

SA HISTORY WEEK

Friday 16 May-Sunday 25 May

SA History Week is a popular community event, held annually since May 2004. It is an opportunity for all South Australian organisations and community groups to showcase their part in South Australia's rich and diverse history.

The event attracts phenomenal community and media interest, reflecting the high level of curiosity that South Australians have for their history. It taps into the community's desire to come together to share and celebrate South Australia's history and heritage.

Participants since 2004 have included major cultural institutions, local museums and historical societies, businesses, heritage-listed places, archives, churches, libraries, local councils, universities, schools and private individuals. In 2008 over 200 organisations will be presenting close to 300 activities, including guided tours, talks, displays, open days, special events and school programs.

A popular part of SA History Week since 2006 is Open Doors: Unlocking History, which encourages South Australians to discover the treasures that lie within many of Adelaide's heritage buildings, a number of which are not usually open to the public.

It is estimated that in 2007 over 45,000 South Australians and visitors to the State experienced one or more activities and that around 1600 volunteers contributed their time to the event. Events were held in roughly equal numbers in both the city and in the country, which made History Week a genuinely representative and inclusive event on the South Australian community calendar.

The range of activities the public can involve themselves in include family history research, open days, talks, special exhibitions and events, guided walks, re-enactments, film screenings, dances, dinners and much more. This year's program includes close to 300 activities that over 45,000 people are expected to experience.

These activities and more are included in the History Week program available from the History Trust ph. 8203 9888, or visit the History Trust Web site <http://www.history.sa.gov.au/history/history_week/historyweek.html>

HSSA Council for 2008-9

The Council of the Historical Society of South Australia for 2008-9 is:

President: Mr David Cornish

Vice President: Dr Geoffrey Bishop

Secretary/Treasurer:

Mr Terry Saunderson

Council Members:

Mrs Avis Huckel

Mr Colin Deed

Mrs Margaret Young

Mrs Margaret Cliff

Ms Sylvia Fanning

Mr Denis Harper

Ms Janet Callen

Mr Peter Adamson



From the President

2008 is roaring along and from an HSSA perspective has begun very well. I am thrilled that more than 100 members and guests have been present at each of the *Discovering SA's History* lectures and that 54 joined me on the *Visiting SA's History* tour to Milang. These figures are very pleasing to the Society's Council and are a sign of a healthy organisation.

Emeritus Professor Trevor Wilson drew a large audience for his presentation *From Phoney War to Battle of Britain, to Where?* at the April meeting. Unquestionably devoted to his topic and an authority on it, Professor Wilson shared with us the series of events which heralded the early days of the greatest conflict the world has ever known. I found his quiet but intense method of delivery enthralling, particularly when describing events in the House of Commons, especially Leo Amery's famous 'in the name of God go' message to Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain.

Avis Huckel and Colin Deed were the instigators of a trip to Prospect Hill and district last year and our visit to Milang on 13 April followed on from this. Once again the Huckel/Deed duo produced an outing of historical interest, fun for those aboard, and with the welcome and enthusiastic participation of local groups. It was a happy and well fed group who enjoyed the hospitality of the Milang and Districts Historical Society and a donation has been made to them in appreciation of the effort they put into our visit. A donation was also made to assist with the relaying of track at the Milang railway station, where we enjoyed (but didn't need!) a fine Devonshire afternoon tea. I was delighted that the Milang group made a presentation of local produce to Avis and Colin in appreciation of their arranging our visit. Their gift was of a liquid variety from Langhorne Creek, though my comment at the Council meeting to Colin that all gifts are the property of the HSSA met with a polite but firm rebuttal!

I am delighted that His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC, CSC, RANR, Governor of South Australia, has consented to be our Patron and I welcome and thank him for his participation. Rear Admiral Scarce is the Society's third patron, following Mrs Marjorie Jackson Nelson AC, CVO, MBE, and the late Sir Walter Crocker, KBE.

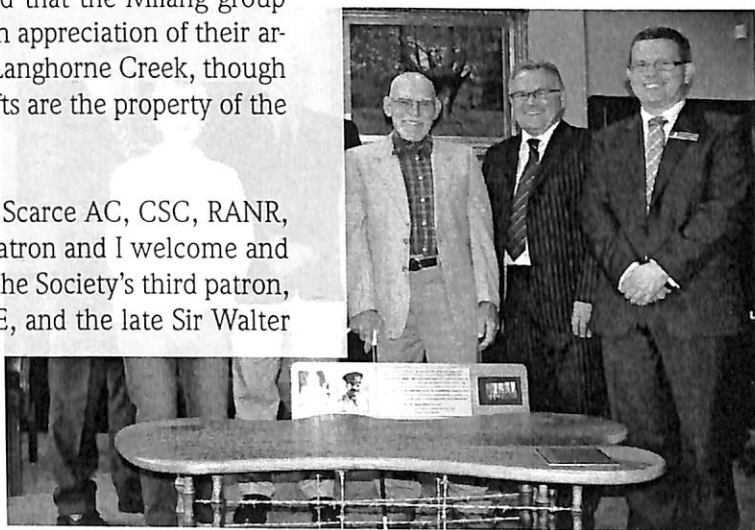
At its most recent meeting the HSSA Council discussed a number of matters. It is becoming increasingly difficult to run the Society with a limited group of Councillors, and we are looking forward to several new participants following the AGM. Whilst arrangements for the Society's management will not be finalized until after the May AGM, I can advise that the existing secretary, Terry Saunderson, will assume the role of Treasurer, with Avis Huckel continuing to act as bookings officer. Arrangements for secretarial matters are still subject to negotiation.

The editor of this publication Janet Callen has also indicated her wish to step down from this role. Under her guidance *History SA* has continued to prosper and fulfill its critical role as the way in which Council promotes forthcoming functions and reviews past events to members, contributing in no small way to the high numbers at our events. Obtaining a new editor is essential but difficult, and I foreshadow that there will be changes to the format of this publication during 2008.

