

## From the President

The beginning of the 2009 Historical Society of South Australia year was caught up in the history making heat wave we endured in late January and into February. I really thought our February meeting would be a victim of the heat, and I was even prepared to commence the all important official attendance count in February due to the extraordinary weather!

How wrong I was! To my delight (and that of Council members who shared my concerns!) over one hundred members and guests attended our February meeting. As I said at the meeting not only do we have a strong and supportive membership but a tough one as well. Council and I deeply appreciate such a strong attendance despite the heat.

Dr Sally Stephenson shared with us at the February meeting the story of the settlement of unemployed men and their families at Meadows in 1934. Sally's research into the scheme and her oral history program with those who were involved has ensured this little known aspect of our history has been preserved. A common theme during questions of Dr Stephenson had many of us wondering if modern property developers and social planners should be made aware of what took place at Meadows, and apply the lessons learned from the scheme but forgotten with the passage of time.

In this edition of *History SA* please find enclosed details of forthcoming Society events and notice of the Annual General Meeting. Whilst I believe a brief AGM is a good one there is a serious side to the night, and that is the appointment of members to Council to run the affairs of the Society. As always, Council members and I would be pleased to hear from members who would be prepared to assist with the myriad of tasks Council undertakes to keep the Society operating.

In 2009 the Society is on hat-trick of averaging one hundred members at each meeting. I look forward to your ongoing support and to continuing the successes we have enjoyed together in recent years. It is hard for me to believe I have been President since 2001!

**David Cornish**  
President

## Visiting SA's History

**Sunday 22 March, 2 pm**

***Fort Glanville - Our colonial defence***  
***359 Military Road, Semaphore Park***

**Please note (unavoidable) change of date for this event.**

Our first Visiting SA's History tour for the year will be to Fort Glanville on Sunday 22 March 2009. Please assemble near the entrance (359 Military Road, Semaphore Park) by 1.45 pm. This special open day, Gordon Day, celebrates General Gordon and will feature brass bands, a military parade and firing of the cannons. Not to be missed! Entry fee \$6.00 per head (includes guided tour). Pre-bookings are not essential but you can pay ahead of time – see Margaret Cliff at the March meeting.

Fort Glanville was built in 1878-1880 in response to the potential threat of invasion by overseas nations, in particular, Russia. Port Adelaide was seen as a likely target of any attack as it was the gateway for all commerce for the Province.

Fort Glanville's active life was relatively short and by 1888 emphasis had moved to Fort Largs. By 1900 the fort was operated on a caretaker basis only. However, it was used again during both World Wars but then fell into neglect. In 1951 the property was sold to the State Government and leased to a caravan park operator. Restoration work at the site commenced in 1976. The Fort Glanville Historical Association was formed and the members opened the fort to public visitors in 1981. Fort Glanville is under the management of the Department for Environment and Heritage and the FGHA is an active Friends of Parks group. The fort looks and feels like a Colonial British fort in India or elsewhere – come and experience this interesting State Heritage site.

Adapted from information on FGHA's informative website [www.fortglanville.com.au](http://www.fortglanville.com.au)

**also available for booking**  
**Sunday 29 March,**  
***Visit to Gawler***  
see page 3 for details

# Discovering SA's History

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

## April 3, 2009

Peter Monteath

### *Australian Prisoners of War in German Captivity*

Associate Professor of History at Flinders University, Peter Monteath, will speak to us about this little known topic. The history of Australian POWs in Germany has been largely overlooked and what is known generally relates to prisoners in Asia. Dr Monteath's study of Australian prisoners in Germany during World War II is a work in progress, and a book on the subject will eventually result from his research. He is using Australian and German documents and consulting sources from both the Australian and German perspective.

