

## From the President

Welcome to *History SA* and the enclosed program for the 2009 Historical Society of South Australia year. As always, the Society's Council has put considerable effort into planning a program of lectures and outings which we hope will appeal to the broad range of interests our membership has. Council and I look forward to your support and thank you for the level of commitment shown in 2008. Few organizations can boast attendance figures averaging more than one hundred per meeting over a year and this success is something we can all be proud of. The November meeting featured Richard Venus and his wonderful story of the French Lady Cycliste. Richard's audio visual presentation was first class, his research thorough, and his enthusiasm for the inspiring and adventurous Mademoiselle Serpollet infectious. Many thanks Richard for a great presentation with which to conclude our 2008 lecture series.

The 2008 year concluded with a very special Christmas party in the grounds of Seymour College at Glen Osmond. Over one hundred members enjoyed the opportunity to appreciate the college's bush setting, historical collection beautifully displayed in 'Oodnadatta Cottage', and the splendor of the Barr Smith House. Following the function I wrote to the Principal thanking the school for hosting us and commending all who were involved, especially the archivist Margaret Macdonald who shared her knowledge of days past and her enthusiasm for the contemporary Seymour College.

I would also like to thank once again the editor of the *Journal* Dr Brian Dickey and the editorial committee for so capably producing the 2008 edition. In doing so I also thank our layout specialist Philip Knight for preparing the *Journal* for publication.

During the year I promised to bake a second of my Christmas cakes to share at the February meeting should the attendance figure average more than 100 present over the ten lecture series. I am pleased to invite you to enjoy a slice of my cake at the February meeting – though if there are more than 100 present it is going to be a skinny piece!

I look forward to seeing you in 2009.

David Cornish  
President

## Visiting SA's History

**Sunday 29 March**

***Visit Gawler***

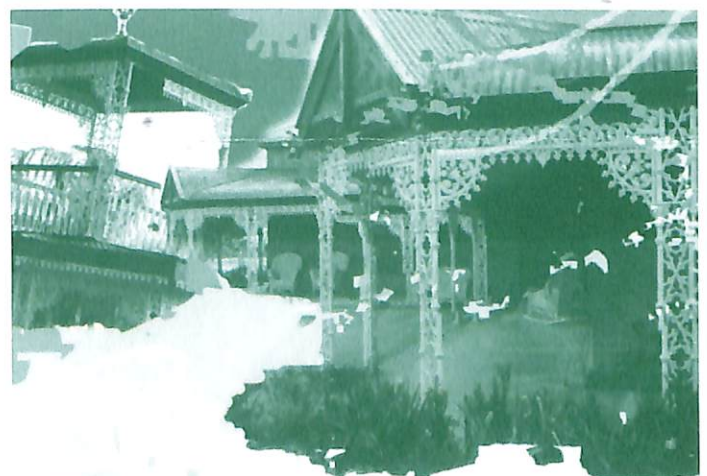
***Depart 9am Burnside Council Chambers***

The township of Gawler was named in honour of Lieutenant Colonel George Gawler and was planned by Surveyor General Colonel William Light, who designed Adelaide. The first settlers arrived in February 1839, making Gawler South Australia's first country town. This picturesque town is famous for its magnificent architecture, cast iron lace work, the Church Hill State Heritage area, heritage trees and ten historic hotels.

Our bus departs from Burnside Council car park at 9 am sharp, and after an hour's drive we arrive for morning tea and a comfort stop. We will be welcomed by our tour guide, kindly arranged by the Gawler Visitor Centre. The day will unfold with a bus tour, hotel lunch, history walks and a visit to a cricket bat factory, returning to Burnside at approximately 4.30 pm.

(The cost is \$40 per person and must be paid no later than Friday 20 March. Register your booking with Margaret Cliff ph. 8362 9517.)

