

No. 206
July 2010

HISTORY · SA

Newsletter of the Historical Society of South Australia Incorporated

From the President

Since the last edition of the Newsletter members have continued to take part in Society events, in spite of the wintry weather. At the May meeting Dr Cameron Raynes gave an excellent presentation regarding the controversial topic of the illegal removal of Aboriginal children from their parents. Dr Raynes went into the legal background regarding custody cases and how the law was interpreted by those responsible for Aboriginal people. His book, *The Last Protector*, covers the topic in greater detail and is recommended reading.

Our most recent Visiting SA's History was the tour to Two Wells, Dublin and Mallala on Sunday 6 June. A report on the full-day tour is in this edition. Our thanks to Council members Colin Deed, Avis Huckel, Sylvia Fanning and Margaret Cliff for the 'behind the scenes' organising of this event.

At the Council meeting held on 10 June, Society member Garry Mighall's offer to take on the task of editing the Newsletter was formally accepted. Garry is the editor of the July 2010 edition and he has been assisted by Janet Callen. Our sincere thanks to Janet who has so ably carried out the editor's job for the past five years. The Newsletter will continue to inform the Society's members of coming events and describe recent activities.

The Society has received a letter of thanks from David Cornish for the 'very pleasant surprise' of the presentations made to him on his retirement as President. David was especially chuffed by the beautifully refurbished edition of *The Cyclopaedia of South Australia*.

Our next excursion will be a half-day visit to the township of Reynella where we will see the historic coach changing station museum. Bookings and payment will be taken from the July meeting.

Another event-filled History Week occurred in late May and some of our members were actively involved in presenting events. Apart from some Adelaide-

based events, I visited a display of photographs of early Loxton presented by the Loxton Library and took part in four successful lectures at Marble Hill presented by Marble Hill Events and Basket Range Wine. For three of the days the weather would have to be described as decidedly wintry, or as one attendee said, 'atmospheric'.

Finally, this edition carries introductions to our speakers for the August and September lecture meetings. Society member Alison Painter will be speaking on aspects of her research into South Australia's brewing industry, and recent Flinders University graduate Dr Daniela Rose will speak on emigration from Calabria, Italy. Both promise to be most interesting topics. I look forward to seeing you at those meetings.

Geoffrey Bishop
President

Visiting SA's History

Sunday 12 September Visiting Reynella

For this half-day tour, we will meet at Old Reynella at 1 pm. We will visit the Changing Station where the coach teams were changed in the days of horse-drawn transport. There is a large museum. In addition, a walking tour (90 minutes) of the old township is being arranged. Cost \$8 which includes afternoon tea. For bookings and payment contact Margaret Cliff: phone 8362 9517.

From 4 September, contact Janet Callen. on 8278 8922, to book for the Reynella tour and to book for a full-day Barossa Goldfields tour.

Discovering SA's History

All meetings commence at 7.30 pm on the first Friday in the month at Burnside Community Centre, corner of Portrush Road and Greenhill Road Burnside.

6 August

Alison Painter

Beer Barons or Bankrupts?
Early Brewers in South Australia

From the time of settlement until the early years of the twentieth century there were many breweries established in South Australia; some lasted for only a short time and a few continued successfully for more than 50 years. There were difficulties associated with brewing in the very early days—the brewers had to wait for malt and hops to come from England and, worst of all, they had to cope with a very different climate. Eventually, barley for malting and hops were grown locally; good brewers learnt to cope with the hotter weather and, as technical knowledge and methods improved, so did the beer.

There were two major changes in the first years of the twentieth century that had a profound effect on the industry: the Customs and Excise Act passed by the federal government in 1901 which transferred the right to impose a duty on beer from the South Australian Government to the Commonwealth, and required brewers to be licensed for the first time; and the introduction of lager beer which gradually changed the taste of beer drinkers.

Alison Painter has an Honours Degree in History from Flinders University, attained as a mature age student. A long association with the brewing industry stimulated her interest in the history of breweries in South Australia and has resulted in two books: *Jolly Good Ale and Old: Coopers Brewery 1862-1998* and *Brewers and Hoteliers: The Johnstons of Oakbank*. This talk encompasses further research into the history of all the breweries in South Australia.