Currently Peter Monteath teaches modern European History at Flinders University



Scene from the Wolfsberg POW camp in Austria.  
(Supplied by Peter Monteath)

**The HSSA Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.30pm during this meeting. For more details see page 3.**

## May 1, 2009

Don Loffler

### *The Holden Comes to South Australia*

When Don Loffler retired at the end of 1996, his life took an unexpected turn. He changed from thirty-four years of teaching German and Latin to writing books on his lifelong hobby- the first two Holden models. So far he has written four books. The first one, *She's a Beauty!-The story of the first Holdens*, was published in 1998. It gives the history of the original 48-215 Holden model, popularly known as the FX, and its successor, the FJ. In 2000 came his second book, *Still Holden together*, which is a sequel devoted entirely to the FX model. The third book, *The FJ Holden*, was released in 2002. It is devoted entirely to the iconic FJ model. The fourth was launched at the NSW All Holden Day on Sunday 3 August 2008. Called *Me and My Holden*, it is a coffee table style of book, consisting mainly of photographs of FXs and FJs. A fifth book is in preparation, featuring old family photographs of the first ten Holden models, from FX to HR- 1948-1966. Don is seeking people who are willing to lend him photographs and colour slides for possible inclusion in this book.

In his talk to us he will explain why South Australians had little reason to be happy in 1948. Although it was only three years since the end of World War II, people were living in a well-justified fear of World War III. Post war rationing hadn't even ended yet, with petrol rationing being one of the major bugbears. Most people had to be content with rattling along in their old pre-war cars because new models were in very short supply. Model T Fords were still on the roads!

Don will explore these issues in order to help explain why the arrival of the Holden car in Adelaide in December 1948 was greeted with such euphoria. In his PowerPoint presentation, there will be photographs of the grand celebration in Centennial Hall, and Don will describe the behind-the-scenes drama that took place immediately before that event.

Excitement at the arrival of the Holden gripped all the country towns, too, and Don has archival photographs showing how entire communities turned out to see the new car. No car since then has ever been accorded such a welcome.

(see images page 3)

# Notes

## Visit to Gawler Sunday 29 March

The bus will leave the Burnside Council car park at 9 am sharp and return at approximately 4.30pm. On arrival at Gawler we will have a comfort stop and morning tea. This will be followed by a one and a half hour heritage bus tour of the town. Lunch will be at the oldest hotel in Gawler. After lunch we will visit a cricket bat maker, with a show and tell presentation of the history of bats! We will then visit the 1860s Telegraph Museum. Cost \$40 per person including lunch, for bookings contact Margaret Cliff, ph 8362 9517.

## News from the National Archives of Australia

The National Archives Adelaide office is opening the reading room at 78 Angas St on some Saturdays in 2009. Reference services are available 9am-1pm on 28 March, 30 May, 25 July, 19 September and 21 November. To order in records for Saturday research phone 8409 8400.

## State History Conference 2009

The Conference will be held Friday 31 July- Sunday 2 August at Kadina. It coincides with the 150th anniversary of the discovery of copper at Wallaroo Mines in 1859. The theme is "History from the Ground Up." Lectures, historical walks, and bus tours of the area are all part of the event. For enquiries contact the History Trust of SA, ph 8203 9888.

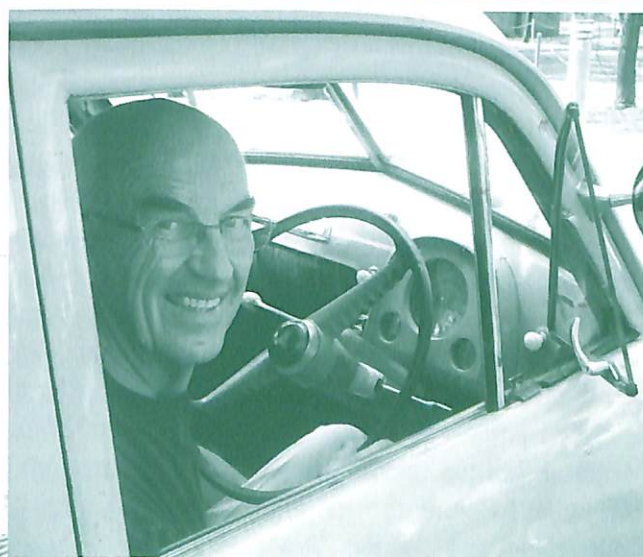
## Notice of HSSA Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Historical Society of South Australia will be held at 7.30pm on Friday 3 April 2009 at Burnside Community Centre. Nomination forms for the following office bearers will be available at our March meeting: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, and Councillors.

