



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Every now and then historians are asked to look at an aspect of history about which they know very little. I was recently asked to provide some wording for two commemorative signs to be erected at Klemzig. The first covers the pre-European vegetation of the area (that's fine) and the other concerns the German settlement established there on the River Torrens in 1838.

Probably as for most of you, the name Klemzig is very familiar, but I could not have told anyone much about its history. I've since found that the first decade of the village is pretty well recorded, but as to how and when it declined is not. This and how the name of Klemzig has been changed over time has been an interesting discovery.

In a summary fashion: German immigrants established the village of Klemzig in 1838 on the banks of the River Torrens and named it for their home village in Brandenburg, Prussia. How they got from Prussia to England and then to Adelaide is another, and quite remarkable, story.

The settlers arrived in South Australia aboard the *Prince George* under the leadership of their pastor, August Kavel (1798-1860). English businessman George Fife Angas

sponsored their emigration and the group settled on and leased his 268-acre property.

The village developed rapidly and by 1840-41 had a population of 209, 34 houses, a chapel, schoolhouse and mill. There were 149 acres sown to cereal crops and potatoes and 7 acres of market garden and fruit trees.



Village of Klemzig – drawing by F.R. Nixon dated February 1846; the church is modelled on the one in Klemzig, District of Züllichau, Brandenburg, Prussia

During 1843 and subsequent years many of the original settlers left Klemzig to take up larger properties at Langmeil in the Barossa Valley and elsewhere, including Gilles Plains, Blumberg (Birdwood), Dublin, Concordia, and Balaklava.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Klemzig had declined by 1900 when the Angas family sold the property to the Government to be divided into 49 workman's blocks. The new settlement was named Powell for a Boer War soldier but this was not supported by the blockers and it reverted to Klemzig.

During World War I, in 1918, the name was considered to be of 'foreign enemy origin' and was changed to Gaza in memory of Australian soldiers killed in Palestine (66 other place names were also changed at this time). By 1928 moves (headed by Revd John Blacket) were made to return the area to its original name. A campaign ensued and on 12 December 1935 the name Klemzig was officially reinstated (as was Hahndorf).

In 1936, as part of the State's centenary celebrations, the Klemzig Pioneer Cemetery was renovated and 80 memorial trees were planted along OG Road. The centenary of the German colonists leaving Prussia was celebrated at Klemzig on 8 June 1938.

A first-hand picture of life at Klemzig was provided in 1937 by 82-year-old Mrs C.H. Borgelt. Her father, Mr Maschmedt, was the Lutheran pastor and schoolmaster at Klemzig and she spent her childhood there. 'Last week Mrs Borgelt accompanied her son, Mr. L. A. Borgelt, to her old home at Klemzig, which was built more than 90 years ago by her pioneering parents. She made the trip in order to take part in moving pictures which her son took of the district for exhibition at St Stephen's jubilee celebrations. Yesterday Mrs Borgelt spoke of the early days of the village, remembering two special tasks of her

childhood — ringing the bell of the old church to summon the children of the German community to her father's school, and drawing water each day from the Torrens, the household's only source of supply. The few exciting episodes of her life she considered were the rare trips to Adelaide in an old German waggon.' [The Advertiser 9/12/1937 p.8]

Society events

At our August meeting Lorraine McLoughlin spoke about her recent book on South Australian artist Barbara Robertson, the social context in which she worked, her teachers and her contemporary artists. It was illuminating to see how Barbara's artwork and subjects changed during her lifetime.



On 3 August Lorraine McLoughlin gave us an absorbing illustrated presentation on the life of Barbara Robertson

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Then in September we welcomed back Richard Venus who took us on another trip into South Australia's engineering history, this time being the story of James Henry Southcott and the company he established 126 years ago. Richard termed him 'a valuable man' and he may as well have called him 'a remarkable man' as his engineering and design abilities showed.



Richard Venus, our presenter on 7 September, with Newsletter Editor, Robert Martin

Our final meetings for the present year (yes, already that time of year) will be addressed by Liz Harfull in October and Dr Philip Jones in November; their topics are, respectively, country shows and show cooking, and the art of George French Angas. Details are provided elsewhere in this newsletter. I commend these events to all members and friends.

We have two *Visiting SA's History* events coming up. On Wednesday 17th October we visit the Royal Adelaide Showgrounds Archives and on Sunday 2nd December our end-of-year /Christmas function is to be a visit with afternoon tea to the lovely Anglican Church of St John at Norton Summit (please see booking details for both events in this edition). Both will be interesting visits and our Council members look forward to seeing you there.

Geoffrey Bishop

'Few will have the greatness to bend history itself; but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation.'

Robert F Kennedy

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, Tasmore.

