



From the President

Welcome to the March edition of the HSSA's Newsletter. Our new year got off to an excellent start in February with Caroline Cosgrove's most interesting presentation about art deco design in Adelaide. Many of those present were unaware of the buildings she used to illustrate her presentation. With around 127 people present, we have already exceeded our average attendance for the past year by 20%!

Discovering SA's History, our lecture series, will present two very different topics in April and May. In April, James Smith who has been involved in the importation and retailing of Champagne for many years, will tell the story of the development of the making of sparkling wines in South Australia. His presentation will also discuss the introduction of Sparkling Burgundy to Australia—a first—by French-born winemaker Leon Edmond Mazure.

In May we are very pleased to have Mr Hieu Van Le AO, Lieutenant Governor of South Australia, as our guest speaker. Mr Le escaped from war torn Vietnam, and came to Australia as a refugee in 1977. An article in The University of Adelaide's Alumni Magazine Lumen in 2008 said, 'His remarkable journey to Australia is the stuff of legend and his achievements within Australia almost as extraordinary.' This promises to be an exceptional opportunity to hear his story first-hand.

I would also remind members that the May meeting is our Annual General Meeting and will include the election of office bearers for the coming year. Please give consideration to nominating for a position or as a Council member. It is not an arduous task to be involved; our elected members are very supportive of each other and we enjoy working together for the good of the Society. Please discuss your interest with myself or any other of the office bearers.

Our Treasurer, Terry Saunderson, is retiring from this position at the AGM. We sincerely thank Terry for his valuable contribution in this role for about three years.

The Council and I look forward to seeing you (and friends) at the forthcoming lecture meetings.

Geoffrey Bishop
President

Notice of HSSA Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Historical Society of South Australia Incorporated will be held at 7.30 pm on Friday 6 May 2011 at Burnside Community Centre.

Nomination forms for the following office bearer positions will be available from the Secretary :
President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Council Members.

For further information please contact Geoffrey Bishop on 8390 3138 or Terry Saunderson on 8354 2736 during business hours.

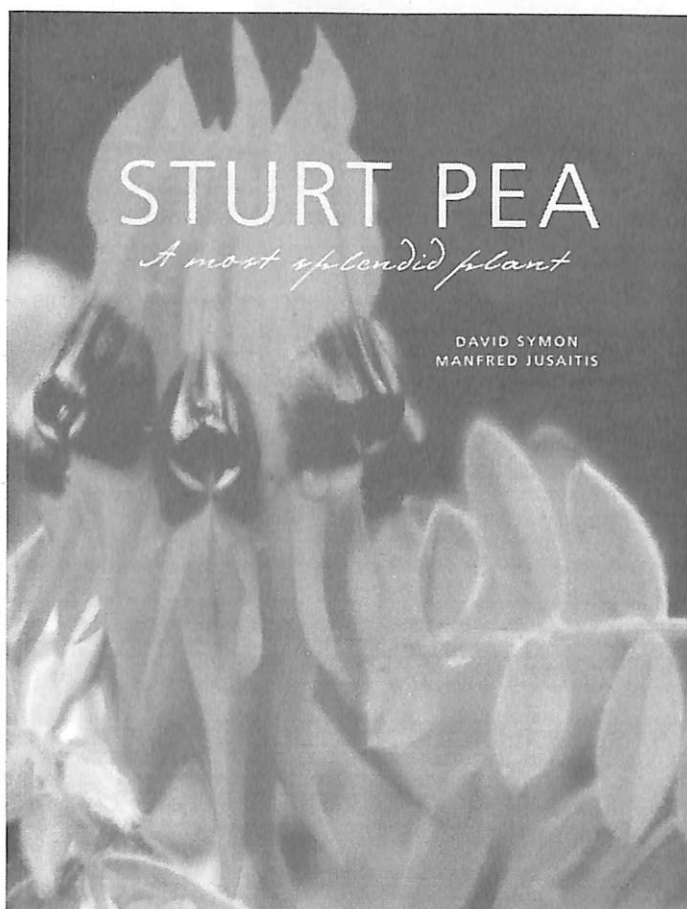
Geoffrey Bishop, President

Membership renewals now due

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

Additional Programmes 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, etcetera.

