



## From the President

Welcome to the HSSA program for 2011. This year marks the 175th anniversary of European settlement in South Australia and our program reflects the diversity of history and heritage over that period. The program (and membership form) is enclosed with this edition of the newsletter.

Our final lecture meetings for 2010 were presented by Dr Daniela Cosmini-Rose (Calabrians in South Australia), Peter Donovan and Patricia Sumerling (The Schippan Murder of 1902), and Dr Jane Lomax-Smith (The Adelaide-Dernancourt Connection). We went from the emigration of hopeful people from Caulonia in Calabria, in search of a better life, to the horrors and mystery of the murder of Bertha Schippan at Towitta and, finally, to the story of the people of Dernancourt, northern France, and the ties forged with Adelaide during World War 1.

Two field trips, one to Reynella (September) and the other to the Barossa Goldfields, are reported in this newsletter. Our Christmas function was a most enjoyable afternoon at the ruins of the former Vice-Regal Summer Residence at Marble Hill. Eighty members took the opportunity to visit (or revisit) the site and to take in the grandeur of the ruins before restoration work commences. The local East Torrens Historical Society (ETHS) catered for the afternoon tea and Taylor Hittmann, from ETHS and Tea Tree Gully Branch of the National Trust of SA, ably lead tours of the site. The first-prize winner in the always-popular Christmas raffle was Glen Woodward—a box of new season cherries grown by the Cowling family at Norton Summit. We sincerely thank our hosts for the event—Edwin and Patricia Michell, the new owners of Marble Hill. During our afternoon tea, Patricia spoke with enthusiasm of their plans for the property. It will be fascinating to watch this building re-emerge—most of us have only seen it as a ruin.

I know the program in 2011 will be as exciting and as varied as those in past years have been. The Council and I wish our members well for the year ahead and look forward to seeing you (and your friends) at our lecture meetings and on the tours during this year.

Geoffrey Bishop



*Taylor Hittmann led members on a guided tour of the building and grounds*



*Members in the Marble Hill museum / display area operated by East Torrens Historical Society*

# Awards and Events

## Grant recipients

The recipients of grants under the new Historical Society of South Australia Grants Scheme were announced during October. A total of 21 applications were received and covered a large range of topics and areas of the State. A total of \$6850 was distributed in this year's program.

## Recipients and projects

### Dublin History Group Incorporated:

Plaques for unmarked graves at Dublin Cemetery.

### Australian Meteorological Association Incorporated:

Early settlement, climate and weather.

### Anne Black:

George Isaacs—A life of 'A Pendragon'.

### History Teachers Association of South Australia:

2011 National History Conference.

### Henley & Grange Historical Society Incorporated:

Historic maps of Henley and Grange conservation project.

### Clarendon Primary School:

Commemorative book for 125 years of Clarendon Primary School.

### Christeen Schoepf:

Mrs Seagar's country ladies: the contribution of the women of mid-north SA to the Cheer-up Society of World War 1.

### Rocky River Historic and Art Society Incorporated:

Conservation of newspaper printed on silk.

### Lyn O'Grady:

Kennion House History Display and Oral History Project.

### Mount Lofty Districts Historical Society Incorporated:

Digitisation, MLDHS Photographic Collection Stage 2.

*Applications to the Grants Scheme for 2011 will be invited in July/August 2011.*

## Coming events

### About Time: *South Australia's History Festival 2011*

SA History Week grew from modest beginnings in 2004 to become South Australia's largest community festival. In response to its success and to mark the State's 175th anniversary, the event in 2011 will run throughout the month of May.

The event's organisers, History SA, are inviting community organisations to register events for possible inclusion in the History Festival program.

Events can be registered in a number of ways.

Online: [www.historyweek.sa.gov.au/about-time-2011](http://www.historyweek.sa.gov.au/about-time-2011) (closes on Friday 11 February 2011).