**Colin Deed, Tour Co-ordinator.**



*Images of Gawler, (Gawler Driving Tour Brochure)*

**also available for booking**

**Sunday 17 May, 2 pm**

***Visit to Fort Glanville,***

***359 Military Road, Semaphore Park***

# Discovering SA's History

All meetings commence at 7.30pm Friday,  
Burnside Community Centre, Cnr Portrush Road and Greenhill Road, Burnside

## February 6, 2009

Sally Stephenson

### *The Unemployment Relief Settlement at Meadows 1934*

In May 1934, twenty-four families with 130 children moved from the city to the small rural town of Meadows in the southern Mount Lofty Ranges. They changed their lives dramatically from unemployment and living on sustenance, to working as poultry farmers through an Unemployment Relief Scheme. The settlement at Meadows was one of nine such colonies established for unemployed families in the early to mid 1930s in the southern Mount Lofty Ranges. Others were at Bridge-water, 'Colonel Light', Dingabledinga, Echunga, Enterprise, Hope Forest, Montarra and Yundi. Each family had a 10 acre scrub block, a tin house, a brooding shed and 100 chickens. The *Advertiser* of the day described the poultry settlement in glowing terms: "a colony of dazzling new tin cottages" occupied by "happy families" who were "well housed and well fed". However, what was the reality of life in this new colony sponsored by the "fairy godmother of a Government"? Were the cottages really "roomy tin bungalows fitted with many windows"? Were the children rosy cheeked? What was the effect at the school when the student population doubled overnight?

This paper will describe life from the perspectives of individuals who were part of the scheme, or living in the town, as well as drawing on contemporary reports and records.

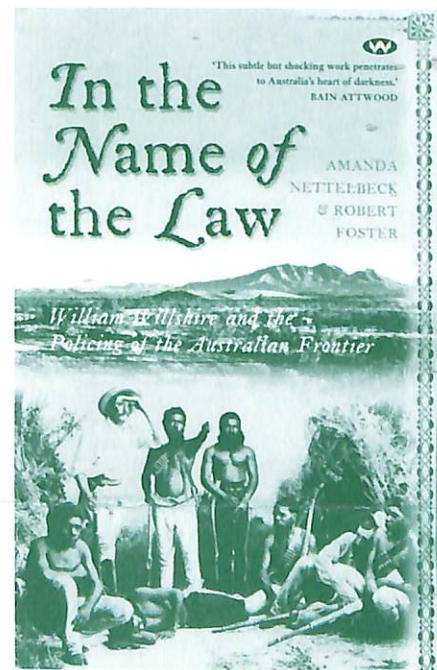
Sally originally trained as a medical scientist and holds a degree in medicine and a PhD in neurophysiology. Her life-long love of history eventually led to a career change, and she now works as a freelance historian, oral historian, natural and cultural heritage interpreter and writer.

As a resident of Meadows, Sally is helping to coordinate an ambitious range of events and projects to celebrate the town's sesquicentenary in 2009. Foremost amongst these is a video oral history project and production of a commemorative DVD. Whilst happily researching the archives for this project, Sally learned about the Unemployment Relief Scheme project in the town, and was instantly intrigued by the propaganda and the possibility of recording the reminiscences of those who participated in the scheme.

## March 6, 2009

### Amanda Nettelbeck and Robert Foster *In the Name of the Law: William Willshire and the policing of Central Australia*

Mounted Constable Willshire was the officer in charge of the Aboriginal police in Central Australia in the 1880s, at a time when Aboriginal resistance to European incursions was at its height. His story encapsulates the conflict ridden interplay of pastoralists, law enforcers, missionaries and Aboriginal inhabitants. Amanda Nettelbeck and Robert Foster have written a biography of William Willshire which was reviewed in the 2008 *Journal of the Historical Society of South Australia*.



Mounted Constable Willshire was in charge of the Central Australian Native Police from November 1884 until his arrest in 1891 for the murder of two aboriginal men. During his time in Central Australia he recorded in his diary the events of his daily life and from this record our March speakers have pieced together a compelling story. This is the story you are invited to hear.

# HSSA Christmas Function 2008

On Sunday 30 November a large group of members gathered on the lawns at Seymour College. We sat in dappled shade drinking tea, coffee, and wine and were served delicious refreshments, including mince pies to celebrate the festive season.

Margaret Macdonald, archivist at Seymour College, had opened *Oodnadatta Cottage*, formerly the servants' quarters and now housing the school archives. We were able to view several rooms in the grand old Barr Smith residence, the parquet flooring, and beautifully restored original wall paper being striking features. In the 1860s *Wooton Lea* was the home of pastoralist Thomas Elder Barr Smith who helped found St Mark's College and enabled the establishment of the Barr Smith Library at the University of Adelaide. Other old buildings in the grounds include the coach house, built in 1861, the stables, dating from 1880, and *Tipperary Cottage* which, with *Oodnadatta Cottage*, was built in 1869.

Once again the prize for the raffle was a Christmas cake baked by our President! The afternoon drew to a close all too soon after a successful Christmas gathering.