Through my work at Prince Alfred College I am fortunate to meet many wonderful people, not all of whom have a link with the school. In mid April I had the pleasure of meeting the 94 year old Snow Marsh, former World War II prisoner of

the Japanese from Cairns, who visited the school as for more than a decade it has been the home of the Ex Prisoner of War Association of South Australia. Snow had served as the dispatch rider for the legendary and heroic South Australian Lionel Matthews, who was executed by the Japanese and posthumously awarded the George Cross. Snow was accompanied by Matthew's son David whose book about his father *The Duke* (he was uncannily like HRH the Duke of Gloucester) had been launched the night before.

Snow's purpose in visiting the school was to present a magnificent table he crafted as a memorial to all POWs. A master timber craftsman who trained in the 1920s, Snow used ash turned to represent bamboo as the legs, which in turn were joined with barbed



David Cornish (right) shares the moment of Snow Marsh (centre) presenting his table to the Headmaster of PAC Kevin Tutt (second right)

wire, with the top being a magnificent slab of avocado into which was burnt the commemorative message. It was a powerful moment when Snow said to the school's Headmaster 'I am not well educated and could never have written a book, but this is my way of remembering and honouring'. Snow's memorial is simply extraordinary.

David Cornish
President

Visiting SA's History

July 2008

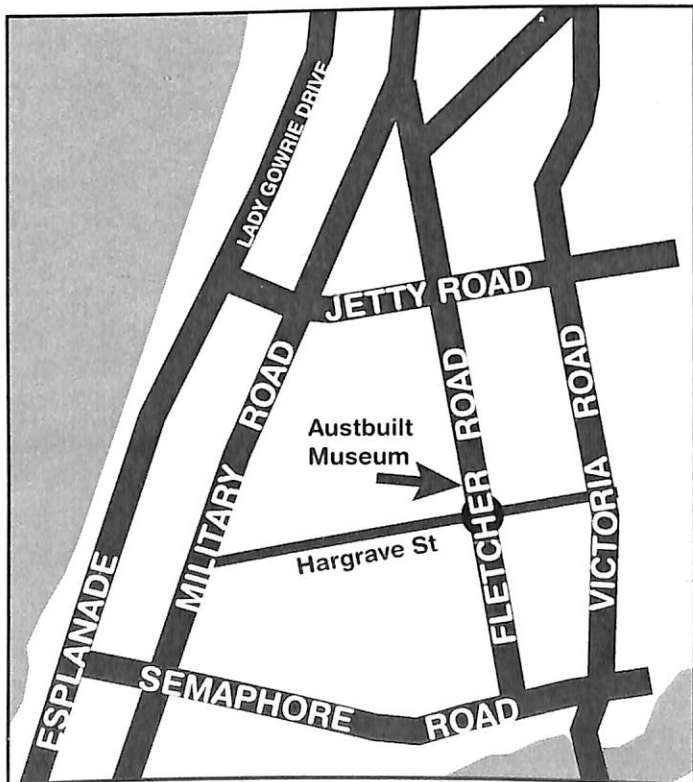
Sunday – July 13 at 2.00 pm

Port Adelaide Historical Society Austbuilt Maritime Museum

\$4.00 admission (includes afternoon tea)

On Sunday 13 July we will visit the Austbuilt Museum where a display of our nautical past, featuring Australian shipping, awaits us. Created by the dedicated efforts of Mr Keith LeLeu AM, a sea man who collected nautical material all his working life, this display shines a light on a past dear to us all. Keith's plan to create a maritime park on Cruickshank's Corner did not eventuate so he set about creating a museum to house his collection on his property at Fletcher Rd. Many enjoyed his stories and museum, but as time passed it became evident that caring for such an array of material was too much for one man. The artifacts, photographs, and memorabilia were given by Keith to the Port Adelaide Historical Society in 2005, shortly before he died. Volunteers have reorganised the museum making it more accessible to the public.

The museum is situated at 95 Fletcher Rd, Peterhead. This is just north of the roundabout on the corner of Hargrave St and Fletcher Rd. See map below. For bookings and further details contact Avis at a meeting or ph 8277 2953.



Map showing location of the Austbuilt Maritime Museum.

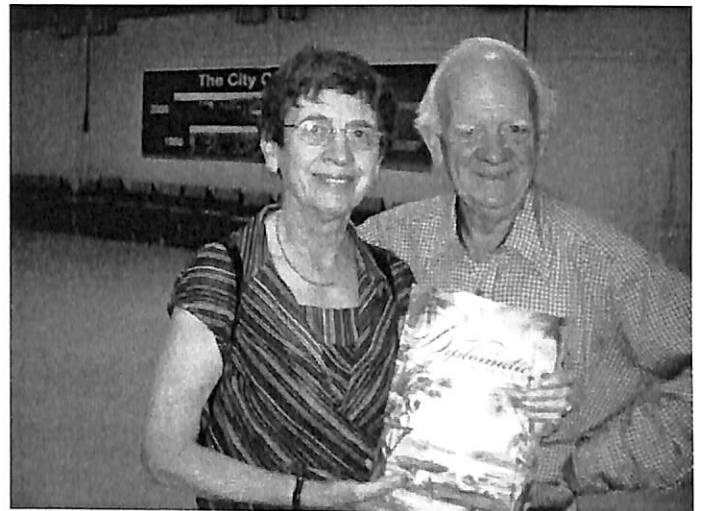
Programme Alteration 1

Eric Spehr's talk at the July meeting has been cancelled and instead Peter Adamson will give his lecture on this date, instead of at the October meeting. We thank Peter for being so flexible and thus providing time to find a speaker for later in the year. Members will be notified of the new speaker and topic.

Programme Alteration 2

Unfortunately the visit to the Catholic Bishop's house, planned for 17 June, has been cancelled. It is hoped to program a visit at a later date.

Errata: The review of *Mary Thomas, Founding Mother* was wrongly attributed to Marie Steiner in the March newsletter.



Pauline Payne is congratulated by her brother Ian Schomburgk on the publication of her book *The Diplomatic Gardener*, the subject of which is their great grandfather Dr Richard Schomburgk, following Pauline's presentation to the Society's February meeting.