Email: [abouttime@history.sa.gov.au](mailto:abouttime@history.sa.gov.au)—Form is available: [www.historyweek.sa.gov.au/about-time-2011](http://www.historyweek.sa.gov.au/about-time-2011) (closes on Monday 31 January 2011)

Mail: About Time Team  
History SA  
GPO Box 1836  
Adelaide SA 5001

Forms are available from History SA:

Telephone: (08) 8203 9888

Email: [abouttime@history.sa.gov.au](mailto:abouttime@history.sa.gov.au)

Please use a separate registration form for each event to be registered.

### In perspective: *rethinking South Australia's history*

The 20th State History Conference which will be held on 5-7 August 2011 at the National Wine Centre, Hackney Road, Adelaide.

Proposals for papers are invited from academic, professional and community historians. Proposals are to include title, abstract/overview (up to 250 words), brief biography of the presenter/s (up to 200 words) and full contact details. Proposals should be submitted by Thursday 31 March 2011.

Email: [statehistoryconference@history.sa.gov.au](mailto:statehistoryconference@history.sa.gov.au)

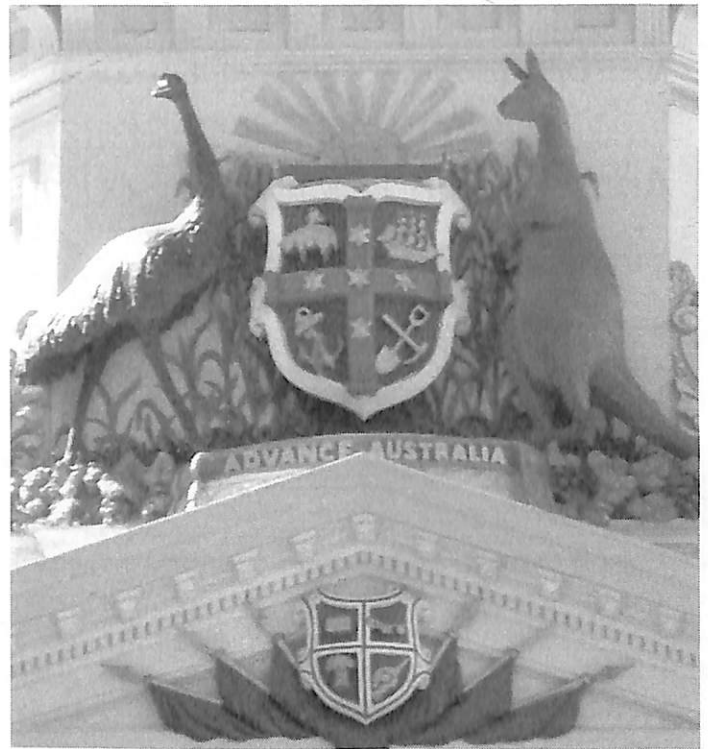
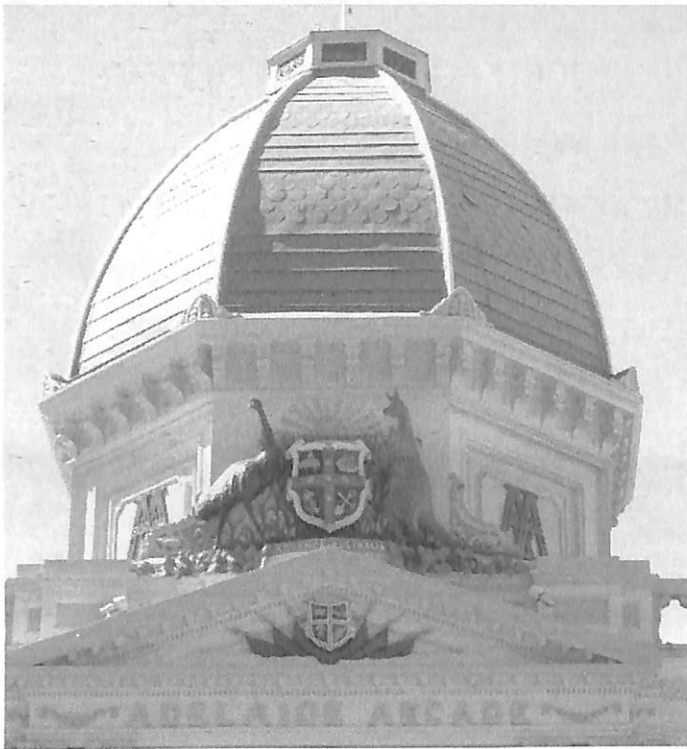
Mail: State History Conference  
GPO Box 1836  
Adelaide SA 5001