Contributing SA's History



Queensland flora. This is interesting as Bailey was from South Australia and the name Sturt Pea or Sturt's Pea had been in use in his home province since about 1858.

Quite recently, I came across an earlier proposal for Sturt Pea to be adopted as South Australia's State Emblem. Perhaps not surprisingly, this was in 1936, the year of the State's Centenary celebrations. The proposal was made to the Centenary Committee by the botanist Mr E H Ising. The occasion was a speech on 'The plant life of Australia' made to a Legacy Club luncheon on 13 February 1936.

He said, 'The Sturt Pea was one of the first known Australian plants, specimens having been collected by [William] Dampier when he landed on the coast of Western Australia in 1699. Some of those specimens were still preserved in England.'

I do not know what was the response from the Centenary Committee, presumably negative. However, perhaps some notice was taken of Mr Ising as one of the most striking costumes in the Centenary Pageant that year were the Sturt Pea costumes designed by Thelma Thomas Afford. These are shown in Dr Symon's book, *Sturt Pea, a most splendid plant* (2005) which is available from MuseumSA's bookshop.

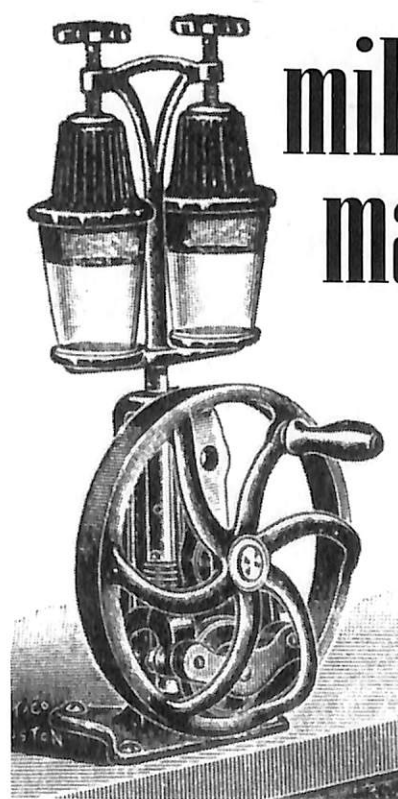
Sturt Pea as State Emblem

by Geoffrey Bishop

When does a flower become a State Flower or Floral Emblem?

Many members will remember the lecture by Dr David Symon in June 2005 on the Sturt Pea, our superb State Flower. In his presentation, David mentioned the campaign by Mr Noel Lothian, then Director of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide, back in 1961 to have the Sturt Pea recognised as South Australia's State Flower. There was no set procedure to proclaim an emblem so on 23 November 1961 the Chief Secretary published an announcement to the effect in the South Australian Government Gazette.

This was not the first 'recognition' of Sturt Pea as our floral emblem. David Symon had found reference in a book on Australian wildflowers published in 1942 had stated that 'the Glory Pea is South Australia's national flower'. F Manson Bailey first used the common name Glory Pea for the species in his 1883 account of the



milkshake machine

38/-

Sources of SA's History

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.

Registration of events by community organisations closed in early February. The program will be issued during April and copies will be available at HSSA's lecture meeting in May.

For information regarding the festival, visit:
www.historyweek.sa.gov.au/about-time-2011

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

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

Bound for South Australia 1836

History SA launched its blog Bound for South Australia on 22 February 2011—the date in 1836 that the first ships set sail for South Australia.

Entries to the blog will be updated weekly so that readers can follow the voyage.

Also have a look at the website:

<http://boundforsouthaustralia.net.au>.

As the site says, this was the journey of a lifetime for those first settlers.

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See the preview of James Smith's lecture:
*South Australian pioneer of sparkling wine
manufacture in South Australia*
on page 4.

Discovering SA's History

1 April

James Smith will present:

South Australian pioneer of sparkling wine manufacture in South Australia

James Smith has been associated with Australian winemaking for the past forty years. He joined Hamilton's Ewell Vineyards as its Tasmanian manager in 1969, before starting his own wholesale wine company in 1974. In 1980, he commenced with Roseworthy Agricultural College and was appointed to the academic staff in 1986 to lecture in wine marketing. In 1990, he accepted a position with the Adelaide Institute of TAFE lecturing on wine, wine appreciation and wine tourism. He retired in 2002 to spend his time travelling, writing and researching Australian sparkling wine history and lecturing on Champagne.

