

HISTORY • SA

Newsletter of The Historical Society of South Australia Incorporated

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2012

From the President

Our lecture series for 2012 got off to an excellent start with around 142 members and visitors present on 3 February to hear Dr Gillian Dooley's paper on Matthew Flinders. She not only looked at what happened to Flinders and his crew during the nine years following their leaving England in 1801 but also presented a fascinating insight into the personality of the man himself.



Guest speaker, Gillian Dooley (centre), with Bert Stock and Helen Whittington, 3 February meeting.

On 2 March Dr Caroline Adams gave an account, alternately moving and amusing, of the six South Australian nurses who went to southern Africa during the Boer War.

Details of our April and May meetings are presented in this edition of the Newsletter. They promise to be interesting topics and both are newly explored areas of research.

Late last year the Society notified the recipients of the 2011 HSSA Grants Scheme. A total of 11 grants were made, totalling \$7000. The projects supported are quite varied, covering numerous aspects of South Australian history. The recipients were as follows:

- Mrs Merrily Hallsworth - The Valiant Vigneron - Leon Edmond Mazure
- East Torrens Historical Society Inc - The Violet Farm Memorial Plaque Project
- The Cookbook Road Show (Allison Reynolds)
- Mia Spizzica - World War Two Loveday Internment Camp: Italian Civilian Internment
- Christopher Collins - World War One Soldiers of the Adelaide Hills
- Kristen McEvoy - Western United Football Club Reunion and History Booklet
- Dr Paul Skrebels, UniSA - The Blue and Brown Diamond: An online edition of the 27th Battalion AIF unit history for 21st century readers

Clipper Ship 'City of Adelaide' Ltd (Ron Roberts) - History of the Clipper Ship 'City of Adelaide' (publication)

Betsy Taylor - The George Chapman Diaries

Rocky River Historic & Art Society Inc - Conservation/protection of grave of Chinese market gardener at Laura

Marianne Cunneen - Meningie District Football

In the weeks prior to the February meeting our second pull-up banner was completed. It depicts images of South Australia, both historic and current. Our thanks to Adrian Brown and Philip Knight for their work.

A flyer has been put on the HSSA website to enable people to order copies of *SA's Greats*. In recent years the book has been distributed far and wide by Russell and Pam Smith of Smithbooks. They have had to wind back their distribution work and Council is currently investigating other options. The book has sold very well since its launch in 2001 and we would like to see this continue.

In another change, Society member Robert Martin has taken on the role of Newsletter Editor. Our thanks to Garry Mighall who has acted as editor over the past year.

Finally, a couple of reminders. Firstly, membership renewals for 2012 are now due and can be paid by mail or in person at a lecture meeting. Secondly, the Society's AGM will be held on Friday 4th May 2012. This is your chance to get more involved in your Society. Why not stand for a position on Council (or an office, if that appeals)? If you are not sure what the roles entail, please speak to one of the present officeholders at a lecture meeting.

Geoffrey Bishop

The Annual General Meeting of the Historical Society of South Australia Incorporated will be held at 7.30 pm on Friday 4 May 2012 at the 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 (business hours).

Geoffrey Bishop, President

Australia Day Award

Our congratulations to Society member Maggy Ragless who was awarded Mitcham Council's Australia Day Citizen of the Year for 2012 at the Australia Day celebrations held at Carrick Hill. The award recognises 'her dedication to the preservation of heritage on behalf of the Mitcham Community'. Maggy has worked part time for over 25 years as the Council's Local History Officer but beyond this, she has devoted countless hours of voluntary service as a community historian promoting the significance of our built and recorded heritage. A well deserved award.

[Maggy informs us that a number of other persons associated with heritage projects around the State were also recognised. Ed.]

Discovering SA's History

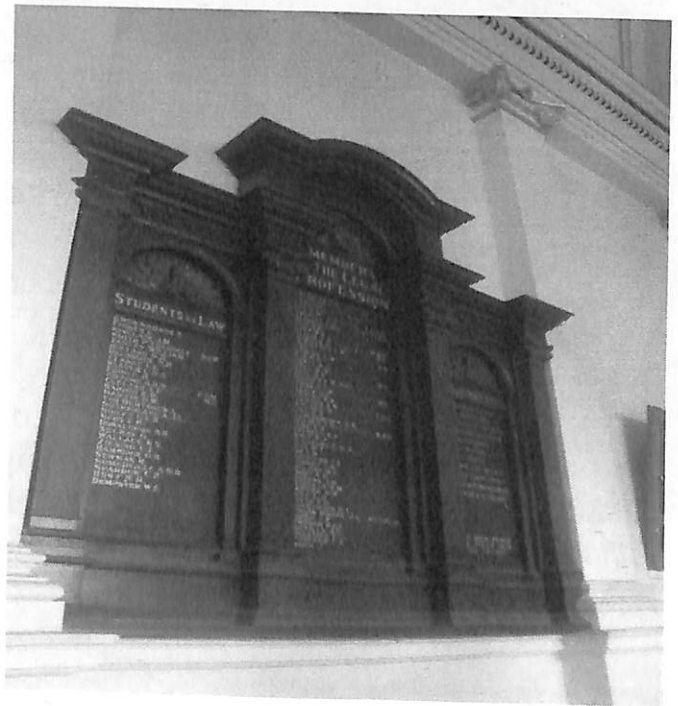
Peter Moore Friday 13 April
2012

South Australian Lawyers and the First World War

From the declaration of war in August 1914 to the Armistice in November 1918, nearly a third of lawyers of military age saw active service overseas. Others served at home in military and associated capacities.