For further details and enquiries telephone

Mandy Paul: (08) 8203 9808

Karen Blackwood: (08) 8203 9807

# Contributing SA's History



## What is the Coat of Arms?

Have you ever wondered what is the coat of arms above the Grenfell Street entrance to Adelaide Arcade? This beautiful arcade was built in 1885 by a group of eight Adelaide businessmen at a total cost of over £30,000. The coat of arms is generally referred to as the Australian coat of arms and was built (or rather, cast) by Messrs W Pett & Son. The coat of arms predates the Commonwealth by 16 years and is a design that the Arcade's owners decided to adopt as they thought it would eventually win the competition for an Australian coat of arms.

As it turned out, another design was adopted but this one contains many elements of the accepted design. It has an emu and a kangaroo on each side of the shield, although in reverse positions to the final design. Below the shield are the words 'Advance Australia'. The Coat of Arms is divided into four sections—a sheep, an anchor, a sailing ship and a pick and shovel—symbols of the hard working pioneer spirit of the country. Next to the emu and kangaroo are sheaths of wheat and below them are grape vines, symbolising Australia as the land of opportunity.

Next time you are in Grenfell Street, have a look and also pay a visit to the Arcade's museum above Gay's Arcade.

[Adapted from Walkerville Times No 103 May 2010 (Walkerville Historical Society Incorporated)]



## Membership renewal

Membership for 2011 is due in January each year. A renewal (or new) membership form is included in the 2011 Program. Please forward your form to the Treasurer or make payment at a lecture meeting. Most categories of membership remain unaltered from last year.

Additional Programs and Membership Forms will be available at Lecture Meetings. Please take copies for anyone you think may be interested or to put in your local library, shopping centre, etc.

# Discovering SA's History

4 February

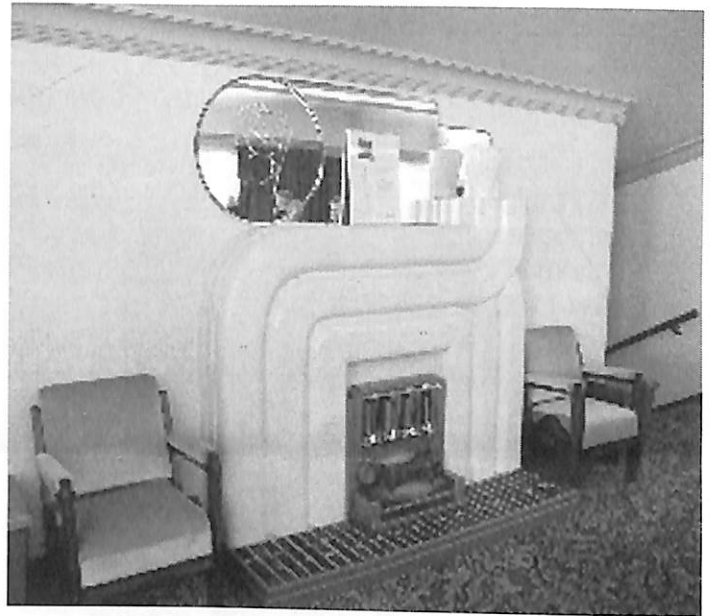
## Caroline Cosgrove will present *Moving to the Modern: Art Deco architecture in South Australia*

Caroline Cosgrove is a historian and heritage consultant. Before moving to South Australia, she worked at the University of Canberra and then for the National Trust of Australia (ACT). She is co-author of *Challenging Times*, a 50th anniversary history of the National Trust of SA.