For further information contact David Cornish 0411 101 341.

**David Cornish, President**

19 February 2009.



*Above, Don Loffler at the wheel of his own original model 48-215 ('FX') Holden, which he calls 'Glenda', because she still has her original coat of Glenn Green paint. (Keith Loffler)*



*Left, Prime Minister Chifley after unveiling the original model to the Australian public at the GMH plant in Fishermans Bend, Melbourne, on 29 November 1948. (GM Holden Ltd)*

# Coming Events

## **Burnside Historical Society**

Meets at the Burnside Community Centre at 8 pm on the third Monday of the month. On 16 March Glen Woodward will speak about "Teaching in the 1950s and 1960s." On 20 April Pauline Payne's talk is entitled "The Diplomatic Gardener. Richard Schomburgk: explorer and Botanic Gardens Director." Contact ph. 8331 3571.

## **Campbelltown Historical Society**

Meets 8 pm 2nd Tuesday of the month in the Old Council Chambers 2 Newton Rd Newton. On 10 March Geoffrey Bishop's talk is entitled "William McMinn, Architect of Marble Hill." Contact ph 8365 7806.

## **East Torrens Historical Society**

Meets 8pm on the second Wednesday of the month at the Adelaide Hills Natural Resource Centre at Norton Summit. On Wednesday 11 March Geoffrey Bishop's talk is entitled "William McMinn, Architect of Marble Hill" Contact ph 8390 3390.

## **Kensington and Norwood Historical Society**

Meets at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of the month in the Don Pyatt Hall at Norwood Town Hall. Contact ph. 8332 0043.

## **Meadows 150 Celebrations Events Programme**

Meadows Easter Fair, 10—13 April 9am-5pm at Meadows Memorial Hall. Three rounds of Heritage Football Matches will be held at the Meadows Oval in April and May. There will also be several days of old fashioned games 23 May 1.30pm-4.00pm, 24 May 10am-noon. For further details of the Meadows 150 Celebrations contact ph 8388 3280.

## **Port Adelaide Historical Society**

Meets in the Semaphore Library on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. On 18 March at 8pm Graham Rees will speak about "The Bees of Kangaroo Island." On Wednesday 15 April there will be a presentation featuring "The Trading Ketches of South Australia." Contact ph 8248 3344.

## **Royal Geographical Society Inc.**

Meets in the Goodman Lecture Theatre, Hackney Rd, Hackney. On Thursday 26 March there will be a visit to the SA Aquatic Sciences Centre, Hamra Avenue, West Beach. On Thursday 23 April Chris Bushell's presentation is entitled "Walking Trails and Tracks in SA." Contact ph 8207 7265.

## **Tea Tree Gully and Districts Historical Society**

Meets at the Old Highercombe Hotel Museum, 3 Perserverance Rd, Tea Tree Gully. On Thursday 19 March at 7pm Ian Stratford's presentation is entitled "Bugger the Bush, a Colonial Perspective." Contact ph 8251 4191.

## **Walkerville Historical Society Inc.**

Meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Walkerville Town Hall at 7.30pm. Contact ph 8269 5982.

## **Salisbury and Districts Historical Society**

This society is anxious to receive paintings of early Salisbury. If you can help please contact J Potter, ph 8258 3016

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## **Correction re *Wooton Lea***

In the March edition of *History SA* it was wrongly stated that in the 1860s *Wooton Lea* was the home of Thomas Elder Barr Smith. In fact the homestead at Seymour College was first built in 1861 for FH Faulding who later sold it to GS Fowler.

Ed.

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## **Deadline for newsletter articles and entries April 12, 2009**

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