



HISTORY • SA

Newsletter of The Historical Society of South Australia Incorporated

No. 220

May

2013

FROM THE PRESIDENT

May is a busy time for the history enthusiasts of South Australia. *About Time*, South Australia's History Festival, runs for the whole month with a huge range of activities on offer, whether you live in Adelaide or in regional areas. The events are listed in the festival booklet and on the *About Time* website - www.abouttime.sa.gov.au - so in the time left for this month, perhaps you can still find something of great interest!

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Friday 3rd May. Our Council for the year ahead comprises - President: Dr Geoffrey Bishop; Vice President: Dr Adrian Brown; Secretary: Terry Saunderson; Treasurer: no nomination; Members: Margaret Cliff, Colin Deed, Margaret Ford-Feckner, Margaret Lucas, Patricia Sumerling, Dr Bernard Whimpress, Margaret Young. Council will appoint a Treasurer and an Auditor. My thanks to all the members of Council who

have ably kept the Society running so smoothly over the year past, and for their willingness to continue in office for the year ahead. It should be mentioned at this time that some members have indicated this will be their last year. So, this time next year we will be looking for some new Council members - please give it your serious consideration.

We have had four lecture meetings so far this year. They have been varied in subject matter and the feedback from members has been excellent. Our speakers have been Jennifer Hein (Fifty Hallelujah Lassies), Associate Professor Peter Monteath (Erhard Eylmann, anthropologist), Mick Bradley and Lance Campbell (The making of *Adelaide's City Streets*) and John McGowan (the career of movie actor John P. McGowan). John McGowan's talk was a contribution to *About Time*.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

For our next *Visiting SA's History* we will be visiting History SA's South Australian Maritime Museum at Port Adelaide on 27 June. Many of our members have not visited this museum, so here's your chance to immerse yourself in our maritime history. The museum incorporates the historic Bond Store with three floors of exhibitions, the lighthouse from South Neptune Island, and the much-loved tug, *Yelta*. The visit commences at 10.30 am, so why not plan to have lunch at Port Adelaide?

To conclude this column, some thoughts on history from one of my favourite writers, Robert Louis Stevenson. It comes from 'The Day After Tomorrow' in *The Lantern-Bearers and other essays* (published 1887): 'History is much decried: it is a tissue of errors, we are told, no doubt correctly; and rival historians expose each other's blunders with

gratification. Yet the worst historian has a clearer view of the period he studies than the best of us can hope to form of that in which they live. The obscurest epoch is today; and that for a thousand reasons of inchoate tendency, conflicting report, and sheer mass and multiplicity of experience; but chiefly, perhaps, by reason of an insidious shifting of landmarks. Parties and ideas continually move, but not by measurable marches on a stable course; the political soil itself steals forth by imperceptible degrees, like a travelling glacier, carrying on its bosom not only political parties but their flag-posts and cantonments; so that what appears to be an eternal city founded on hills is but a flying island.'

Geoffrey Bishop

Meetings of The Royal Geographical Society of South Australia Inc.