Don Parker and Margaret Ford thank John Mannion (right) for his presentation at the March *Discovering SA's History* lecture

Pam Tamblyn

Spirits of Endurance: Significant trees in the 21st century

7.30pm Friday
6 June 2008

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

"The Spirit of Endurance" is the name of a well known photograph of a venerable Flinders Ranges Red gum, taken in 1937 by famous Australian photographer, Harold Cazneaux. The photograph has timeless appeal and its title and that of Pam Tamblyn's talk is a fitting tribute to all trees in our landscape, including South Australia's significant trees.

South Australia is a region of relatively low rainfall and generally poor soils and consequent dearth of natural forest vegetation compared to other parts of the world, indeed, to other parts of the country. A large proportion of the colony's limited natural forest cover was lost in the first few decades of settlement, as colonists took up land, clearing trees at will in the more agriculturally productive areas, which were usually also the best vegetated.

When it was realized that trees were a valuable resource, the loss of natural forest was partly redressed late in the 19th century, often with the planting of exotic tree species, but it was not until the second half of the 20th century that an awareness of trees of special significance came to be appreciated. In the 1980s the National Trust of South Australia recognized that certain trees, both indigenous and exotic, have as much cultural value in our society as our historic buildings, and so set up a mechanism to record and classify such trees on a register for this state.

Pam Tamblyn is a member of the National Trust of South Australia's Significant Tree Steering Committee and will provide a range of examples of trees on the National Trust's Register of Significant Trees, the stories associated with some of them and what we need to do to conserve them.

A graduate of the University of Adelaide and a former teacher, Pam has, over the last 30 years, pursued her love of history and heritage as a researcher, tour guide and active participant in community heritage matters. She is an advocate for all aspects of heritage conservation, including the identification, conservation and augmentation of South Australia's Significant Trees.



Pam Tamblyn surveying a significant River Red gum, Bethany Reserve, August 2006 (image supplied by Pam Tamblyn)

Peter Adamson

The Man who wrote Dossier on Dumetrius, Lindsay Hardy

7.30pm Friday
4 July 2008

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



THE WAYMOUTH MOTOR GROUP
presents

"Dossier on Dumetrius"

★ POWERFUL DRAMA OF MURDER,
TENSION AND SUSPICION ★

It tells of the illegal selling of passports and false identification papers to the criminal army of European men who use the Displaced Persons Organization to begin again the crime-murder and subversion of countries that mark them traitors.

• FROM THE CASE FILES OF M.I.5
Based on the true story of the amazing capture of Dumetrius, the man who stole the world.

COMMENCES
NEXT TUESDAY
8.30 p.m.

IT'S ON **FAD**
SPI • 5MU • 55E

When Peter Adamson wanted to read about Lindsay Hardy he drew a blank, so he set out to find out something about him. July's talk is the result.



In the 1950s Lindsay Hardy was a household name. In the golden years of wireless drama his thrilling crime and spy serials entertained millions- they were as near as it came to compulsory listening. Although regarded by his peers as Australia's finest writer of mystery and suspense serials, with the arrival of television his fame faded and for decades he has been virtually unknown.

Lindsay Hardy enlisted in the army on 28 December 1939 and within a fortnight sailed for the Middle East. Falling ill there he was invalided home, where his health improved. He returned to the Middle East, fought in Africa under Montgomery and received a leg wound. In New Guinea in November 1943 a grenade that he threw into a Japanese position was thrown back and exploded near his left elbow. As a result he returned to Australia and was discharged with a permanently damaged arm. He had been a salesman when the war broke out, and now began writing for radio in Melbourne. In 1946, *The Lillian Dale Affair*, the first of his eleven serials, went to air.

About 1950 Hardy moved to Sydney and wrote the first of the five Major Keen serials that made him famous- *Dossier on Dumetrius*. The first episode of the Dossier will be played during the talk.

By 1953 Hardy was in Hollywood. He soon moved on to New York, then Toronto and London; returned to Sydney in the late 1950s; and finally, about 1960, settled in London. During this time he wrote the screen play *World for Ransom* for Robert Aldrich, wrote for American and British television, published novels which were translated into at least seven languages, and had two stories made into feature films. He seems to have ceased writing in the mid sixties.

Hardy specialised in recycling his stories: for example, a novelette in an American magazine became an Australian radio serial, then a B.B.C. television serial; and a radio serial became a novelette, a full length novel and a B.B.C. television serial.

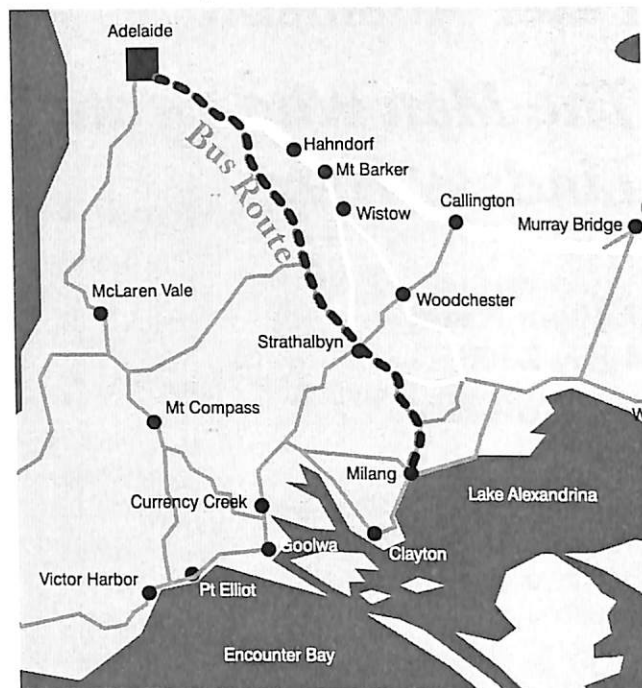
Lindsay Hardy was born on 17 September 1914 at Victor Harbor in South Australia. He died in London on 7 February 1994.