Discovering SA's History

THE ORIGINAL MASTERCHEFS: THE HISTORY AND TRADITIONS OF COUNTRY SHOWS AND SHOW COOKING IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Liz Harfull

Friday 5 October 2012



Liz Harfull is a best-selling author, journalist and photographer with a passion for capturing the stories of regional Australia. Originally from Mt Gambier, where her family has farmed since the 1860s, she started her career as a journalist more than 30 years ago, working on the local paper. As a Churchill Fellow, she travelled overseas exploring communication strategies which encourage farmers to take up the latest technology. Her world changed when Wakefield Press published *The Blue Ribbon Cookbook* in 2008. A celebration of country shows, country show cooks and their prize-winning recipes, it is now in its fourth

print run, and was named runner-up in the Gourmand World Cookbook Awards in Paris. Liz is currently researching a national version of the cookbook, and working on a 'living' history of Robe. Another book about Australian women farmers, *Women of the Land*, was published by Allen & Unwin this year.

Agricultural shows and the societies which run them have been a valued part of life in SA since the 1840s. While today most people see them as opportunity to relax and have fun, traditionally these shows were linked to a more serious intent - educating settlers on farming and growing food in the New World.

Importantly, shows feature competitive classes to celebrate excellence, not just in farming skills but domestic crafts essential to sustaining a family and a well-ordered household.

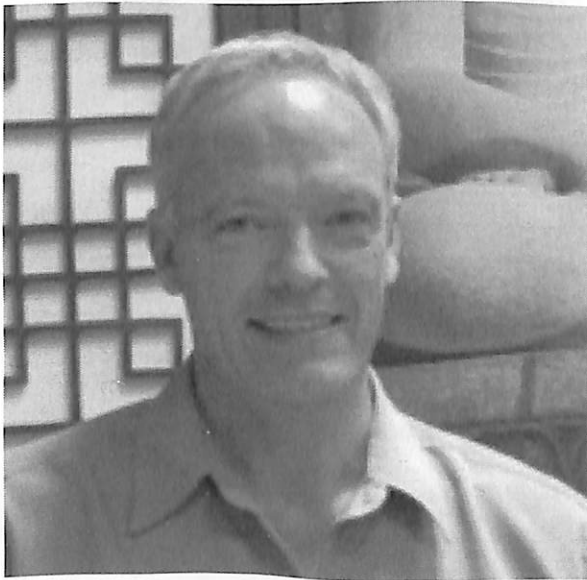
In her presentation, Liz will explore one of the most popular aspects - the cookery competitions which continue to draw thousands of enthusiastic amateurs every year. Stories of country cooks and the traditional recipes they use, and common experiences around the generational sharing of knowledge in home kitchens, will be discussed. The paper will reflect on the influence immigration, primary production and changing social trends had on these competitions, and challenges involved in capturing and recording the recipes. The history of agricultural shows and show societies in South Australia also will be broadly considered.

Discovering SA's History

GEORGE FRENCH ANGAS: A THIN LINE BETWEEN ART AND SCIENCE

Dr Philip Jones

Friday 2 November 2012



Dr Philip Jones, Senior Curator in the Department of Anthropology, has been at the SA Museum since the mid 1980s. During this time he has curated about 30 exhibitions dealing with Aboriginal art, history and material culture, anthropological and expeditionary history, and the ethnography and history of the 'Afghan' cameleers. He is a graduate in law and history from the University of Adelaide, where he completed his doctorate in history in 1996.

His particular interest in the provenance of artefacts and the history and context of their collection, underpins much of his work. In 2007 he published *Ochre and Rust: Artefacts*

and *Encounters on Australian Frontiers* (Wakefield Press). The book traces the path artefacts follow, from makers to collectors, a way to re-examine frontier history.

This publication won the PM's Literary Award for Non-Fiction in 2008 and the Chief Minister's NT History Book Award in 2009. Philip is currently investigating the roles of Francis Gillen and Baldwin Spencer in anthropological history, the history of the SA Museum, and the social and economic contribution made by 'Afghan' cameleers.

November's presentation focuses on Philip's forthcoming biography of the artist and naturalist George French Angas, who made hundreds of watercolour drawings on the colonial frontiers in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa between 1844 and 1847. As the son of one of SA's colonial founders, Angas became known for the lithographs of his original drawings.



George French Angas

Visiting SA's History

VISIT TO THE ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOWGROUNDS ARCHIVES

Wednesday 17th October 2012
Meet at 1.15 for 1.30pm start

Our host, Archivist Marilyn Ward, has some wonderful stories to tell. Entrance is at the Leader Street Gate, where there is a car park. There's a short walk to the Archives Building which is behind the grandstands.

Cost: \$5.00 per person

Book at the Society's October meeting or phone Terry Saunderson on 8354 2736 (business hours).



