

## From the President

Our May meeting was a celebration of the centenary of Girl Guides' movement. Mandy Macky outlined the origins of Guiding and its phenomenal growth worldwide from the 1920s. In her presentation she was ably assisted by some current girl guides and their presentations added a whole new dimension to our meeting. Their enthusiasm and good humour was infectious.

The same evening was the Society's Annual General Meeting. David Cornish retired after nine years as President and Council Member Denis Harper who has coordinated our lecture program in recent years, also retired. All the other Council members have continued and we welcome one new member, Patricia Sumerling, to the Council membership. Her passion for South Australian history is well-known and she will be a valuable addition to the Council.

### Officeholders for 2010 are:

President – Dr Geoffrey Bishop  
Vice-President – Dr Adrian Brown  
Secretary/Treasurer – Mr Terry Saunderson  
Council Members –  
Mr Peter Adamson  
Ms Janet Callen  
Ms Margaret Cliff  
Mr Colin Deed  
Ms Sylvia Fanning  
Mrs Avis Huckel  
Ms Patricia Sumerling  
Ms Margaret Young

At the end of the meeting, presentations were made to David and Denis. David joined the Society in 1989 and as President from April 2001 has made a huge contribution to the organisation. His energy and enthusiasm for history has been invaluable in strengthening the Society. He ably represented the Society at a variety of events over the years and, along with an active Council, continued to build the reputation of the organisation. The attendance at our *Discovering SA's History* lectures and tours has been outstanding and is most gratifying to the volunteers who put these events together.



*A gift from everyone. Wines presented by Mr. Colin Deed; introductions by Dr. Geoffrey Bishop.*

As Council member, Colin Deed, said at the presentation, David instigated the 'From the President' column in our newsletter in order to communicate directly with the membership and it quickly grew from a short paragraph to essential reading! This tradition will continue. We wish David well in his 'retirement' (as various members referred to his leaving office) – we have our eyes on him as a consultant to the Society.

I hope you enjoy the programme of events for the remainder of 2010 and I look forward to welcoming you and visitors to these functions.

**Geoffrey Bishop**  
President

**Visiting SA's History**  
**Sunday 6 June**  
**Mallala and Two Wells**

**Trip includes a visit to a massive modern history structure**

Please meet at the Burnside Community Centre at 9am sharp. We will proceed to Two Wells and learn the history of the two wells, then proceed to Dublin. After lunch we will visit Mallala where we will be hosted by the Historical Society for the afternoon. The cost of the tour is \$40, lunch is included. Those attending are requested to pay before the excursion to be assured of a seat on the bus. For bookings and payment contact Margaret Cliff, ph 8362 9517.

# Discovering SA's History

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

## 4 June

Dr Cameron Raynes

### *The Last Protector of Aborigines*

Dr Cameron Raynes has worked as a barman, welfare worker, anthropologist, historian, archivist, publisher and editor. His work on the illegal removal of Aboriginal children in South Australia, *The Last Protector*, was published by Wakefield Press in 2009. He also writes fiction and has been shortlisted for the Wakefield Prize and the Fish Short Story Prize. In 2008, he won the Josephine Ulrick Literary Prize for his short story, 'Taxi'. He has a PhD on the moral subtext of Aboriginal oral history.

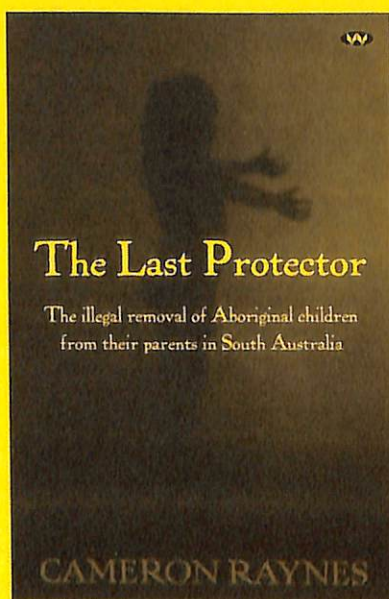
*The Last Protector* is the first book to show that an Australian government removed Aboriginal children in a manner contrary to the legislation that was in place. That is, illegally.

The presentation on 4 June 2010 will look at aspects of the research and writing of this book, including:

- the central mystery that informed the research process
- the patterns to be found in historical material
- difficulties with accessing certain government records
- the relationship of the work to the Trevorrow case and involvement in the Trevorrow trial.

The presentation will also:

- refute some of Windschuttle's findings in his most recent work *The Fabrication of Aboriginal History, vol. 3*
- touch on the deficiencies in Windschuttle's scholarship
- consider the question of whether we, as historians, can pass judgment on the actions of the historical figures we write about.