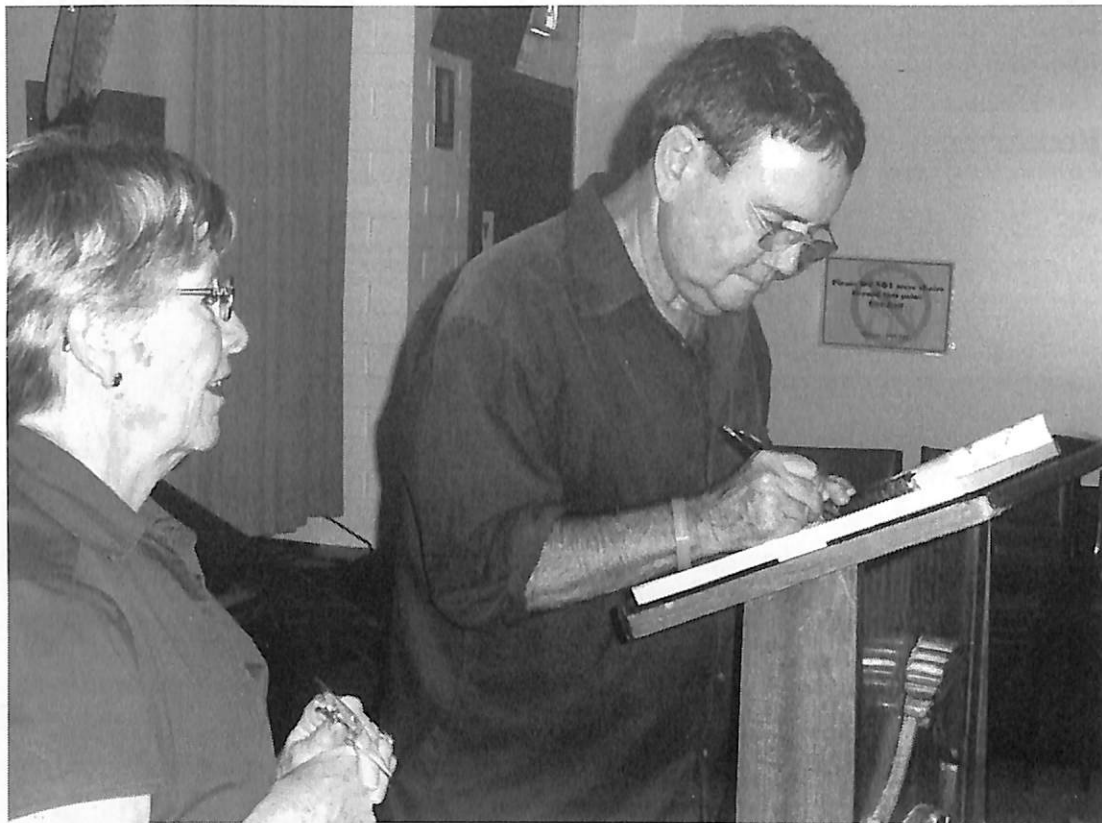
Thursday 23 May - Dr Scoresby Shepherd: *Marine Parks in South Australia*

Thursday 27 June - Peter Rymill: *John Rymill, Polar Explorations from South Australia*

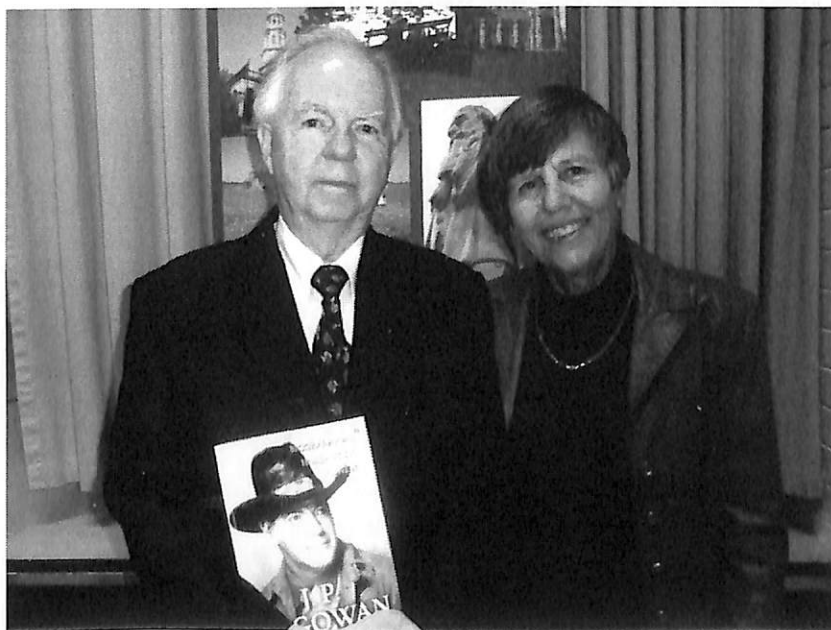
May and June meetings will be held at the Goodman Lecture Theatre, Adelaide Botanic Gardens (off Hackney Road), commencing at 5.30 pm