Centennial Hall, Wayville Showgrounds, 1947

St John's Anglican Church, in mid 1880s (East Torrens Historical Society Collection)

CHRISTMAS AT ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, NORTON SUMMIT

Sunday 2 December 2:30 pm

Our end-of-year and Christmas event will be a tour and afternoon tea at St John's Anglican Church, Norton Summit. Here's a chance to see a lovely village church (built 1872-73), hear its history and see its internal design and fittings. The paintwork and the superb stained-glass window have been restored in recent years. The East Torrens Historical Society will serve afternoon tea in the nearby Community Centre.

Date - Sunday 2nd December 2012 at 2.30 pm (meet at the church which is on the hilltop opposite the Scenic Hotel)

Parking - is limited at the church and Summit Community Centre; a bus will pick up from Burnside City Council Chambers carpark; departure at 1.45 pm is being considered (details at October meeting)

Cost - tour and afternoon tea is \$20; **bookings are essential** (details at meetings and in following newsletter).



Contributing to SA's History

CYCLISTS OF ORROROO

by Margaret Ford AO

Cycling was very popular in Orroroo, especially in the 1930s. Monte (Pat) Ford rode and won races. His brother, my father, Dick Ford junior, rode a bicycle from Orroroo to Adelaide and back with his friend Lee Bedford in the early 1930s. I was amazed at their prowess in completing this feat when the road to Adelaide was little more than a dusty track and bitumen was a surface of the future. Well, imagine my surprise, when I found out that an Orroroo 'boy' holds the world record for riding a bicycle from Darwin to Adelaide in 1898. Yes 1898, over 110 years ago! My father's riding prowess pales by comparison.

This famous Orroroo boy was Albert Macdonald and he wasn't the first to make this epic bike ride. However, he still holds the record for the fastest bicycle ride from Darwin to Adelaide.

A year earlier in 1897, another South Australian cyclist, Jerome J. Murif created a stir in the cycling world by riding his bicycle from Adelaide to Darwin in 63 days. Murif immersed his cycle in the sea at Glenelg and rode out of Adelaide in March 1897, with the ambition of being the first man to cycle across the continent. When he completed the 2,600 miles he dipped his bike in the sea at Port Darwin.

Albert Macdonald, a telegraph operator, originally of Orroroo, decided to beat this record and chose to ride in the opposite

direction, from Darwin to Adelaide, and reduced the crossing time to 28 days.

The South Australian Register (20 Sept. 1898) reported Albert Macdonald's ride in great detail:

FROM OCEAN TO OCEAN. ARRIVAL OF MACDONALD. RECORD LOWERED BY THIRTY FIVE DAYS

Macdonald started on August 22 last [1898], and did so well that he arrived in Adelaide, having taken only twenty-eight days over the journey, truly a wonderful performance. Macdonald is a native of Orroroo, where his parents reside, and has for a long period been in the Telegraph Service. A trifle over five years ago he signed for that term of service in the Territory, and has since been occupied at Port Darwin and far northern stations. Prior to his departure he was an enthusiastic cyclist, and won numerous events. About twenty eight members of the North Adelaide Cycling Club [met] the overlander and escorted him to the city. When they arrived in the city, King William-street was thronged by a crowd, who accorded the overlander an enthusiastic welcome, he was carried shoulder high around the General Post-Office and thence into the building, where his arrival was recorded, and fellow employees gathered in large numbers to welcome him. Macdonald looked in splendid condition, bronzed and hardy, and appears quite able to accomplish another fine performance to Melbourne. In a short chat he referred to his trip as having started at 6.15 a.m. on August 22 when the cold weather was giving way to warmer conditions, whilst the dreaded south winds were losing their force. 'There was really