## 2 July

Richard Venus

### *Engineering a City (Adelaide)*

The first European settlers waded ashore at Holdfast Bay and set about building a city. They had Colonel Light's plan to guide them so they knew where the streets were going to be and where the houses could be erected – but how did they go about establishing the urban infrastructure and creating the industries that would support the fledgling economy?

The South Australian division of Engineers Australia (EA) set out to tell some of this story when they published *Engineering A City*, a guide to the engineering heritage of the City of Adelaide. The booklet was based on a simple guide to finding the buildings, objects and sites around the City of Adelaide that helped tell the engineering story.

*Engineering A City* was compiled and written by Richard Venus with the assistance of colleagues from EA's Engineering Heritage & History committee and the generous support of many organisations and individuals who provided information or illustrations, not the least of these being the Adelaide City Council Archives.

Richard will dip into the booklet and recount some of its many stories. He'll also bring along copies of the booklet which contains some new photographs.

Richard Venus, BTech, BA, MIEAust, is deputy chairman of Engineers Australia's Engineering Heritage & History committee. He acquired his interest in engineering history in the mid-70s when he was asked to assist local authors Colin and Margaret Kerr to research electricity supply in the state.

Richard is currently undertaking post-graduate studies at Flinders University based on his extensive research into the history of Southcott Pty Ltd which will celebrate its 125th anniversary next year. He is becoming increasingly concerned that 24 years worth of research still mightn't be enough to complete the story of this remarkable Adelaide company.

## Historical Society of South Australia Grants Scheme

The Historical Society of South Australia Grants Scheme was officially launched at the March meeting by the Society's Patron, His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce, Governor of South Australia.

The Society has developed the scheme over the past year and it will be promoted at the time of the State History Conference in August. It aims to support groups and individuals involved in the research, teaching or promoting South Australian history.

The Society will distribute grants to:

- tertiary and post-graduate students for studying and travelling expenses to conferences or to use in libraries and/or archives;
- historians researching and/or publishing material relating to the history of South Australia;
- local history museums and societies and local libraries for the purchase, preservation and restoration of artefacts and books; for improvement of facilities; for mounting displays; for hosting regional conferences and the like;
- school teachers for innovative teaching of history - not restricted to South Australian history - at primary, middle and senior school levels.

The Society will have a flexible approach to the nature of the grants. Therefore, applicants, in addition to the above categories, will be considered for part or full reimbursements for field trips by students; printing of programmes and brochures, and information sheets for conferences and history related events; promoting events; publication of documents and research; and inaugural expenses for history societies.

Individual grants will range in value up to \$1000. All successful applicants will also receive one year's free membership to the Society.

Application forms will be available from late July on the Society's website <[www.hssa.org.au](http://www.hssa.org.au)> or by contacting the Grants' Convenor on <[grantsconvenor@hssa.org.au](mailto:grantsconvenor@hssa.org.au)> Applications close on Friday 17th September 2010.

## David's 'retirement'



*A gift from everyone, David's favourite nuts.  
Presented by Ms. Margaret Cliff.*



*Two beautifully bound books on South Australia's history - The Cyclopaedia of South Australia (published 1907 and 1909).  
Presented by Mr. Terry Saunderson.*

## S A History Week 21-30 May

Members are reminded that this community event is fast approaching. Tours, talks, walks, and displays relating to the State's past will be held. Contact the History Trust of SA, ph 8203 9888, email: <[sahistoryweek@history.sa.gov.au](mailto:sahistoryweek@history.sa.gov.au)> or check their website for details.

## HSSA tour to "The Grange" on Sunday 18 April

Thirty members enjoyed the afternoon at the Charles Sturt Museum at Grange. On arrival we were treated to an interesting talk given by the President of the Charles Sturt Memorial Museum Trust. It covered Sturt's life from his early years as the second son in the family, and hence needing to earn an income, to his death in England in June 1869.

We then were shown around the house, where we were able to view a collection of articles which belonged to the Sturt family. The house itself was originally built in two stages, the first in 1840. The brick portion was the main living area while the second section, of white stucco, was known as the Nursery Wing. Here there was a bedroom for Sturt's sons and a kitchen and laundry for the household. This nursery wing now houses "The Gallery," which has been set up to house relevant artifacts, pictures, and maps.

After exploring the house and gallery we were happy to sit in the garden and appreciate the afternoon tea which Sylvia had prepared for us. Thank you Sylvia.

**Margaret Young**



*Captain Charles Sturt's story being related by Arthur Jeeves.*



*Members in the garden*

### Deadline for newsletter articles and entries June 12, 2010

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