3 September

Dr Daniela Rose

Calabrians in South Australia:
history, traditions and ongoing
connections

Dr Daniela Rose is a Lecturer in Italian in the Department of Language Studies in the School of Humanities at Flinders University.

Her research interests include the history of Italian migration to Australia with a particular focus on culture maintenance and the ethnic identity of Italian communities in South Australia. In 2008 she compiled a book with Professor Desmond O'Connor on the history of the *cauloniesi* in South Australia titled *Caulonia in the Heart. The settlement in Australia of migrants from a Southern Italian town. Caulonia nel cuore. L'insediamento in Australia di emigrati italiani provenienti da una cittadina del Sud. Adelaide*, which was published by Lythrum Press. She has also published articles in Australia and in Italy and has given papers at national and international conferences.

The presentation will look at aspects of her research on the Cauloniese community in South Australia. Italian migrants from the southern Italian town of Caulonia in Calabria have had a strong presence in South Australia since the interwar period. Between 1927 and 1940 Caulonia was numerically the highest ranked Calabrian town in South Australia and, due to chain migration, in the post-war period Caulonia became the most common hometown of all the South Australian Italians. The *cauloniesi* in Adelaide are a visible and enterprising Italian community with a deeply rooted attachment to their birthplace.

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

On Sunday 6 June, 38 members met at Burnside for our excursion to Two Wells, Dublin, and Mallala. After a comfortable trip in our modern bus we arrived at Two Wells for a welcome hot cup of tea or coffee and a brief introduction into the history of Two Wells. We visited the two wells, situated in soaks, where water had been used by the indigenous people and later by settlers, stock and travellers. When mains water became available in the early 1900s, the wells fell into disuse. They have been restored as a reminder of the past.

From Two Wells we journeyed to the promised, mysterious destination. This proved to be a tour of the premises of d'Vine Ripe Pty Ltd, a \$30 million state-of-the-art facility producing 5000 tonnes of truss tomatoes a year. The 8.2 hectare glass houses are environmentally controlled and rapid extension of the area under cultivation is planned. The plants are grown hydroponically in rows up to 9 metres (about 30 feet) in length, with the trusses rising vertically from the stems.

After a tour of Windsor, our next port of call was the Dublin Institute where a delicious, sit-down luncheon was provided by the Dublin Historical Society. Their President, Pat Thompson, joined us on the bus for a brief tour of Dublin. The Society's mobile display, on show during History Week, was set up for our enjoyment. Geoffrey Ralph, who was on the bus, provided some memories of his childhood in Dublin. After lunch we proceeded to Mallala where we were met by Lois Wasley of the Mallala Historical Society. She directed our driver to historical sites in the town including the Cemetery where there is a memorial garden to those killed in aviation accidents during their WW2 Australian Air Force training at Mallala. We then returned to the very extensive Mallala History Museum situated in the old mill, where we were guided through many aspects of the history of the district. A cup of tea was available in the old school room.

Colin showed us several more places of interest on our return journey, and we arrived safely back at Burnside after a very informative day. Thank you to the organisers in the Society, especially Liz Sawyer, and the organisers at Dublin and Mallala.



One of the wells at Two Wells.



Second of the wells at Two Wells.



Mallala History Museum exhibition.

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



An historical pillar box exhibit.



Truss tomatoes growing in a glasshouse at d'Vine Ripe Pty Ltd.



Swing bridge at Lower Light.

Burnside Branch of The National Trust of South Australia presents

Twentieth Century Beaumont House: A Tale of Two Ladies

11 am on Saturday 4 September 2010

2 pm on Sunday 12 September 2010

Beaumont House, 631 Glynburn Road, Beaumont

Cost \$15

Bookings essential: Margaret Ford ph 043 883 8894
or Pauline Hiscock ph 8379 8155

The play looks at the lives of Mrs Alice Vincent and
Mrs Lilian Bennett (later Brock)

Lilian and Kenneth Brock gave the property to
The National Trust of South Australia

There will also be a tour of the property and refreshments

Deadline for articles for the September issue of the newsletter is 12 August 2010



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ISSN 1444-8459

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