In 1986 he received the Vin de Champagne Award which took him on a study tour to Champagne for four weeks. In 1997, the French government presented him with The Order of Saint Vincent through the Corporation des Vignerons de Champagne for his services to the champagne industry and in 2003 he was made a Chevalier in the Ordre des Coteaux de Champagne. As well as his wine interests, James has had a long involvement in classic jazz as a collector and broadcaster and has been a regular jazz presenter on Radio Adelaide since 1978. Whenever possible he tries to combine his interests in Australian sparkling wines and champagne and vintage jazz.

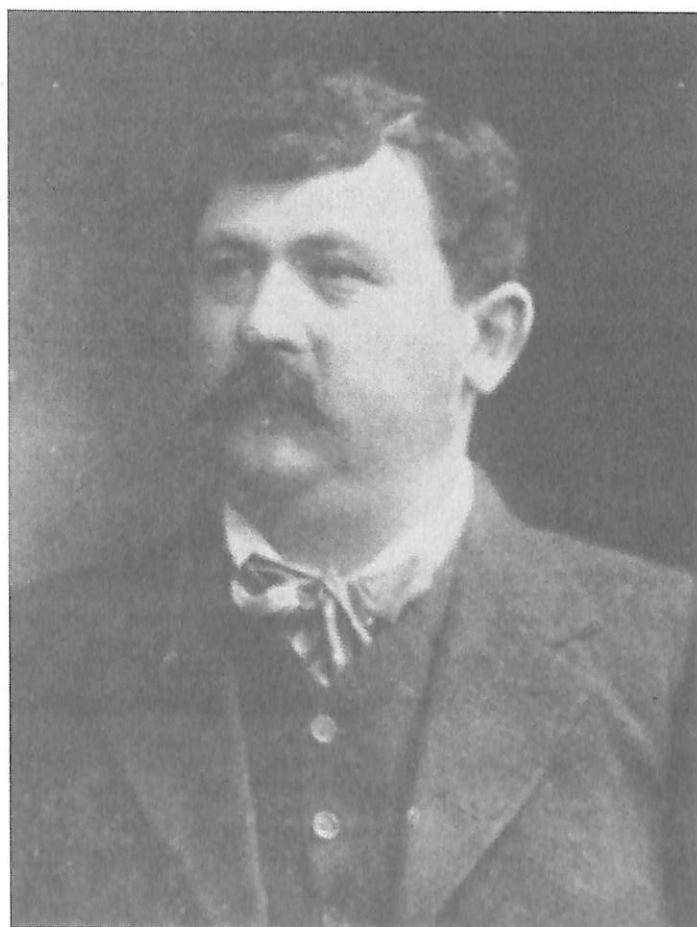
James Smith's topic will revolve around some of the pioneer winemakers—and particularly the early French winemakers—who came to South Australia from the 1870s, and who played major roles in the development of sparkling wine in this State. Some of the pioneer winemakers under discussion will include Leo Buring, Hurtle Walker, Edmond Mazure and Joseph Hippolyte Foureur. He will also talk about some of the early vineyards that were established in the foothills around Magill and Stonyfell.

James Smith's latest book *Bubbles, Bottles and Colonial Bastards: a short history of sparkling wine in Australia 1840—1990*, was published in 2009.

Upon its release, it was reviewed by Valmai Hankel PSM, wine historian and broadcaster:

While there are books on Australian wine history in general . . . this is the first, as far as I know, to go into detail about an Australian wine style.

This most readable book tells us of the early days of Australian winemaking, when the colonial cringe was rife and consumers favoured imported wines over the local product, regardless of quality.



Edmond Mazure introduced the production of Sparkling Burgundy to Australia while he was a winemaker of Auldana Ltd at Magill.

