to play there. When asked if the day had been healing for her, she said, 'Yea, it felt really good'. The Anniversary of the Colebrook Reconciliation Park was made possible by the Tjitji Tjuta and Blackwood Reconciliation Group, as well as the support and sponsorship from many individuals, communities, and organisations.

Treena Clark is the recipient of the Blackwood Reconciliation Group TjitiTjuta Scholarship and is studying Journalism at the University of South Australia.

By Neil Thomas

Recent additions include:

A daughter of Ernest Elwyn Edmund Scarfe (1889-1947) has donated papers, objects and photograph albums relating to the Scarfe family. E.E. Scarfe was general manager of the Mortlock estates, including *Martindale* at Mintaro, from 1928 until his death. Photographs include J.T. Mortlock and the Scarfe family on board the Mortlock yacht named after his Mintaro mansion. The letter book of a Blumberg (later Birdwood) cabinet-maker, coachbuilder and sign-writer Gustavus F. A. Berling, for the years 1889-1891, includes topics ranging from a request to have a court hearing adjourned to the purchase of land. He arrived on the *Pauline* in 1846 from Pomerania.

William Barnet senior (ca.1799-1889) from Kinross, Scotland emigrated with his family on the *Omega* in 1852. A small bound volume of letters and diary entries from 1852-53 sent to his Scottish family was brought back to South Australia by its Agent General Edward Lucas in 1921 for the Barnet descendants. It has interesting details of the settlement of the family in the colony and plans to go to the Victorian goldfields. William Barnet junior was the founder of the *Bunyip* newspaper at Gawler. The Saul Solomon family archives, purchased from a descendant, is a collection of papers, photographs and genealogical material of interest to researchers in this state and also Western Australia, as it covers the lives of the Solomons over several generations in Australia. A small collection of World War One papers for 7th Light Horse soldier Private Thomas Andrew includes letters sent from Gallipoli, where he died in August that year.

Deryck Skinner has researched the McCulloch family who held *Princess Royal* Station at Burra and *Yongala* Station further north, and also Thomas Urquhart Scrutton (1825-1905), businessman in Port Pirie with an interest in mineral oils and petroleum in the Coorong region. Biographical notes for a thesis by Kathleen Graham document the life of her father Roy Howard Graham, an Aboriginal man from Point Pearce Mission who enlisted in the Australian Army in 1940. Roseworthy College graduate Greg Pettmann arranged a reunion of his college 'class of 1963' and collected data using a circular sent to graduates about their current work; the papers include their reply letters to him.

A. Bertram Cox, Adelaide accountant, purchased the attractive premises of the British and Foreign Bible Society, on the corner of Grenfell and Chesser Streets, in 1962. Papers donated relate to the building, built about 1897 and now known as Bertram House, and its heritage listing in 1984. Records of "Dawnette and the Wonder Dogs", a performing act devised by Ida Dhu (1899-1993) which first played during the Great Depression, have been gathered together in two scrapbooks by a family member. A minute book for the Kringin Hall Committee 1929-1936 documents its use as an entertainment venue for the local community, 40 kms from Pinnaroo. The volume's later use by the local Menz family for farm records 1954-1958 includes a map of the farm with details of use of the land. A small group about the S.A Farmers' Cooperative Union Ltd 1907-1963 has collected papers about grain bulk-handling, dairy production, premises and shipping. A scrapbook of *Advertiser* newspaper cuttings about the 1948 *Invincibles'* tour of England is another addition to the Library's growing collection of Bradman and cricket-related material.

Deadline for newsletter articles and entries November 14, 2007.

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Coming Events

Burnside Historical Society

Meets 8 pm at the Burnside Community Centre on the third Monday of the month. Contact Ph 8379 4090.

East Torrens Historical Society

Meets 8 pm at the Adelaide Hills Natural Resource Centre, Crescent Ave Norton Summit. On 14 November there will be a look at a well known bakery from the inside with a talk entitled "The Tip-Top Man" given by Dean Solomon. Contact ph. 8390 3138.

Enfield and Districts Historical Society

Meets 7.15 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 on the first Wednesday of the month in the Don Pyatt room of the Norwood Town Hall. Contact ph. 8363 9003.

Marion Historical Society

Meets at the Cooina Recreation Centre behind the Council Chambers on Sturt Rd at 7.30pm on the third Wednesday of the month. On 17 October David Jarman will outline the history of Westminster School. Contact ph. 8296 5769.

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

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month. On 2 October the second visit to the local cemeteries will be held. Meet at the Uniting Church car park for car pool at 1.30pm. The Bugle Ranges and Wistow (Zion Hill) cemeteries will be visited with a share afternoon tea in the Wistow Hall. Contact ph. 8367 5006.

Port Adelaide Historical Society

Meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Semaphore Library at 7.45pm. Contact ph. 8345 5930.

Royal Geographical Society of South Australia

Meetings are held in the Goodman Building Hackney Rd at 6pm on the 4th Thursday of the month. On 25 October Professor Grant Sutherland will speak on the "Exploration of the Origin of the People of Iceland." On 22 November Dr Kate Delaporte 's talk is entitled "Gumnuts Galore; The Search for the Ultimate Eucalypt." Contact ph.8207 7265.

Salisbury and District Historical Society

Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. On 10 October there will be a member's Local Show and Tell. Early in November the John St Christmas Parade will be held. Contact ph. 8250 5077.

Tea Tree Gully and District Historical Society

Meets at the Tea Tree Gully Library 571 Montague Rd Modbury. On 17 October there will be a morning meeting at 10 am. Alan Hills will give the "History of St John, including Tea Tree Gully." On 15 November there will be a Thursday evening meeting at the Highercombe Hotel Folk Museum at 7.00pm.

Bring an item of historical interest or share a story. Contact ph 8251 4191.

Walkerville Historical Society

Meets at 7.30 on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Walkerville Town Hall. Contact ph. 8344 5939.

West Torrens Historical Society

Meets at "Kandahar" 327 Marion Rd North Plympton at 7.45 pm. On 22 October the programme for 2008 will be planned and 26 November Major Barry Willoughby will speak about the Keswick Army Museum. Contact ph. 8356 9768

The National Motor Museum

The Adelaide Hills Motor Restorers' Club are having a display at the National Motor Museum at Birdwood. The club was formed in 1984 by a group interested in preserving machinery of our past. Machines restored include cars, trucks, tractors, motor bikes and stationary engines. The club is open to anyone who shares these interests whether they own machinery or not. The display is open until 13 October, 10am-5pm daily. This closing date is shared by the FE-FC Club who have a display in the Museum's Club Space. This display features a 1957 FE Special Station Sedan, blue and white, a 1958 blue Panel Van, a 1959 cream FC Ute and a 1958 FC Business Sedan Army Staff car, army green. The FC model celebrates its 50th anniversary next year. Contact ph 8568 4000.

National Archives

The Angas St reading room of the National Archives will be open on Saturday 17 November from 9am-1pm to provide extra access to research facilities. Contact ph 8409 8400.

Conference Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Library

The fourth national conference will be held 10-12 October in the Bradley Forum in the Hawke Building, University of South Australia, City West Campus. It concerns the "Collective memory of Women in National and International Collections; issues of access, development and research." For further details contact Jenni Jeremy, ph 8302 0318.