Advertisement for Dossier on Dumetrius from the Advertiser 27 June 1951, and top right, Lindsay Hardy (images supplied by Peter Adamson)

Visiting SA's History- Milang

Milang Field Trip 13 April

Roger Pfeiffer's Woodside coach was filled to capacity for April's excursion to Milang. Taking the old route through Crafers, Stirling, Aldgate, Mylor and Echunga, we admired the Autumn colours while being regaled by Colin Deed with historical snippets and anecdotes about the localities through which we were passing. Mylor, for instance, named for his Cornish birth place by staunch Wesleyan and temperance advocate James Penn Beaucaut, 1831-1916, has no pub to this day. Roger Pfeiffer turned on the welcome morning tea at picturesque Macclesfield and we were warmly greeted by Allan McInnes, President of the Milang and District Historical Society, on arrival at Milang. Allan and the society's Vice President, Des Holderness, then conducted a tour of Milang. They pointed out such features as the Primitive Methodist Chapel, opened in 1866 and now the headquarters of our hosts the Milang and District Historical Society, the 1864 schoolroom on the Milang Campus of the Eastern Fleurieu School, the oldest school building in South Australia still being used for teaching purposes, a 19th century pressed metal kit home imported from England, and the attractive Memorial Gardens. Lake Alexandrina now being too salty, Milang's water supply is drawn from Balhannah.

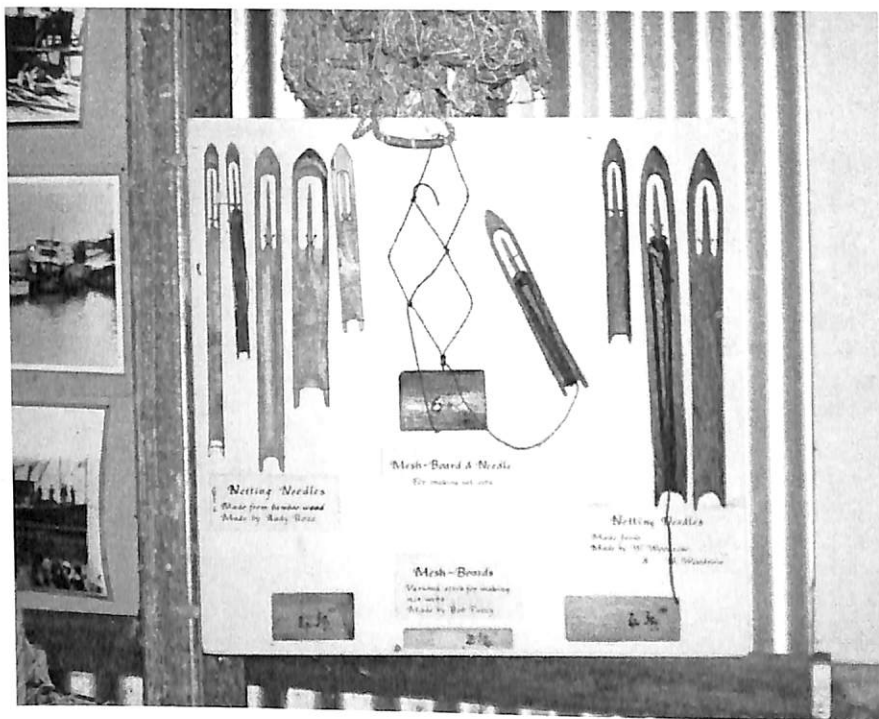


While lunch was being prepared in the former Scout Hall, especially refurbished by the Milang and District Historical Society in time for our visit, we inspected the Society's Museum exhibits, among them the second truck ever owned by one of Milang's most prominent sons, Alan Scott. Alan has undertaken to have the engine reconditioned at his Mt Gambier workshops.

An excellent lunch, washed down by wines available from "Mac" Cleggett, proprietor of Cleggett Wines, was accompanied by hearty speeches and an exchange of gifts. Council member and organiser Colin Deed and President David Cornish, did the honours on behalf of the Historical Society of South Australia. After lunch we examined plaques honouring paddle-steamers important to the development of Milang and saw something of the cluster of post war shacks before rounding off our tour with Devonshire tea in vintage railway carriages at the Railway Museum which also offered much of interest.

The success of the Milang trip can be attributed to the research and reconnoitering undertaken by Avis Huckel and Colin Deed who established a close rapport with members of the Milang and District Historical Society, enthusiastic and generous hosts.

Roger Andre

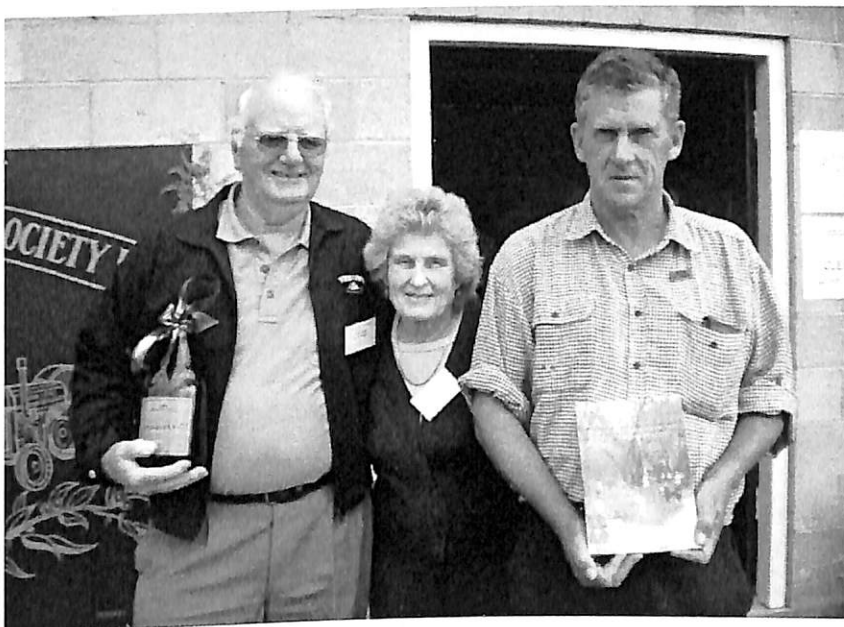


A collection of needles used to maintain nets used by fisherman on the Murray lakes at the Milang Museum