Thursday 25 July - 11.30 am Tour of RGSSA Library and Treasures Wall; 2 pm in Hetzel Lecture Theatre, Institute Building, North Terrace - Valmai Hankel: *Sand, stone, water, some landmarks of outback explorers*

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Author Lance Campbell signs Sylvia Fanning's copy of Lance Campbell and Mick Bradley's book, *City Streets: Progressive Adelaide 75 Years On*. They were our guest speakers at the April meeting of the Society.



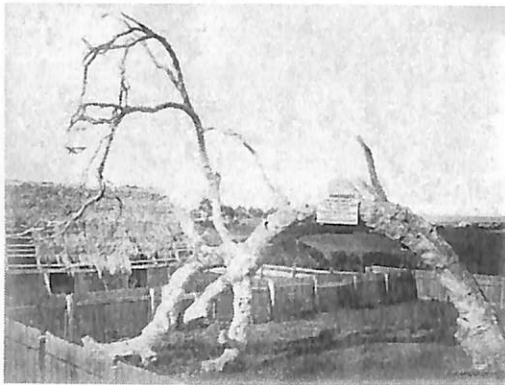
John McGowan, speaker at the May meeting, with his wife Ursula.

DISCOVERING SA'S HISTORY

Friday 7 June 7.30 pm

Associate Professor Robert Foster

South Australia and the Limits of Colonial Nationalism



Captain Samuel White Sweet's photograph of the Proclamation Tree, Glenelg, c 1880.

In Australia, Federation is characteristically seen as the moment when the 'Australian nation was born'. Robert Foster

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.

would suggest that this view actually obscures the fact that Australia has always been, as historian Alan Atkinson has expressed it, 'a multiplicity of nations'. The talk will examine the various dimensions of South Australian 'nationalism' in the period between settlement and Federation.

Robert Foster teaches Australian History, Indigenous History and Comparative History at the University of Adelaide. He is co-author, with Amanda Nettelbeck, of a number of books on Australian frontier history, the most recent of which is *Out of the Silence: The History and Memory of South Australia's Frontier Wars* (Wakefield Press, 2012). He is also co-editor, with his colleague, Paul Sendziuk, of *Turning Points: Chapters in South Australian History* (Wakefield Press, 2012).

'When the past no longer illuminates the future, the spirit walks in darkness'. - Alexis de Tocqueville

DISCOVERING SA'S HISTORY

Friday 5 July 7.30 pm

Karen Magee

*Captain Samuel Sweet: a
Photographic Vision of
South Australia 1866-1886.*



Captain Samuel Sweet
Self-portrait
1884-85, Adelaide
Art Gallery of South Australia 991Ph2

Karen Magee is an Art Historian in the final stages of her doctorate on the photography of Captain Samuel Sweet at the University of Adelaide. Her research interests include nineteenth century photographic practices and the reinterpretation of early photography for today's audiences. She first encountered Sweet's photographs while working as an Assistant Curator at the Art Gallery of South Australia, where she discovered that there was a lot more to Captain Sweet than she had imagined.

Captain Samuel White Sweet (1825-1886) worked as a professional outdoor photographer in South Australia from 1866 to 1886. He created thousands of photographs of the development of Adelaide and South Australia during the colony's peak boom period. Today he is recognised as the father of South Australian landscape photography, renowned for his unique style and photographic innovation. His photographs are collected by our state and national institutions and illustrate hundreds of South Australian history books, but only now are the real stories behind them being revealed. These are the stories of the founding of Darwin, the near disaster of the Overland Telegraph, and the building of South Australia, from its grand estates like Torrens Park to the Great Northern Railway. The talk will also reveal the extraordinary story of Sweet's life as a Master Mariner, the dramatic events that sealed his future as one of Australia's most significant early photographers, as well as the truth and lies that his photographs tell us today.