Carol is former president and current vice-president of the Professional Historians Association (SA). She has led tours of Art Deco buildings in Adelaide city and Port Adelaide as a Committee member of the Adelaide Chapter of the Art Deco and Modernism Society Incorporated.

The term 'Art Deco' derives from an exhibition in Paris in 1925, which was the first major international expression of the style. However, the first use of the term to describe the style was not until 1966 and buildings that exhibited Art Deco characteristics were at the time called 'modern', causing some confusion with those now known as modernist or functional. Art Deco architecture only began to make an appearance in South Australia in the late 1920s and is more generally identified with buildings of the mid to late 1930s.

In this illustrated talk Carol will discuss the era and the emergence of Art Deco. She will outline Art Deco characteristics and discuss the arrival of Art Deco in Australia and South Australia. She will examine some examples of South Australian Art Deco architecture and provide some general reflections on Art Deco architecture.



*Fireplace at the Goodwood Star Theatre  
(now the Capri Cinema) in 1941.*



*Glenelg Ozone Theatre in 1937.*

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.

# Discovering SA's History

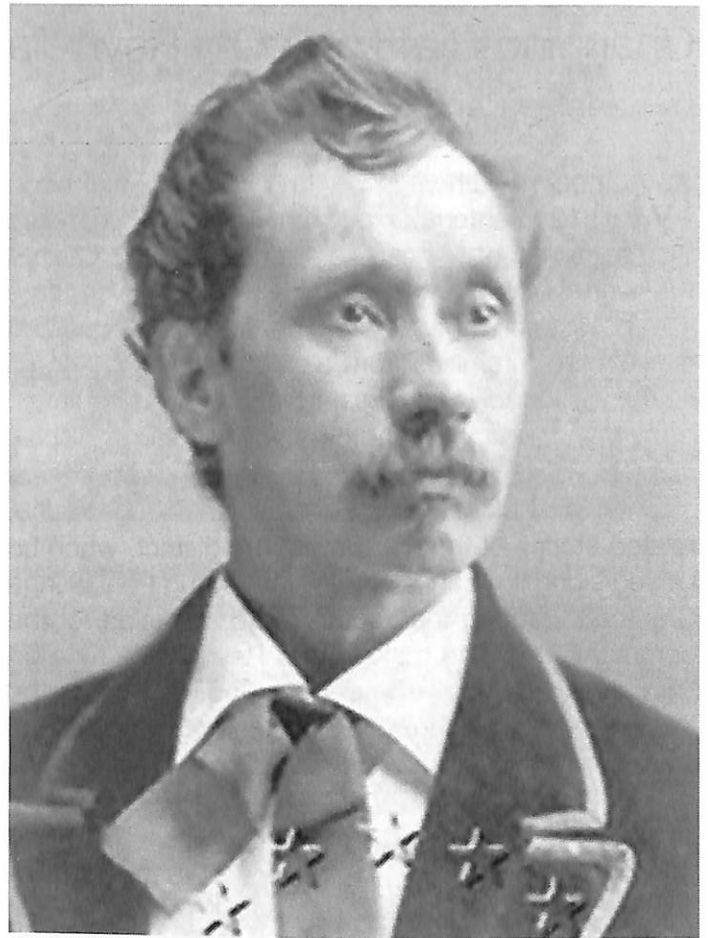
4 March

Ian Purcell will present

*Side by Side: the mysterious tale of the burial of two American vaudeville performers buried in the same grave—7 years apart*

Ian Purcell has been researching stories from Adelaide's gay history for many years. He has researched and written (with Will Sergeant) a series of ten Adelaide Gay History Walks, and two musical dramas *King of the West End* and *The Pink Files* (with Sean Peter), based on the gay and lesbian history of Adelaide. His talk this evening combines three of his main interests: the history of Adelaide, the gay history of South Australia, and Australian theatre.

In 2005 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia for his work as a gay activist and writer.