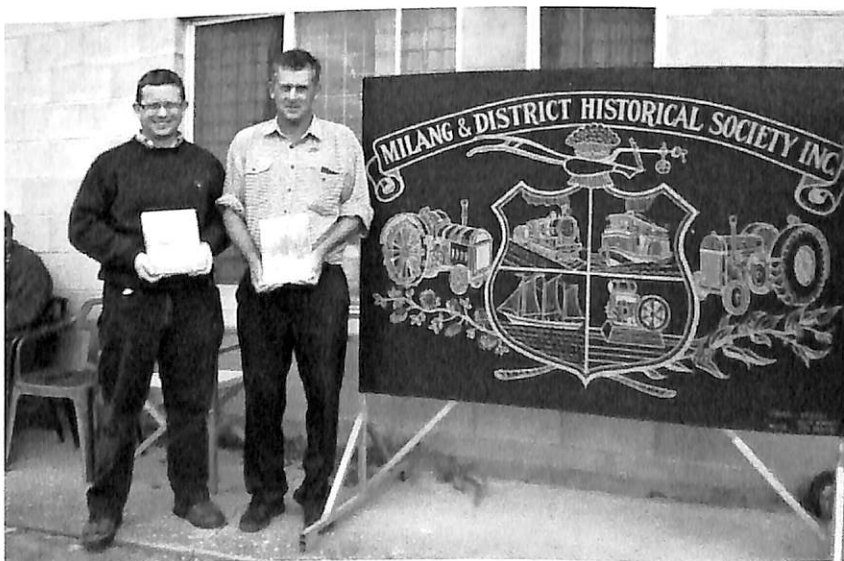
Visiting SA's History- Milang Notes



A painted panorama of Milang and Lake Alexandrina forms an impressive backdrop to artefacts at the Milang Museum



A Rose between the thorns! Avis Huckel and Colin Deed worked closely with Allan McInnes (right) to ensure the HSSA visit to Milang was a success.



HSSA President David Cornish exchanged books with Milang Historical Society President Allan McInnes

Milang: did you know that?

1. At its zenith more goods and cargo passed through the town of Port Milang than any other port in South Australia.
2. When the branch railway line opened from Strathalbyn to Milang in 1884 there were 6 trains a week, each with 15 carriages loaded with merchandise for Meningie, Milang, Nar-rung, and other towns in the area. On the return journey the train would be loaded with cream, butter, livestock, wheat, wine, firewood, fish, mushrooms, and leeches.
3. The first train reached the terrifying speed of 30 mph. On the same day the section of railway from Strathalbyn to Goolwa was opened for steam hauled instead of horse drawn trains
4. Mr Andrew Yates, an indigenous trader, gathered and exported leeches to the Adelaide Hospital for medicinal purposes.
5. Up to 1886 the transport of mail and travellers from Adelaide to the South East of the state involved horse drawn coaches to Milang and a mail steamer across the Lakes to Meningie and another coach to Kingston.
6. Ebenezer Ward, who undertook the journey in 1869, was offered coffee and grilled kidneys on board the *Telegraph* as he crossed the Lake.

Special Museums of the Copper Coast

The Wallaroo Heritage and Nautical Museum situated at the old Post Office on Jetty Rd is well worth a visit. There is a large pictorial display of sailing ships, and interviews with old sailors from some of these vessels can be heard on audio visual displays. The history of the Wallaroo smelting industry is portrayed and there are photos and artifacts from the early days in Kadina and Wallaroo. In Kadina the Money Museum is situated in Kadina's oldest surviving bank, dating from 1873. In Moonta the Moonta Mines Heritage Museum, a restored miner's cottage, and the Mines Tour Train provide an informative view of Moonta in the past. A self guided historical walk of Wallaroo passes the old post office, the old bond store, the railway station, and several churches and hotels. Plaques give the history of these buildings. The maps can be obtained from the Heritage and Nautical Museum.

Australia's Muslim cameleers: pioneers of the inland 1860s – 1930s, by Philip Jones and Anna Kenny. (S.A. Museum/Wakefield Press, 2007)

The photos in this publication tell the real story about the cameleers but the accompanying text provides valuable insights.

There is a fascinating list of biographical information at the end of the book about more than 1100 of the cameleers -plus many thumbnail photos.

We are told how the Muslim cameleers pioneered a network of camel pads and tracks that later became roads across outback Australia. The homesteads, mines, missions and townships linked by this network depended on the cameleers for their viability for about 60 years. From the 1860s to the 1920s, at least 2,000 cameleers came to Australia from Afghanistan, Baluchistan and other parts of N.W. India. As well, over 20,000 camels were imported to supplement those bred in far north South Australia.

Most of the cameleers returned home after serving 2-3 year contracts but some stayed longer and married European or Aboriginal women. Although generally known as "Afghans", the cameleers were certainly not all from Afghanistan. Most of them were British Subjects and came from different parts of India.

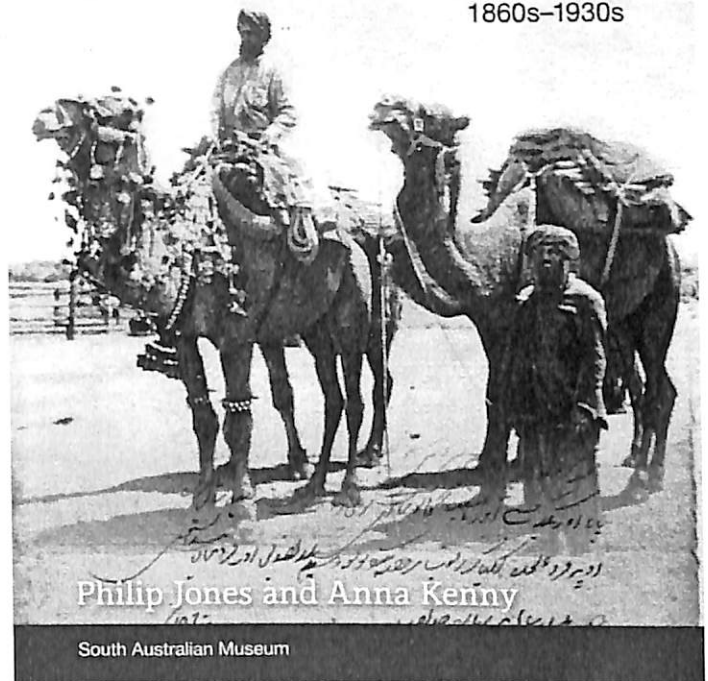
The camels could carry up to 600 kgs apiece across long distances thanks to the adjustable system used by the cameleers of wooden forks and rope ties secured over a padded base.