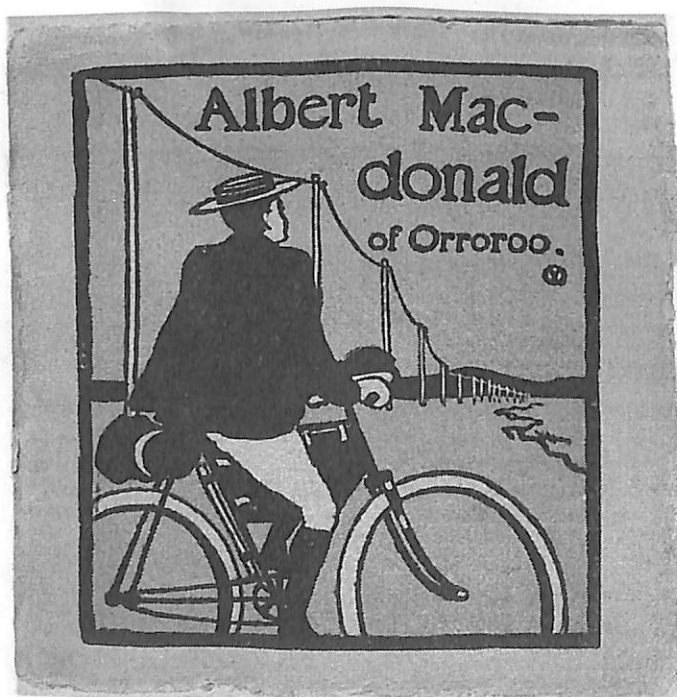
Contributing to SA's History

nothing sensational about the trip,' he remarked. 'The early stages were certainly rough travelling, as the route for eighty eight miles was over ballast and the embankment of the railway. Having undergone a preparation, I was in good fettle, and managed to cover seventy-eight miles the first day. Next day, owing to a strong south-east wind and bad roads, I traversed only fifty-five miles. After that the running improved, and the going was fair to Alice Springs, except between Attack and Barrow Creeks, where spinifex country and sandy tracks were met. 'The country has been very dry in the interior, especially down to Oodnadatta. After that it improves, and is good to Hawker, whilst from there it was a treat to see the crops. The sandhill country between Alice Springs and Charlotte Waters was scarcely as bad as I had expected, but of course it was not good, and I had to walk fifty miles. During the whole journey my walking abilities were tested for about 100 miles. I was exceptionally lucky as regards the weather and winds, and but for one day's rain near Charlotte Waters, I would have had a perfect trip. Exciting adventures there were none only hard work. I did not see a single snake, and had no difficulty with the blacks. I camped out in the open eight times, and twice in railway cottages. Other evenings were passed pleasantly at stations and hotels. I had plenty of falls, but met with no serious accident. My machine was a No. 1 Swift roadster, [weighing] 29lb, with Dunlop tyres. With my luggage, simply tucker and water, I had to propel 47 lb.' Macdonald's longest stage was on Monday, when, to complete four weeks' riding in good style, he left Wilmington at 5.20am, and [arrived in

Adelaide 16 hours later]. When Macdonald had concluded the congratulations at the General Post-Office, an adjournment was made to the Selborne Hotel, where about 200 cyclists, including most of the trade representatives and the North Adelaide Cycling Club, had assembled to welcome the record-lowerer. [A congratulatory speaker said:] 'It was a triumph to ride over 2,000 miles in twenty-eight days and lower the existing record by thirty-five days.' (Cheers.) Mr. A. Macdonald, in responding, said he felt unequal to the task of speechmaking. He thanked them for such a splendid reception, and was grateful also for the universal kindnesses bestowed upon him along the route. Four years ago he contemplated accomplishing the journey, and it was only having to continue for five years in the Territory that he had not started before. He had hoped to secure pioneer honours, but Murif had deprived him of that distinction. Murif was to be highly complimented upon his undertaking, for on all sides he was confronted with rumours of troubles ahead, but in spite of the warnings that death would result if he persisted in the journey he faced many difficulties to get through. (Cheers.) As for [Albert], he knew the country, and thought the ride was only a small matter. He had not experienced much trouble or hardship, and the climatic conditions and tracks could hardly have favoured him much more than they did. (Cheers.) An adjournment was then made to the North Adelaide clubrooms, where further congratulations followed. [He] expects to leave Adelaide today at 9 [for Melbourne.]

Contributing to SA's History

Postscript from the Sydney Bicycle Club which reported receiving from the Austral Cycle Agency a quaint-looking book called "Albert Macdonald of Orroroo." *The little book is well printed, and gives a full account of Macdonald's ride across Australia. There are 14 illustrations of Central Australian scenery, and some interesting details of life in the Northern Territory are given.* (Sydney Morning Herald 29 November 1898)



Cover of book of epic bicycle trip from Darwin to Adelaide. Did Albert make this journey just to get home from Darwin after his job finished?

The above material previously appeared in the *Goyder's Line Gazette*.



Dick Ford and Lee Bedford on their bikes, Orroroo c1933



Contributing to SA's History

NOTICE BOARD AND TABLE

Have you noticed how a lot of our members and friends gravitate to our notice board and table?

Help is needed to supply posters, brochures etc.

If you see something and think it may interest others, bring it along for the board or table. All help is greatly appreciated, with country items especially welcome.

Need help? See Colin Deed at meetings or phone 8277 2953.

THE SHED PRIZE

Have you got a book you no longer need? Why not donate it to the society for a shed prize. New, second-hand, ex-library - they are all appreciated.

Besides books, you may have other paraphernalia, like one member who donated gifts and tokens received at seminars etc. All these items give joy and surprise to the person receiving the Mystery Shed Prize.

Our thanks to donors who in turn have benefited other members and add that little bit extra to our Discovering SA's History meetings. Please see Colin Deed at meetings or phone 8277 2953.

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