

From the President

Welcome to *History SA* and to the second half of our program for 2009.

Due to commitments interstate and overseas I was an apology for both the May and June Friday night lectures, and I understand that despite unpleasant winter weather on both occasions members and guests attended in high numbers to hear from our guest speakers. In May Don Loffler's talk was entitled *The Holden comes to South Australia*, and in June Neville Collins presented *The Jetties of South Australia: past and present*. Society members also enjoyed the opportunity to visit Pilgrim Church in Flinders St, one of the most beautiful churches in the city.

I thank the Vice President Dr Geoffrey Bishop for running the meetings in my absence.

Council has commenced planning the 2010 calendar of events for the Society. Once again I invite you to suggest to any member of Council ideas you may have for guest speakers or places of interest to visit as a part of our *Visiting SA's History* series of outings.

The Society is a 'partner' of the State History Conference at Kadina at the end of July and I encourage Society members to support this worthwhile annual event. The Society will be presented to delegates in a brief speech by me on the first morning.

At the June meeting of Council I advised of my intention to retire as President at the next AGM in May 2010. At this date I will have completed nine years as the Society's President and whilst privileged to have served for this length of time feel it is in everyone's best interest that a changing of the guard occur.

David Cornish
President

Visiting SA's History

Wednesday 12 August 10am - noon
History Walk in Kensington ,
Meet 10am at the Kensington Hotel.

We will meet outside the Kensington Hotel at 10.45 am. Our leader will lead us through the fascinating lanes and by ways in the area and it is possible to purchase lunch at the hotel after the walk. Cost of tour \$5, bookings with Margaret Cliff.

also available for booking

Sunday 18 October, 1pm

Visit the pugholes and brickworks of the western suburbs.

On the afternoon of Sunday 18 October Greg Drew will lead us on this interesting excursion. More details will be available later but bookings are already open with Margaret Cliff.

Bookings essential

Contact Ms Margaret Cliff ph 8362 9517 to book for this tour.

Wanted - a new Holden

Don Loffler who spoke to us back in May, is seeking contributions from HSSA members for his next book on the Holden car. This book, as yet untitled, will cover Holden models from the 'FX' (the first model, 1948) to the HR which came out in 1966. He is looking for colour slides or photographs showing models in this period, preferably with people, buildings or scenery in them, as well as the vehicles. If you have such photographs (or other Holden materials) please contact Don by one of the means listed below - don't forget to add a short description of the photograph and your contact details.

Don's details are: 19 Clarence Avenue, Klemzig SA 5087; telephone 08 8261 2738, or email loffleradelaide@hotmail.com

Please indicate if the photographs are on loan or donations. Any loans will be scanned and the originals returned by Registered Mail.

Discovering SA's History

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

August 7

Jude Elton

Tailor-made to Sweated Trade: the clothing trades in Adelaide 1836-1915

Residents of early colonial Adelaide who could afford to buy clothing had items made by hand and to order in the shops or homes of highly skilled and relatively well paid tailors or sempstresses. Others made their own clothes or obtained them second hand. These arrangements changed in 1875 with the arrival of the first shipment of sewing machines. The sewing machine enabled the mass production of ready made clothing and the employment of less skilled workers, especially women, pleased to have an alternative to domestic service. Production expanded into factories and overflowed into the homes of contracted or subcontracted outworkers particularly in the hamlets of Bowden, Brompton and Norwood. Competition for work drove wages down and hours up. By the 1890s the clothing trade had become infamous as the "sweated trades."

Clothing workers responded to these changes depending on their gender and occupation. Male tailors attempted to protect their elite position by forming the Tailors Society and excluding women. Women clothing trade workers formed the Working Womens Trade Union under the leadership of such women as shirtworker Agnes Milne and tailoress Augusta Zadow. Agitation by women, with the support of the United Trades and Labour Council, sympathetic parliamentarians and some churches, led to the first Factories Act in South-Australia. However, women clothing workers benefited least from these laws due to difficulties in organising isolated women outworkers.

Jude Elton has completed a doctoral thesis on union relations with Aboriginal workers in the SA and NT pastoral industries, 1878-1957. She has spent most of her working life in the union movement and community sector

News Items

Wakefield Press has recently released *Blood Brothers. The Anzac Genesis*. The author, Jeff Hopkins-Weise, considers the Australian involvement in the NZ wars of the 1840s and 1860s as a prelude to the Anzac spirit displayed at Gallipoli.

The Borrow Collection, given to the Flinders University Library by Kevin Borrow and Eleanor Yelland, is a collection of original documents and research files on their historical studies of SA. Reference can be found on line in the Flinders University Special Collections.