The first cameleers arrived in 1860 to participate in the Burke & Wills Expedition. They were brought out to manage the camels and the carriage of provisions and equipment. Although that Expedition ended in disaster, the pastoral industry realised the value of camel transport for the outback. Arrangements were made for groups of cameleers to come to Australia on contracts to run camel strings for the transport of wool and supplies.

The cameleers made very good money on these trips-much more than they would have earned back home. As they saw the business potential of such ventures, they began to expand their activities and started importing camels themselves and running their own camel strings. By the 1890s such undertakings were well-established and small Muslim settlements arose around inland railheads. Mosques, funded and often built by cameleers in the outback settlements, also began to appear in Australian cities where they and their families had settled.

Australia's Muslim Cameleers

Pioneers of the Inland
1860s-1930s



Most cameleers had led a semi-nomadic life back home and were used to running camel-strings along ancient but remote trade routes in Central Asia. They knew how to cope with harsh conditions, to hunt and trap, deal with testy bull-camels and especially how to load and safely deliver their merchandise.

Cameleers walked at the front of their camel-line from sunrise to dusk. There were up to 70 camels in a string, linked by a light rope tied from the tail of one camel to the nose-peg of the one following. A cameleer held the nose-line of the leading camel and by applying slight pressure to its line could direct the movement of the entire train.

The camel's load had to be balanced and each side tied securely together across the camel's back -without pressing against its stomach. An amazing variety of goods was transported - fence-posts, ore, household stores -even upright pianos.

Camels withstood the privations of Australia's hot, dry climate better than horses or bullocks and could go further between drinks. It was easier for them than bullock-teams to cross flooded creeks or sandy terrain.

Camels carried 2 bales of wool each, and big bulls managed 4 bales. However, cameleers were careful not to overload their charges; they considered camels to be "blessed", a valuable resource and not to be maltreated.

Charges for camel carriage were calculated by the ton, per mile and many cameleers made their fortunes transporting goods, especially in places such as W.A. after the discovery of gold in the remote Coolgardie/Kalgoorlie region.

Cameleers were not allowed to take up mining leases in W.A. as they were not naturalised colonists. However, they could in N.S.W. and S.A. and a number did just this, particularly in the Broken Hill area. This became more common as the profits from camel transport dwindled with the arrival of railways.

After 1901, racial tensions and resentment towards non-white immigrants became more pronounced with the passing of the Immigration Restriction Act. Also, other regulations were introduced such as special licences for halal butchers and charges for camel-grazing. The instigation of the White Australia Policy was another factor making Muslim cameleers feel less than welcome.

As camel transport lost appeal, many cameleers released their camels into the desert rather than having them slaughtered. Their livelihood now gone, they either returned to their homeland or simply retired to live on the fringes of settlements or in the cities. They were soon forgotten and slipped out of public memory.

Hopefully, more enlightenment about the cameleers - such as last year's S.A. Museum exhibition and this publication - will help to rekindle people's awareness of the lives and skills of these intrepid men who contributed so much to the country's early development.

Jenny Treloar

World Heritage Day 18 April 2008

On World Heritage Day an interesting workshop was held at St Francis Xavier Cathedral Hall. The theme of the day was "Religious Heritage and Sacred Places." At the seminar, supported by the Heritage Branch of South Australia, heritage issues were discussed using a case study which involved visiting the conservation works at the Cathedral and the building of the new sacristy. The use of lime mortars in conservation were discussed. Mortar mixes and application were demonstrated.

Anthony Coupe's work in Champasak in Laos, involving mortar repairs in a temple library in the World Heritage site, were considered. Adaptive use of redundant churches and halls was another issue raised. The audience consisted mainly of architects, historians, and conservators.

Publications Received

Publications are regularly received from other societies. This month's publications include *The South Australian Genealogist* February 2008, *The Royal WA Historical Society Inc. Newsletter* March 2008, *History News*, *Royal Historical Society of Victoria*, Feb.-March 2008, *HSNT Newsletter* March 2008, *History, the Magazine of the Royal Australian Historical Society*, December 2007, *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*, 2007, *Journal of Northern Territory History* 2008, *Journal and Proceedings of the Broken Hill Historical Society Inc* 2007 and *Momento, National Archives of Australia* No.1 2008. *History Matters*, the *History Trust of South Australia Magazine*, February 2008, the *Royal Australian Historical Society Calendar of Events* for 2008, and *History, the Magazine of the Royal Historical Society*, have also been received. As well there are newsletters from South Australian local history groups. These can all be perused on the book table at meetings, and some are available on the table of free publications. Dates of lectures and tours are often advertised in the interstate newsletters, so if you are planning an interstate trip these are well worth looking at.

News from Mt Horrocks Historical Society Inc. - Visit to Lake Dutton

In October 2007 four members of this society visited Lake Dutton, the scene of the accidental shooting of John Horrocks in 1846. A plaque marking the spot was erected by the Royal Geographical Society in 1996. The site for the marker was located by Ralph Grandison, using Samuel Gill's sketch, "The Invalid's Tent." Gill accompanied Horrocks on his expedition and nursed him in the tent while help was being sought after the shooting. The elliptical plaque is made of stainless steel with a 25 cm concrete tube as a base.

The Julien Battery Tram

This battery powered tram was taken on trial runs between Adelaide and Henley Beach in 1889. The batteries were stored under the seats of the carriage, which was similar to that of a horse drawn tram. The project was abandoned as it was considered unpractical. (Information from "Stops in Time," on display in the old telephone boxes along the Adelaide Railway Station concourse.)

The Legendary Magic Cave and Christmas Pageant by Lee Lennan
Norwood, S. Aust., Peacock Publications, 2007.