The paper is a group biography, tracking their war-time careers from enlistment to demobilisation. Their positions ranged from stretcher bearer to artillery gunner. More obtained British commissions than Australian. Most served as privates. Casualties were high. Five were killed in action or died of wounds. As many were seriously wounded and invalided home. Most put the law on hold for the duration of hostilities. Anxiety about who served and who did not raised the 'white feather' and the 'German' lawyers were subjected to unseemly pressures. War service on the home front distracted several from full-time practice. The Law Society helped raise funds for a field ambulance and conducted the Red Cross Information Bureau. The Supreme Court led the remembrance of the fallen and the recognition of those who served. The profession did not grow, but it did change. Law offices dwindled in size and activity, with elderly practitioners unable to retire, and women replaced male law clerks in a dramatic alteration of law office demography.

Peter Moore was born in rural South Australia and brought up in suburban Adelaide. He joined the Historical Society at its foundation in 1974, served as a Council Member in 1977 and is now a Life Member. He graduated in law at the University of Adelaide and was admitted to the practice of the Supreme Court of South Australia in 1977. He has worked as a lawyer and an archivist and is currently a publisher's editor. He has addressed the Society twice before on aspects of his forthcoming biography of Colonel Robert Torrens. Also forthcoming is his history of the South Australian legal profession, 1837-1945.



The World War I Honour Roll in the Supreme Court House on the corner of Gouger and King William Streets. It names all lawyers and law students who saw active service, noting deaths and honours. Initiated by the Judges, the legal profession subscribed its cost. Chief Justice Murray unveiled it on 7 September 1918.

Discovering SA's History

Richard Heathcote Friday 4 May
2012.

A garden/social history talk on:

**Marble Hill 1878-1955: Life at
the Vice Regal summer residence.**

The talk covers how Marble Hill came into existence, with an insight into how and what it was used for by five of the fifteen Governors of South Australia and their families, who had use of it before it became a noble ruin. There is much never-before-seen material from photo albums, and first-hand accounts of life at this extraordinary gothic mansion perched on the tragic but glorious peak at Ashton in the Hills.

As a garden historian Richard focuses his talk on the gardens that five Governors created and how they used them in both the 19th and 20th centuries.

Richard Heathcote is the Director of Carrick Hill, and Wakefield Press recently published the book he has edited, *Carrick Hill: A Portrait*. He previously managed the Rippon Lea Estate in Melbourne.

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

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A watercolour painted by Lady Victoria Buxton (1896) of the view to Marble Hill house from the tennis court. This is reproduced from an album created by Lady Buxton which has recently come to light in Adelaide - new material hitherto not seen publicly.



A black and white photograph of Rosemary Norrie, the Governor Sir Willoughby Norrie's daughter, and her companion (her cousin) posed on the rockery terrace beds in front of the house (c. 1948).

Visiting SA's History

Keswick Barracks Heritage Walk and Museum Tour and Afternoon Tea

Sunday 27 May at 2 pm

The buildings at Keswick Barracks were completed in 1913 so the 1.5 kilometer Heritage Walk will include many interesting stories, some featuring the hospital complex, the ordnance depot and the flag station. We will be accompanied on this guided walk by Digger, an official mascot dog!

After a guided tour of the museum, we will adjourn to the officers' mess for afternoon tea.

Please enter the barracks via Gate 4 (opposite Discount City Carpets) on Anzac Highway - parking is available inside. Gather at the flagpole, which is easily visible.

Cost of the visit is -

Walk and Museum Tour:

Members \$5 Visitors \$7

Afternoon Tea \$5

To make bookings and pay, see Margaret Cliff at Society meetings or telephone her on 8362 9517.



World War One enlistment poster.

Contributing to SA's History

Book Sales

The Society and Wakefield Press conduct book sales at the Society's lecture meetings. If you have published a book (or have a friend who has) please speak with Margaret Young about having your book available on our table. Decide on a price, which will include a small commission for the Society. The Society's highly successful publication *SA's Greats: the men and women of the North Terrace plaques*, edited by John Healey, is available at our meetings (\$11.95) or by post (\$18.00 including postage in South Australia). Please send your order and payment to HSSA, PO Box 519, Kent Town SA 5071.

Notice Board and Table

Do you have something to advertise? A meeting, display, walk, or whatever. Please feel free to use the notice board. The table is also there for you to place brochures, leaflets, booklets, etc. Even if you want to give away some item no longer required, a book, maybe a poster, or something of interest.

The Shed Prize

Help! The Shed is running out of suitable prizes. To avoid using rusty screws, nails etc we are inviting you to donate a prize. This can be of anything historical (preferably) and you will be acknowledged as the donor—if you wish. Please see Colin Deed at the meetings or phone 8277 2953.

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The deadline for articles for the May issue of the Newsletter is 20 April 2012.

Good Friday

As you know, Historical Society of SA meetings are held on the first Friday in each month.

Good Friday 2012 is on the first Friday in April, so our meeting for that month will be held the following Friday, 13 April.

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