Discovering SA's History

6 May

Hieu Van Le,

Lieutenant Governor of South Australia,
will present:

How Geography Lessons Saved My Life

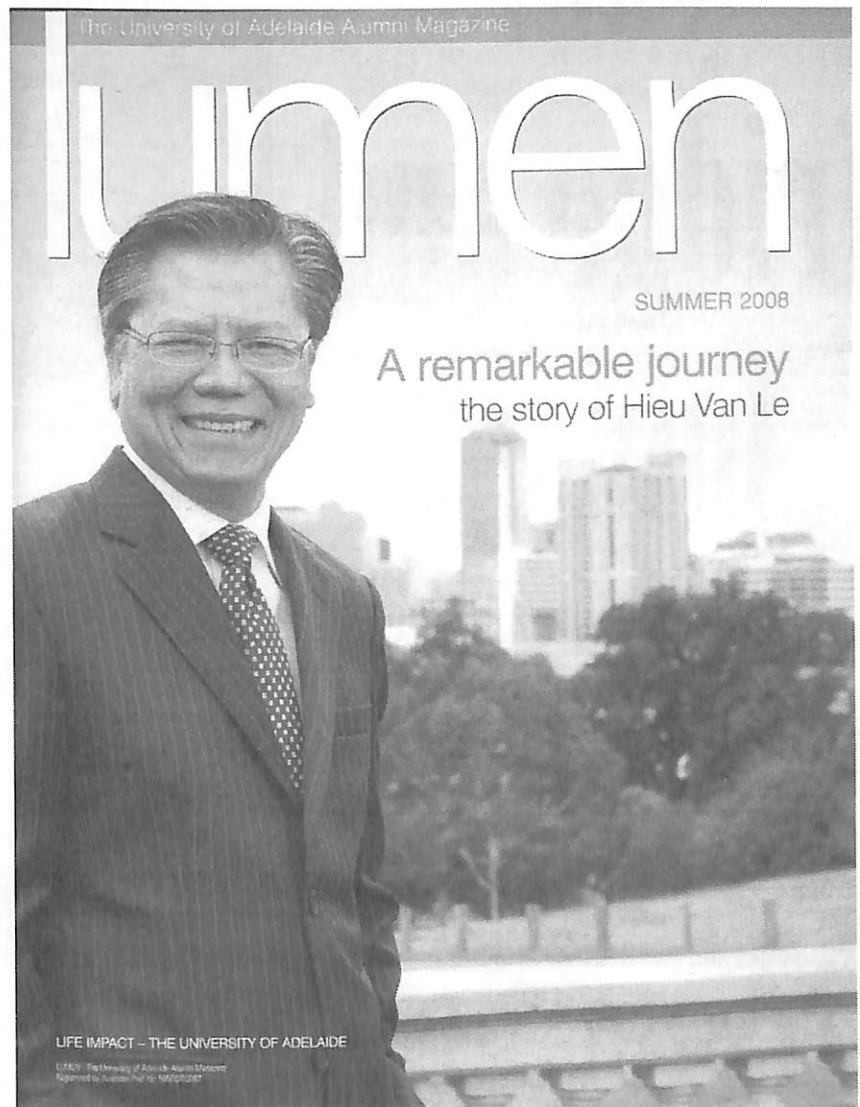
In 1977, in the wake of the Vietnam War and the dramatic fall of Saigon, Hieu Van Le escaped from his homeland in the dead of night and embarked on a dangerous journey to Australia. As one of thousands of Vietnamese 'boat people' seeking peace, freedom and opportunity, Hieu's voyage across the dangerous waters of South East Asia tested him as never before.

The pressure and responsibility thrust upon him was extreme, and the range and difficulty of the challenges he and his fellow sailors encountered were extraordinary. The nature of that experience and the things Hieu discovered on his arrival in Australia changed his life forever.

Ultimately, he was helped to settle in a new land, attend the University of Adelaide, achieve professional success as a corporate regulator, serve on the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission, receive an Australia Day Medal in 1996, and in 2007 became Lieutenant Governor.

In his presentation to the Historical Society entitled *How Geography Lessons Saved My Life*, Hieu Van Le will tell his remarkable personal story and provide an unforgettable insight into what it is like to be a refugee.