## Side by Side

'friends of many years, companions on the stage'

Here's a mystery. Why were two 19th century American actors buried in an Adelaide cemetery in the same grave—seven years apart? A playwright, Ian came across this story while doing research for his third historical drama, a colonial melodrama entitled *'Urania, or Love Conquers All'* set in South Australia in the 1870s.

On finding the broken headstone, still standing after nearly 120 years, Ian put aside the writing of his play to see if he could solve the mystery of the grave. His subsequent search for answers took him back to the late nineteenth century golden age of Australian Theatre, and earlier, to the New York stage in the 1860s and a Fifth Avenue shoot-out between the owners of two rival minstrel theatre companies. Join us for a fascinating journey through 150 turbulent years of American and Australian theatrical history.



# Visiting SA's History

## Changing Station at Old Reynella

by Janet Callen

Members gathered on the Spring afternoon of 12 September at the Reynella Changing Station, adjacent to the Old Town Shopping Centre. We were welcomed by volunteers who, over three years, restored the former changing station and blacksmith's premises from a state of ruin. We could settle comfortably in chairs and munch on chocolates, or examine the many photos and artifacts on display in the building.

A long-time resident, 90-years-old Doug Keane, related stories of the old days in the district, when he played along the banks of the ever-flowing Panalatinga Creek and among the trees on land set aside for the community by wine maker John Reynell. He recalled floods washing away the original wooden bridge, the death of a woman thrown out of the mail coach when the horses bolted, and the fire which destroyed the old mill.

Rod Brown, Councillor and historian, explained the efforts made by volunteers to restore the ruined building and adjoining Alexander Cottage, believed to be the residence of the first blacksmith Jeremiah Cannon. In 1850, the forge, on land owned by John Reynell, was extended to cater for the Royal Mail coach on its way from Adelaide to Willunga and beyond. Each coach was drawn by a four-horse team from Adelaide to the Lady MacDonnell Hotel on South Road, where its team was exchanged for a five-horse team to Reynella.

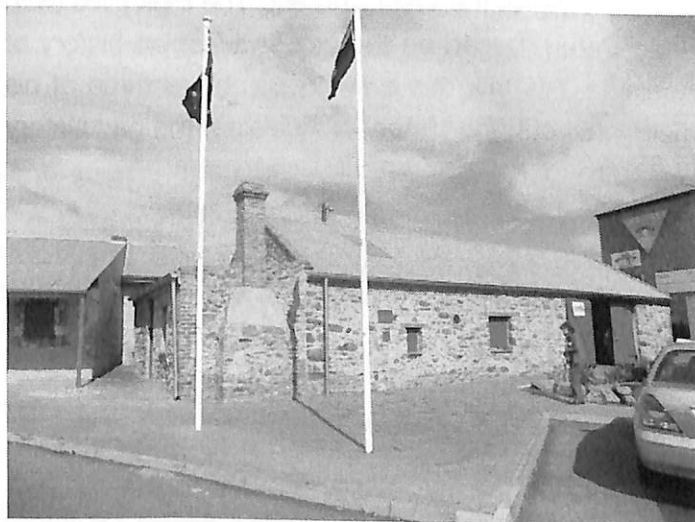
At the Changing Station, the new team, already prepared by the ostlers, was ready to go. When the coach passed through an entry doorway the tired team was unharnessed, and a new team pulled the coach through an exit doorway. Tired horses rested in a paddock to be ready for a return journey. Coaching companies included William Rounsevell's Royal Mail, John Hill and Company Royal Mail Coaches, and Graves Hill and Company. The daily coach departed from Adelaide at 2.30 pm and the cost for the 13 mile journey to Reynella was 3/-. The coming of the railway in 1915 brought an end to the coaching days.

Afternoon tea was served, members were invited to a self-guided walk around the Old Town.