VISITING SA'S HISTORY

Visit to the South
Australian Maritime
Museum

Date - Thursday 27 June
commencing at 10.30 am;
meet outside from 10.15 am

Location - 126 Lipson
Street, Port Adelaide (cnr
Lipson and Divett Streets)

Cost - \$8 per person (group
booking) payable before the
visit

Bookings required -
Margaret Cliff at meetings
or ph 8362 9517

Advance Notice: Flavours of
Campbelltown: the stories
of three successful migrants
working with smallgoods,
coffee and cakes.

When: Wednesday 21
August 2013, 10am.

Travel in a bus to meet
three migrants in their
business premises. They
will tell their stories of
arriving in Adelaide and
setting up successful
businesses. Hear their first
impressions of Adelaide and
how they prospered.

Further details in the July
Newsletter.

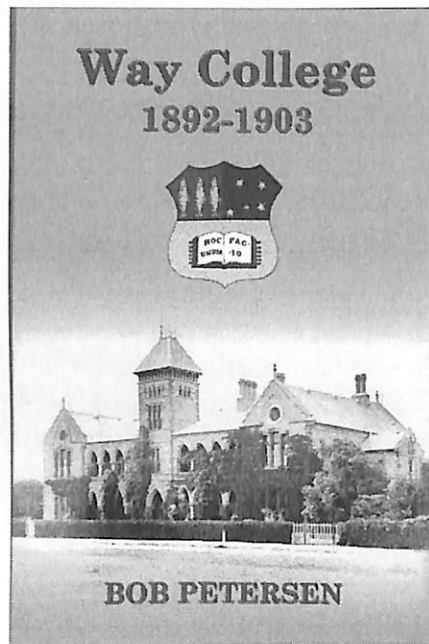
Bookings: Margaret Cliff
ph. 8362 9517; cost \$25 per
person.



At the Tap Inn, Kent Town:
participants in the Society's tour of
historic pubs on 16 April.

Life must be lived forward,
but it can only be
understood backward'. -
Søren Kierkegaard

'A MASTERPIECE OF FEDERATION SCHOOLING'



Many readers will be aware that Annesley Junior School (formerly Annesley College and before that Methodist Ladies College) has occupied its Greenhill Road, Wayville site for a very long time. In fact, since 1903.

However, the original buildings belonged to a boys' school, Way College, which had a brief but successful history from 1892 to 1903.

'A masterpiece of Federation schooling', Way College was the only Bible Christian school outside England and notable in Australian educational history for its pioneering inclusion of practical courses (including

agriculture in the secondary curriculum). It was a very successful church school which closed down only because that church itself was lost in a Methodist amalgamation. When its doors shut many boys moved to Prince Alfred College.

I am proud to have published *Way College 1892-1903* for the author, Dr Bob Petersen, who taught the history of education at the University of Sydney.

In his preface Bob notes, 'I have tried to open up this history of one school to the world which surrounded it.' As a meticulous historian and graceful writer he has achieved this aim. For family historians who might also want to trace missing links, the book contains a list of all the boys who enrolled at Way College and a list of the teachers who worked there.

As an attractive paperback of 220 pages and containing a dozen illustrations, *Way College 1892-1903* is published in a limited edition of 100 copies of which 90 are for sale.

Numbered and signed copies may be purchased for \$60 (including postage) by sending a cheque endorsed to R.C. Petersen and mailing it to Dr Bob Petersen, 4B Best Street, Lane Cove, NSW 2066.

Bernard Whimpress

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

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Treasurer: Ms Anne Bowman:
8362 7772

Bookings: Ms Margaret Cliff:
8362 9517

THE SHED PRIZE

A big thank you to those who donated books etc, which has saved the Shed Prize from going into liquidation. The response to my request has been amazing, some 40 books till now, on a wide variety of topics. These donations will help by adding to our raffles.

When you've read your 'prized' book why not donate it back to the Society to be re-raffled, or share it with other members? Looking forward to more books and items in 2013. Please see me at meetings or phone 8277 2953 -
Colin Deed

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