Everyday events often become familiar and their origins are rarely recorded. The annual Christmas Pageant has been part of Adelaide life since 1933, yet this book is the first time its history has been recorded. Although the pageant is known world wide, it is very much a South Australian event.

Lee Lennan's welcome book ably documents the 74 year history of the Christmas Pageant and the 111 year history of the Magic Cave. Both the Pageant and the Magic Cave were closely associated with the Adelaide Department Store of John Martin and Co until the store closed in 1998. John Martin's, or simply Johnnies, as it was generally called, was itself a South Australian icon. John Martin's was the longest surviving of several purely Adelaidian department stores established in the Victorian era, and the closure of this store, by its new interstate owners, was keenly felt by South Australians.

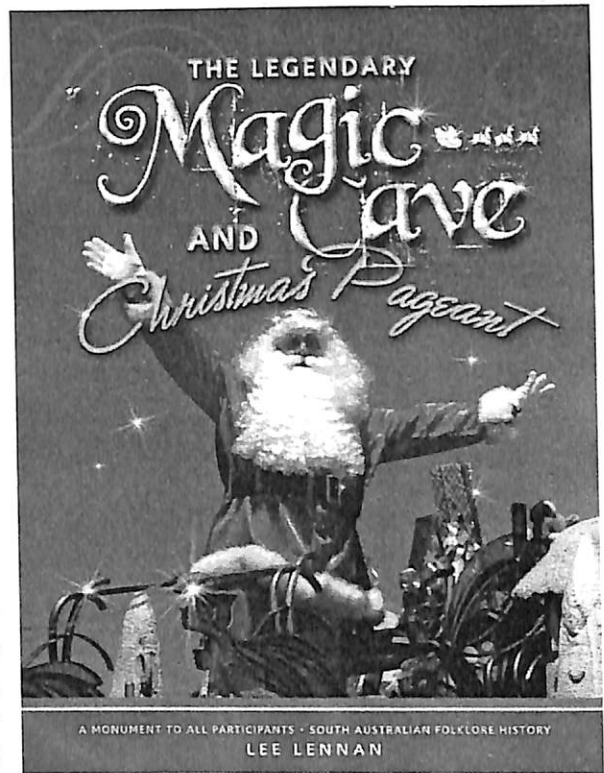
The significance of John Martins goes deeper than just the store. From 1889 the business was owned by the Hayward family. Three generations of this family were well known in business circles and were significant philanthropists. The names of Sir Edward and Lady Ursula Hayward, for instance, are still familiar to many South Australians. They bequeathed their home, *Carrick Hill* in the eastern suburbs of Adelaide, and art collection to the people of South Australia.

Lee Lennan traces the story of the annual Christmas Pageant and the Magic Cave (possibly the oldest such attraction in a department store in the world). Both have evolved over time and continue to reflect the cultural changes in our community. This is probably the main reason for the continued

interest in the pageant. The Pageant and the Magic Cave are major fixtures on the Christmas calendar and the city of Adelaide comes to a halt during the staging of the pageant. Although called a Christmas Pageant it was never intended to be a religious pageant but rather a traditional street pageant. Over the decades the floats have reflected the growth of interest in new things- for example, American cartoon characters (particularly from the Walt Disney studios,) and the development of technology, from Henry Ford's early motor cars through to space travel.

The Christmas Pageants have brought and continue to bring a great deal of pleasure to all ages. The focus, naturally enough, has been largely on children, but, on a different level, some of these themes are more meaningful to adults. Many of the floats and displays represent Australian folk lore. The book discusses how the focus moved from European themes to more Australian stories and characters, for example, Dad and Dave, Cobb and Co, Ginger Meggs, Waltzing Mathilda and the Gum-nut Babies. World events have been celebrated in the pageant, as have scientific discoveries. Keeping up-to-date has kept the event topical without losing the air of fantasy that was originally envisaged by the Hayward family.

The book also gives due regard to the huge social and economic contribution made by the pageant to South Australia. It is a major event to organise and stage and has involved many people with all sorts of skills. Lee Lennan presents a wonderful photographic record of the pageant and Magic Cave. She also covers those who have worked on the pageant, what might



be termed the "forgotten heroes:" the artists and the designers; the workshop artisans, carpenters and mechanics; the costume makers; the clowns and jesters; the bands; and the pageant managers. Some famous names have been associated with the event, perhaps most noticeably the artists Anton Riebe (1934-75) and Gary Lee Gaston (1971-2007).

Lee Lennan's well researched and illustrated book is not only a record of the Christmas Pageant and Magic Cave, but also of the remarkable contribution to the South Australian community by the Hayward family, and the host of people who have been involved with the pageant. The event has given a great deal of pleasure to many children and adults over the decades. This book is a much needed record of a significant cultural event which has been important in the lives of many Australians. It will bring back fond memories of pageants past for both South Australians and the many visitors to Adelaide who have attended the annual event or had their photo taken with Father Christmas at the Magic Cave.

Geoffrey Bishop

By Neil Thomas

Recent additions include:

A small group of letters and photographs has been processed, relating to the family of Errol Wayne Noack, the first Australian conscript killed in the Vietnam conflict in May 1966. Many of the photographs are of Errol, some taken just before he went to Vietnam. When his father died he left a suitcase of Errol's belongings to a Viet veteran mate of Errol, who will pass on the contents, including his last letter home, to the Australian War Memorial. The Library's small collection was found left in the Noack home after it was sold. Papers of the late Donald Tungate 1920-1989, Squadron-Leader in the R.A.F., include records of his work at Woomera Rocket Range as Range Recovery Officer for missiles, and manuscripts of his memoir *Woomera Odyssey*. Among the papers of the Hayes family of Redhill are transcripts of the World War I diary of William Hayes, who was involved in the heavy fighting at Polygon Wood-Messines and the big push to break through the Hindenberg Line, 1916-1918. Other papers include his earlier diary recording the 1914 drought, and a 1964 history of the Redhill district written by John James Hayes.