Brian Dickey

September 4

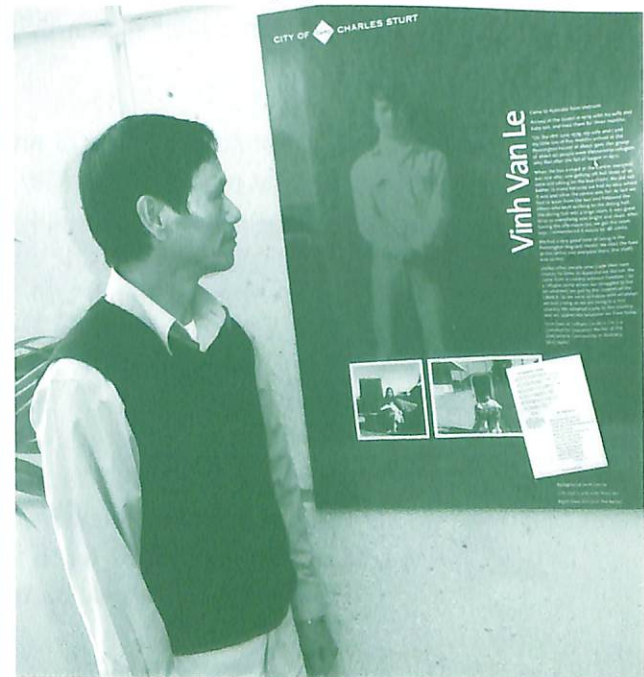
Linda Lacey

'Seventy percent boring': creating more meaningful stories in our museums

Linda Lacey's talk deals with the question "What to do with local history"? An understanding of the past is fundamental to a sense of identity, civic pride, and strong communities. However, not every one is inspired by a passion for history. Charles Sturt Council has grappled with this question for almost a decade. In 2004 Council was supporting a number of local history societies in traditional ways. On going investment was being made without any over arching strategic vision of what local history means to residents, if anything at all!

In 2005 Council began an innovative programme seeking to develop new approaches for preserving, presenting and promoting local history at the local government level. Central to implementing and developing this approach was identifying the importance of local history to a diverse urban community and finding out what aspects and stories of the past were of most value and why.

This talk, presented at the 2008 State History Conference, comes highly recommended.



Charles Sturt resident Vinh Van Le shares his story (Linda Lacey)

Report on the HSSA tour of Pilgrim Church- 10 June

We were met outside the former Stow Memorial Church by our tour guide Brian Ward. The tour focused on the memorial plaques and objects within the church. It opened in 1867 as the "mother church" for the Congregational movement in SA. Following the establishment of the Uniting Church in the 1970s it has become known as the Pilgrim Church. Sadly the adjacent Methodist Church in Pirie St was demolished but the organ and memorial plaques have been rehoused in the Pilgrim Church.



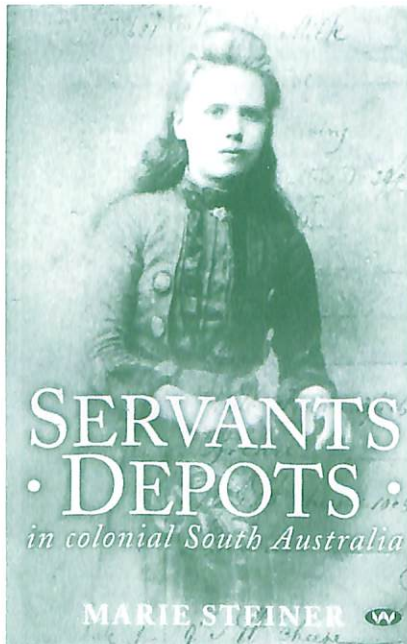
Rev. T Stow held his first service in SA in 1837. He had been sent to the colony by the Colonial Missionary Society. Rev. William Longbottom arrived as the first Wesleyan minister in 1838. He was followed by the Rev. W Fletcher who became a prominent intellectual, involved in the establishment of the University of Adelaide and serving for a time as Vice Chancellor.

Brian Ward outlined the rapid expansion of the Methodists and Congregationalists during the 19th century, and the decline, and consolidation as the Uniting Church, which followed. He told the story with great verve and those present greatly enjoyed the morning. Thank you Geoffrey Bishop for organising this interesting event.

Denis Harper

New Book

Servants Depots in Colonial South Australia by Marie Steiner is a fascinating account of the history of the depots established in Adelaide and rural South Australia during the 1850s. They were set up to provide accommodation for single female immigrants to the colony, awaiting hire as domestic servants in different parts of the state. The book is available in book shops and also from the book table at meetings.