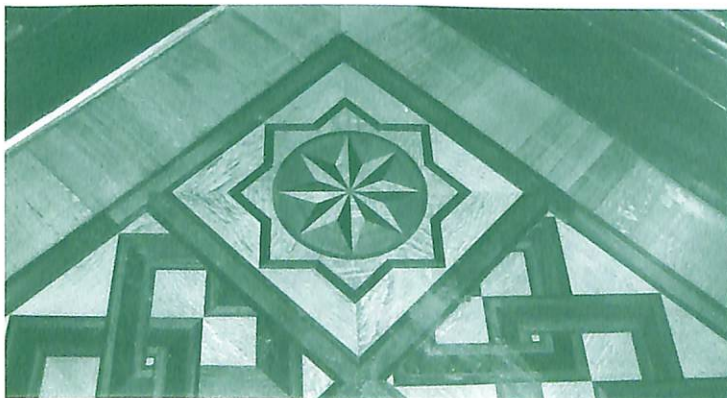
*Sharing the delightful grounds of Seymour College*



*Lucky winner of the President's Christmas Cake Don Parker and his wife Glenda*



*The Seymour College heritage collection is housed in historic Oodnadatta Cottage*



*A corner of the parquet floor in Barr Smith House at PGC/Seymour College*



*The stables at PGC/Seymour College built by the Faulding family*

# Barossa Gardens History Tour Sunday Sept 2008

On a beautiful sunny day members and friends left the Burnside Community Centre and headed for the Barossa Valley, picking up our guide Angela Heuzenroeder at Keyneton.

Our first stop was at Dick and Jenni Evans' garden at Evandale, Keyneton. We wandered round the garden, admiring the house, the herb garden, the wisteria walk and many trees. Rick and Jenni are the 5th generation of the family to live at Evandale and in the garden conifers, oaks, cork elms and privet hedges planted by Henry Evans still remain. We passed the site of the old Evandale Nursery where John Frederick Wood had propagated many of the fruit trees and vegetables needed for the gardens of the early Barossa settlers. Henry Evans, who had built Evandale in 1850, recorded sales of these plants in his ledger from 1857-1861.

At Angaston, we visited the Old Rose Repository, developed by Pat Toolan, a dedicated saviour of old varieties of roses. Pat searches in old cottage gardens, roadsides and cemeteries for cuttings.

After morning tea Arthur Monsarnis told us that 97% of the original flora of the district has been lost, so in 1997, with help from the council, the Barossa Bush Garden at Penrice was established to prevent the further loss of species.

Between Nuriootpa and Tanunda we saw the longest line of roses in South Australia. These roses act as a barrier between the railway and cycle track.

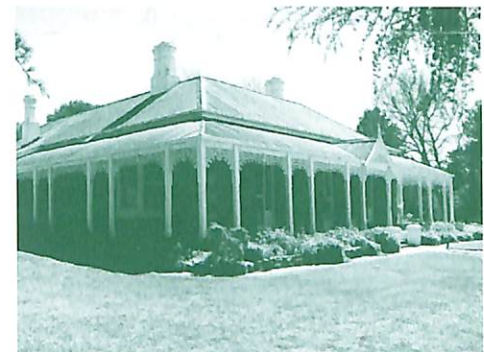
Peter Lehmann Wines restaurant was our luncheon stop, and members enjoyed local produce washed down with a welcome glass of wine! Then on to Seppeltsfield Winery, where Malcolm Seppelt reminisced about the gardens of his youth. During the depression of the 1930s winery employees planted the numerous date palms which line the entrance to the winery today. Water was scarce and watering cans were used to keep them alive. The wisteria arbor was longer in Malcolm's younger days, and the garden full of flowers and vegetables. He told of tennis parties with neighbours and friends which had included our guide Angela.

Finally we were shown the inside of the Seppelt family Mausoleum; the steep uphill climb providing a wonderful view of the surrounding countryside. A day enjoyed by all.

edited from a report by **Sylvia Fanning**



*HSSA Vice President/tour convener Geoffrey Bishop (left) and President David Cornish (right) thank Malcolm Seppelt and Angela Heuzenroeder for sharing their Barossa with us.*



*The gracious Evandale homestead, home of the Evans' family.*



*The delightful Chook House at Evandale.*

**Deadline for newsletter articles and entries February 12, 2009**

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4 *HISTORY SA*, the Newsletter of the Historical Society of South Australia, January 2009