The Adelaide architect John S. Chappel has donated his business papers, including architectural plans and a magnificent collection of photographs of buildings in South Australia with which he has been associated through his practice and his regular column in *The Advertiser* from the 1950s onwards. The business collection comprises over 26 metres of material. A small business record group for an Orroroo jeweller and watch-maker F.G. Ellis covers the time period after World War I and before the Great Depression. Howard Speed has written about William Millington

Nixon and Sons, photographers of Adelaide. W.M. Nixon arrived in 1855 on the same ship as Thomas Duryea from Melbourne; initially a gunsmith, Nixon later began working for the Duryea Brothers and took over their studio in King William Street. He and his three sons and a grandson became prominent photographers in Adelaide and country areas. Mr Speed's work was used by the late Bob Noye in the Nixon entries for his *Dictionary of South Australian Photography 1845-1915*, on CD-Rom as a supplement to the Art Gallery of South Australia's *A Century in Focus* catalogue for the 2007 exhibition.

Two directors' minute books relating to the properties of *Buckland Park* and *Clifton Hills Station*, belonging to G. & E.A. Brooks Limited, cover the years 1918-1978. Additions to the group for Sir Henry Ayers comprise his material relating to education, the Gas Company, breakwaters and parliamentary matters, for 1857-1895. New Baptist Church records for Seacombe Road (Seaview Downs) and Minlaton (1875-2002) have been added. The North Adelaide Society's records donated begin in 1970, the year of its inception, and extend to 1992. A large group of records of the Adelaide Rape Crisis Centre documents a community-based service run by paid and volunteer women from 1976-1992 as a referral and information agency, providing support, counselling and advocacy, as well as undertaking research and campaigning for the rights of women who had been sexually assaulted.

Deadline for newsletter articles and entries June 14, 2008.

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ISSN 1444-8459

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

Coming Events

Burnside Historical Society

Meets at the Burnside Community Centre at 8 pm on the third Monday of the month. On 19 May Duncan McKenzie will speak about his Antarctic adventures and research while banding and recording the movements of penguins and seals on Macquarie Island. On 16 June Ian Doyle will give the story of the Murray Riverboats. Contact ph 8332 1761.

Campbelltown Historical Society

Meetings are held in the Athelstone Community Hall, 1 Maryvale Rd, Athelstone, at 8 pm on the second Tuesday of the month. On 10 June Ian Strout will speak about English and early Australian silver. Contact ph. 8336 6959.

East Torrens Historical Society

Meets 8 pm on the second Wednesday of the month at the Adelaide Hills Natural Resource Centre, Crescent Avenue, Norton Summit. However there are some day time activities. On 14 May there is a day time meeting at 10.30 am. Tony Elliott's talk is entitled "The Mystery of the Somerton Beach Body." On Saturday 1 June the Eastern Districts History Seminar will be held at the Natural Resource Centre. For details contact ph 8390 3138.

History of Science, Ideas, and Technology Group

A meeting will be held on Saturday 10 May in the Ira Raymond Room at the Barr Smith Library. Bob Barrett, Lecturer in Viticulture and Horticulture at the Waite Institute, will speak on "Terroir in Vines and Wines." The meeting will be followed by refreshments. Gold coin donation. Further details contact ph 8361 8040.

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. Wednesday 4 June there will be a Show and Tell session involving Royal Memorabilia. Contact ph 8332 5780.

Marion Historical Society

Meetings are held at the Coinda Recreation Centre on Sturt Rd behind the Council Chambers at 7.30 on the third Wednesday of the month. On 21 May Margaret Dixon will describe the "Theatre in Marion." On 18 June Robyn Ashworth's talk is entitled "Understanding Built Heritage." Contact ph 8296 5769 or 8298 6013.

Port Adelaide Historical Society

Meets the third Wednesday of the month in the Semaphore Library at 8 pm. On 21 May Gary Workman will explain his display of "The Glassware of the Royal Adelaide Show." Contact ph 8248 3344.

Royal Geographical Society of South Australia

Lectures are held on the ground floor of the Goodman Building, Hackney Rd, Hackney. On Thursday 16 June at 6 pm Dr Bruce Alcorn will give the Brock Lecture, "Antarctic Exploration, Dogs v. Machinery." Contact ph 8207 7265.

Salisbury and District Historical Society

Meetings are held in the Heritage Centre, Ann St, Salisbury, on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 pm. On 22 May to coincide with History Week there will be an open day at the Centre. On 11 June Robyn Ashworth will speak about 'Ships Graveyards at the Port.' Contact ph 8250 5077.

Tea Tree Gully and District Historical Society Inc.

Meets at the City of Tea Tree Gully Learning Centre 571 Montague Rd, Modbury. On 15 May the venue is the Old Highercombe Hotel Museum, 3 Perserverance Rd, Tea Tree Gully. Hamish Angas will speak about the "Queens Theatre." For details contact ph 8251 4191.

Walkerville Historical Society

Meetings are held at 7.30 in the Walkerville Hall. A number of events are planned for History Week. Contact ph. 8269 5982.

WEA Historical Walks

The WEA is offering several historical walks this Autumn. Among them is a walk entitled "Hahndorf, What's so Special?" This walk is led by Anni Luur Fox. Walkers will visit two sites not usually opened to the public and discover over 90 19th century buildings. Offered also is a walk entitled "Adelaide's Literary Landscapes", exploring Sir Walter Scott's village of Kennilworth in Parkside. This walk, of 3 kilometres, will be led by Diana Chessel. To book on these walks contact the WEA, ph 8223 1979.

News from the South Australian Maritime Museum

The exhibition "Escape! Fremantle to Freedom!" is on until 1 June. It depicts the greatest prison break in Australian History when Irish republican convicts escaped from Fremantle prison in 1876 and fled to USA.

Talks and Tours at the South Australian Museum

On Sunday 29 June at 2 pm Dr Keryn Walshe and Ms Tara Dodd will give a presentation including images, artefacts, songs and stories about Indigenous Water Ways in South Australia. On Sunday 27 July Professor John Argue will speak about "Water Supply in Adelaide, Understanding the Crisis." These talks are part of the Talks and Tours Program run by the SA Museum in 2008.