Reynella is named after the first settler John Reynell who arrived in 1838 and planted vines near the Panalatinga Creek, founding SA's wine industry. On the walk we passed the original site of the winery and

distillery, now incorporated in the St Francis Winery complex. We then saw the original school house and the adjoining head master's residence, the Wesleyan Chapel, and the early grocery store, which has been Woolcock's fashion house since the 1960s. There are some fascinating old houses and cottages along Corn Street and railway cottages near the site of the former railway station. The track was removed in 1972 and now forms part of the Coast to Vines Rail Trail. We walked beside the permanently flowing Panalatinga Creek, a tributary of the Field River. Panalatinga is derived from an Aboriginal word meaning 'path of water'. The walk took about an hour.

Thanks to all the organisers for planning such an enjoyable afternoon.



*Alexander Cottage in front of the Changing Station*



*Members of the Society being welcomed and hearing about the Changing Station.*

# Visiting SA's History

## Barossa Goldfields

by Pauline Payne and Glen Woodward

Our group of twenty-seven set off from Burnside on Sunday 10 October, travelling by bus up the North East Road on the old coach route to the village of Tea Tree Gully. A walk around the 'square' at Houghton reminded us of the English village tradition.

After meeting Bob Swarbrick at Williamstown, we looked at the 'wall of history' display near the creek and the nearby Whispering Wall. Driving to the Barossa Goldfields museum we learned that alluvial gold was discovered by Job Harris at Spike Gully in October 1868. Within a week about 2000 people had rushed to the area, numbers soon reaching 4000. Gold found in this area between 1868 and 1871 was estimated to be worth £180,000.

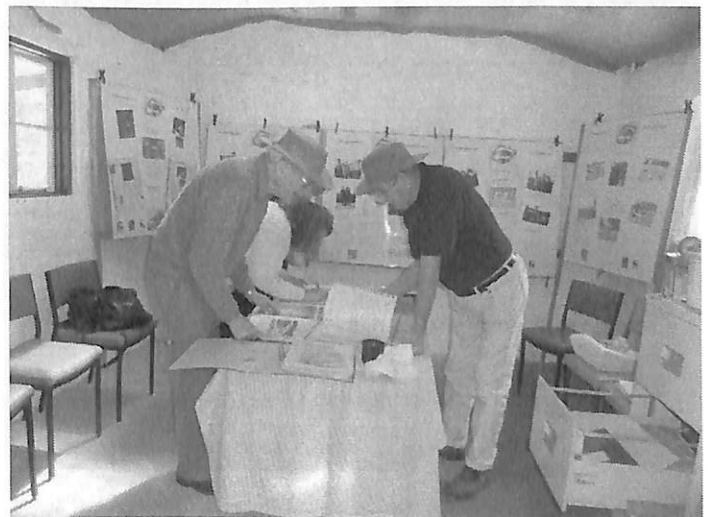
We enjoyed the museum display in the restored Bowden's Cottage. The hospitable local Historical Society group (some in period costume) provided a delicious lunch in a very pleasant garden setting. While some of us associate mining heritage with ugly slag heaps, this museum boasts beautiful walking trails nearby and we saw wonderful spring native orchids in the bush.

The location provided great security, so much so that during the Second World War an American base was established nearby.

The return trip was via One Tree Hill, over Black Top Road and along the little Para River. Our thanks to Glen Woodward, Bob Swarbrick, Colin Deed and Avis Huckel for organising such an enjoyable trip.



*Kathleen Zakis, Sally Hopton, Maureen Freeman, Joan Ramsay and Lorraine Olifent enjoying lunch.*



*Looking at the historical collection.*



*Members visiting the Whispering Wall.*



*A demonstration of using a cross-cut saw.*

# Christmas Function at Marble Hill



Marble Hill's new owners, Edwin and Patricia Mitchell, hosted the HSSA function; Patricia drew the Christmas raffle, flanked by Geoffrey Bishop and Terry Saunderson.



Afternoon tea was served in the former coach-house.



Glen Woodward won 1st prize in the raffle, a box of cherries which he shared with members.

Deadline for articles for the March issue of the newsletter is 12 February 2011



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