

No. 224 March 2014

## From the President

This year marks a significant milestone in the life of our Society. To celebrate 40 years of operation of a community-based organisation is becoming less and less likely in a society where such groups are struggling to survive. The past decade has seen many groups that were once driving forces in community life decline in membership and, in some instances, cease to exist.

We have much to celebrate and this will form part of our activities during 2014. At the same time, we need to be mindful of where we would like our Society to go into the future. That, of course, is largely unpredictable, but as the saying goes, 'Fail to plan, plan to fail'.

Our main 40<sup>th</sup> year celebration will be an afternoon event at the Burnside Town Hall Ballroom on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March commencing at 2.30 pm. Some of our early officeholders will be present and will make some observations on the *how, what, why and when* of the HSSA. The presentations will be followed by afternoon tea and

a chance for members to catch up with each other. Invitations have been sent out to present and some past members. Our Council members look forward to welcoming you at the event.

The lecture program for the year commenced in February with guest speaker Emeritus Professor Eric Richards who gave the Society's very first lecture back in July 1974. It was good to have such an eminent Australian historian as Eric to reflect on where 'history from below' - stories focused around the 'ordinary' folk in society - has come in the past 40 years. It was also good to have the Society's first vice-president, Brian Samuels, introduce our guest speaker.

In coming months lectures will be presented by Peter Christopher, Dr Daniela Cosmini-Rose and Ron Gibbs. Peter will be speaking about the ship the *City of Adelaide* which recently arrived back at Port Adelaide; Daniela's

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talk will focus on a group of Italians interned as enemy aliens during World War Two; and Ron will give an insight into life in South Australia in the 1880s. A varied group of interesting topics, I think you will agree?

As we celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> year we should acknowledge the huge contribution that our volunteer officeholders have made to the Society over the decades. A list of officeholders will be displayed at the March event and later published in our newsletter.

The list of council members may also be ready but I am discovering this involves putting together a really large number of names and dates. And, finally, we must not overlook our loyal members who have supported the Society over the years.

So, do enjoy our 40<sup>th</sup> year as we look forward to another interesting and varied program.

*Geoffrey Bishop*

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is given that the **Annual General Meeting** of the Historical Society of South Australia Incorporated will be held at 7.30 pm on Friday 2 May 2014 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).

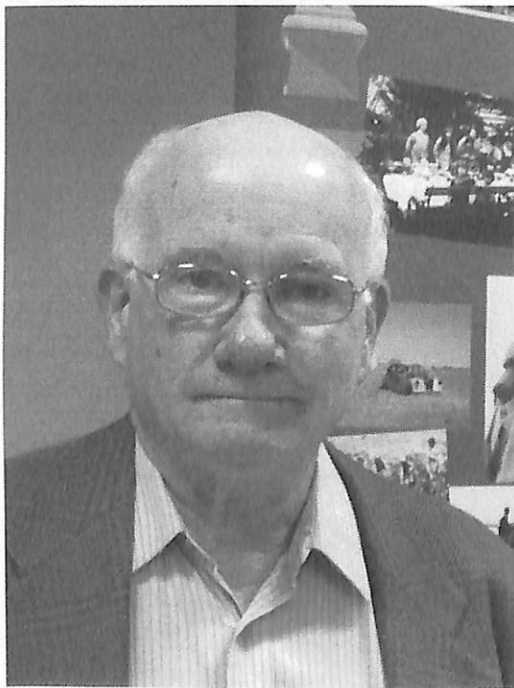
*Geoffrey Bishop, President*

‘To me, history ought to be a source of pleasure. It isn't just part of our civic responsibility. To me, it's an enlargement of the experience of being alive, just the way literature or art or music is.’ - David McCullough

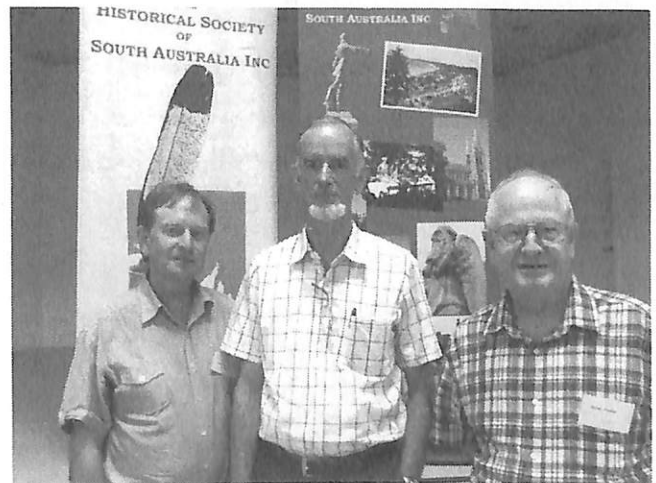
# From the President



Eric Richards, guest speaker at the February meeting, with Helen Pearce.



Peter Bell, guest speaker at the March meeting.



Geoffrey Bishop, Brian Samuels and Brian Dickey at the February meeting.

Friday 4 April 7.30pm

Peter Christopher

**The *City of Adelaide* -  
more than just an old ship**

Early in February the hull of the clipper ship, the *City of Adelaide*, arrived safely in Port Adelaide, after a 14-year campaign to bring it from Scotland.

The *City of Adelaide*, built in 1864, is the oldest surviving clipper in the world. It made 23 voyages bringing migrants to Australia.

The ship celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> birthday on 7 May, so the date of our meeting is close to that.

The title of the talk reflects the fact that, with it being a passenger ship, the social histories of those it carried are as important as the ship itself.

Peter Christopher is a Director of the not-for-profit Clipper Ship City of Adelaide Ltd. In 2000 he started the Adelaide campaign to save the ship, and the volunteer group has been indefatigable in its fundraising and lobbying.