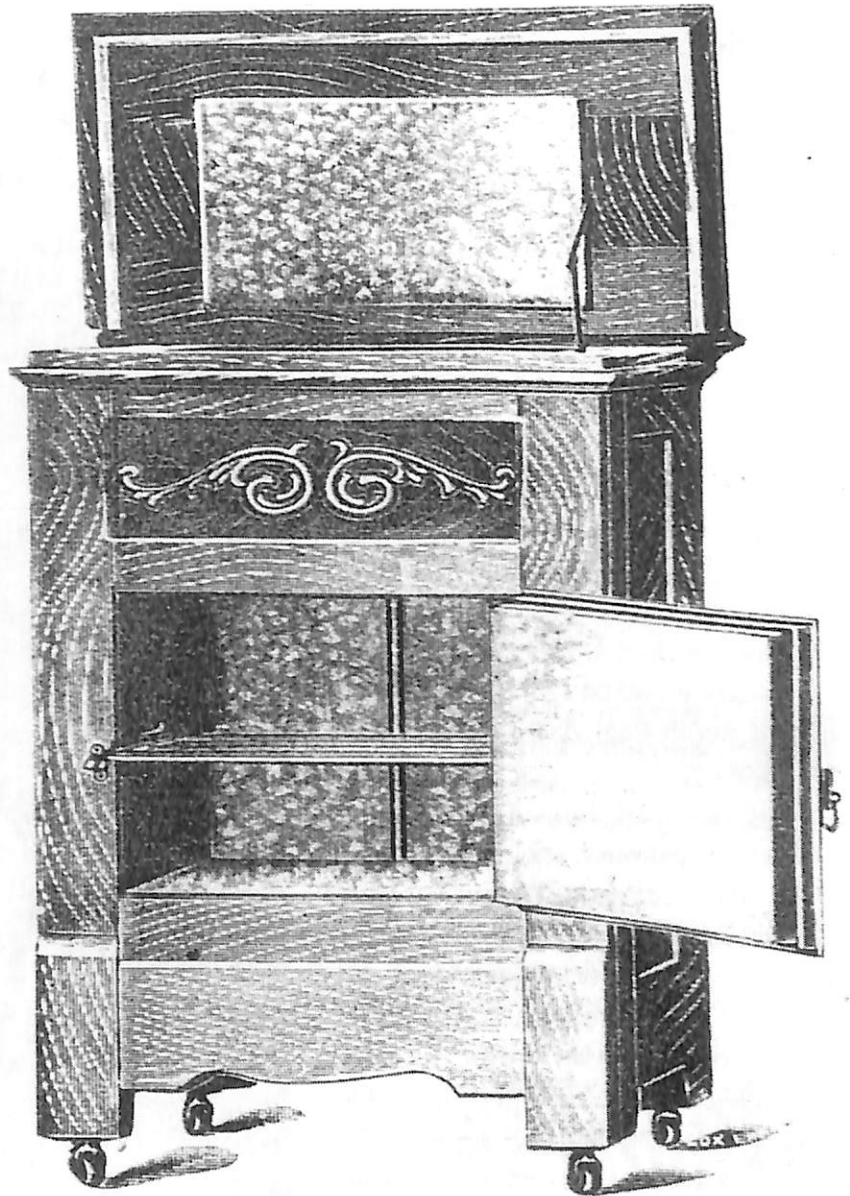
Please come along and enjoy what promises to be a fascinating night.



*A remarkable journey:
the story of Hieu Van Le AO
(Lumen Summer 2008,
The University of Adelaide)*

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.

Dump
your
fridge and
buy an
ICE CHEST



Deadline for articles for the May issue of the newsletter is 22 April 2011



Historical Society of South Australia Inc
PO Box 519 Kent Town SA 5071
Email: secretary@hssa.org.au
Website: www.hssa.org.au
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President: Dr Geoffrey Bishop
Vice-president: Dr Adrian Brown
Secretary / Treasurer: Mr Terry Saunderson
8354 2736 (business hours)
Bookings: Ms Margaret Cliff 8362 9517
Newsletter Editor: gfm@bigpond.com
Journal Editor: Dr Brian Dickey 8278 5386
Journal email: brian.dickey@flinders.edu.au

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