Notes

The **Tea Tree Gully and District Historical Society** is hosting a session helping participants to identify and date 19th century family photographs. It will be presented by Graham Jaunay, and will be held on Wednesday 22 July 1pm-4pm. Participants need to take at least one old family photograph. Details ph 8251 4191.

The **National Trust of SA** is hosting a Victorian Afternoon Tea at Ayers House on Sunday 26 July at 3.30pm. At the event Allison Reynolds will speak on the origins of afternoon tea. A sumptuous afternoon tea will follow. For details contact The Manager Ayers House ph 8223 1234.

From 12-16 October as part of the **Meadows 150 Celebrations** Meadows businesses will open their doors as usual, with the addition of aspects of trading from the past, including photographs, products, and memorabilia. Hair styles will be a feature, and the free visits along Mawson Rd can be followed by a visit to the Meadows Hotel, where there will also be a display.

For a list of the events for the remainder of the year go to <http://www.meadows150.org.au/>

New at the State Library archives

Papers of Walter Henry Allison (PRG 1471) comprise personal correspondence, diaries, photographs and ephemera, mainly relating to his service in World War I. He enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force in 1916, training at Tel El Kabir, Egypt and Etaples in northern France, and served in the 5th Pioneer Battalion, Lewis Machine Gun Section, 1916-1918, being promoted to Corporal. In June 1918 Allison was wounded in action in France, transferred to hospital in Rouen, then to Southmead Hospital near Bristol, England. His papers include copies of official records and his certificate of discharge from the armed services. Military artefacts include two souvenir scarves and an embroidered 'Advance Australia' sampler made by Allison while recovering in Southmead Hospital. He returned to Australia in May 1919 on the hospital ship 'Karooola'. After his discharge in 1920, Allison was employed by the Federal Tax Office in Adelaide, retiring in 1959. His reminiscences, in two notebooks of 1982, contain Allison family history and further details of his wartime experiences.

A small group from the Hayes family (PRG 1465) includes an introduction and transcripts of diaries kept by William (Bill) Hayes relating to the 1914 drought in Redhill, and the Australian campaign in France during WWI. He fought with the 32nd Battalion of the Australian Imperial Force and was involved in heavy fighting at Polygon Wood-Messines and the big push to break the Hindenberg Line. The papers also include *A History of Redhill* written by Mr. J.J. Hayes. Further records about WWI are the annotated reminiscences of Lt-Col. Edmund Franklin Allchin (D 8189(L)) with the title *10th Infantry Battalion (The Adelaide Rifles) 1914-1918*, completed in 1919. Allchin was born in 1894 at Mount Gambier. Edited transcripts of letters (D 8193(L)) between Bill Hemer and his fiancée Gwen Willing, written while Bill was employed as part of the salvage crew for MS 'Victoria', a Danish registered ship which ran aground on Tungkillia Beach on 5 October 1934, give an insight into the salvage operations. Records of the catering business run by

Graham and Pat Anders at Northgate House, Unley Park, from 1954-1987 comprise the original 1925 architectural plan of the building by F.Firmain Jenkins of Port Pirie, their business diaries, photographs and slides, brochures, sample menus, advertisements and miscellaneous items (BRG 359). Northgate House was, in its time, one of the most popular venues for wedding receptions, 21st birthday parties and social occasions in Adelaide.

Records of Prests Limited, a well known general store business of Port Pirie, include minutes 1920-1992, reports 1947-1994, financial records and photographs of premises in 1883 and 1898, and staff (BRG 358). Records of the Port Adelaide Rifle Club, which operated from 1900 to 2003, consist of minutes of committee and Annual General Meetings, correspondence, cash books, roll book, membership records, score sheets, constitution, Newcastle Cup papers and other sundry records (SRG 814). In 2002 the Phoenix Target Rifle Club was formed by the amalgamation of the club with the Adelaide Rifle Club, both of which used to shoot on the Dean Rifle Range at Port Adelaide. A scrapbook of newspaper cuttings 1926-1942 relating to the Stawell School for Girls on Summit Road, Crafers, belonged to its co-founder Mary P. Hardy (D 8195). A photograph of 'day girls of 1930' is included. Reminiscences about living in the Clarence Park, Clarence Gardens and Black Forest area, compiled about 2000 by the late Geoff Taylor as *My corner of the world*, include a map of the area (D 8194)). Geoff was a life member of the Wireless Institute of Australia, a Federal Councillor for South Australia, serving as President of the South Australian Division and also as a Commissioner for Scout Radio. He also ran an amateur radio school. He died in 2005.

Neil Thomas

Deadline for newsletter articles and entries August 12, 2009

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