The hull was eventually rescued from its derelict state in Scotland, placed aboard transport vessels, and in the course of its journey to

Port Adelaide, restored to its original name by HRH Prince Philip at a ceremony at Greenwich.



Peter Christopher and, in the background, the *City of Adelaide* in transit, Greenwich UK, October 2013.

While Peter's full-time job is as Chief Industrial Officer of the Public Service Association, he is the author of seven published maritime books, which focus on the social history associated with shipwrecks and riverboats.

**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.**

Friday 2 May 7.30pm

Dr Daniela Cosmini-Rose

## Italian Civil Alien Corps in South Australia: the forgotten enemy aliens

The period of the Second World War is remembered by the Italians in Australia as one of the hardest of their experience as migrants, owing to the restrictions they were subjected to, and to the anti-Italian sentiment that had spread throughout the nation.

On the day Australia received news that Italy had entered the war (11 June 1940) the migrants of Italian origin were no longer just 'aliens' (unnaturalised foreigners) but became 'enemy aliens'. A number of Italian migrants, both naturalised and unnaturalised, were arrested and interned. Those who were not arrested were given the option of volunteering for military service, otherwise, from 1942, they were obliged to serve in the Civil Alien Corps (CAC) to work on projects of a non-combatant nature.

Although numerous studies have focused on the internment of Italians, to date there has been very little research to explore the issues related to those enemy aliens who were removed from their usual occupations and loved ones to serve in the Civil Alien Corps, and subjected to



discrimination and loss of liberties. This paper presents the findings from a study of the experiences of Italian migrants who served in the CAC in SA based on personal archival files, including letters sent by aliens themselves to their families, which will provide insight into the experiences of a 'forgotten' group of migrants during an important period of SA history.

Dr Daniela Cosmini-Rose is a lecturer in Italian at Flinders University. Her best-known publication, with Professor Desmond O'Connor, is *Caulonia in the Heart*, on the history of the settlement in SA of migrants from a small Southern Italian town. At present, with Prof. O'Connor, she is writing a book on the history of the Italian community from Molfetta (Apulia), and she is undertaking other projects focused on Italian migrants.

# Contributing to SA's History

## GRANTS SCHEME 2013

There were fewer applicants for financial grants for historical projects than in the previous year, but the Historical Society of South Australia is pleased to have made contributions to the following:

- Burnside Historical Society: Continuation of the project 'Memory of Chains: living, working, and playing in the City of Burnside 1945 - 65'.
- Historical Society of the Uniting Church in SA: Conservation and preservation of minute books and newspapers.
- James Keating, Chippendale, Sydney: 'Australasian Women's Suffrage: Transnational Contexts 1885 - c 1910' - towards costs of a research trip to Adelaide.
- Susanne Penny, Port Pirie: 'Mac and Millie's Orange Trees' - towards costs of printing a readable form of a family diary.

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### **Royal Geographical Society of South Australia Meetings, Goodman Lecture Theatre, Goodman Building, Hackney Road:**

Thursday 24 April 5.30pm;  
Rick Flint: 'The Kon Tiki Expedition'

Thursday 15 May 5.30pm  
Frank Lyman MBE: 'Stuart Expedition Update' (with AGM)

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### **Burnside Historical Society Meetings, Burnside Community Centre:**

Monday 21 April 7.30pm  
David Wyatt: 'Searching Coromandel Valley's History' (with AGM)

Monday 19 May 7.30pm  
Anne Both: 'Who Killed Foot Constable William Hyde?'

## J C Dixon Visits the Copper Triangle

*When researching the history of Sir Walter Watson Hughes, Patricia Sumerling found in the ANZ Bank Archives, Melbourne, the following report from J C Dixon, the Adelaide manager of the South Australian Banking Company, to the manager in London. The report gives a sketch of Wallaroo, Kadina and Moonta in early October 1861, soon after their foundation:*

Visit to Wallaroo - On Tuesday 1st inst [October 1861] I went on board the *Marion* steamer at Port Adelaide, for a voyage to Wallaroo Bay, but after steaming down the Gulf nearly to Kangaroo Island, through a very rough sea, & with the wind blowing finely in our berth, the weather at last became so boisterous that at about 10 pm the Captain was obliged to turn back & run the vessel to the Lightship anchorage for safety & shelter.

This circumstance occasioned me the loss of a whole day; but on Thursday 3 inst we anchored in Wallaroo Bay at about noon, and I immediately went ashore, & proceeded to Kadina, where I arrived at about 3 pm.

At Kadina I counted the Coin & notes etc held by our Branch there, - & found the same to agree with their Cash Book balance, which I carefully examined, - I also checked off against their daily lists, all the Bills which they held either under Discount, or for Collection, & found them correct as compared with Ledger Balances. - I further noted that the few Bills held by the Branch under Discount were all of good character & likely to be paid at maturity. At a subsequent opportunity I went into a general inspection of the Books of the Office, from the commencement of their operations, - and I am happy to report that I found them all in a very satisfactory condition.

It is too early yet to pronounce an opinion as to which streets in Kadina will ultimately become the principal lines of business traffic, because the Township is at present scarcely six months old, but judging from present appearances, & taking into consideration the probabilities of the next two or three years, I may expect that our Building could not have been better placed.

On Friday 4th inst I travelled back from Kadina to Wallaroo, (about 7 miles) for the purpose of inspecting the Township there, & finding out the Allotments Nos 176 & 177 which we have purchased for Bank account. On

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this occasion Mr Jamieson, our Branch Manager, accompanied me, and after tracing the Surveyor's pegs we found that said allotment were [*sic*] most eligibly situated on a sufficiently elevated part of the Township, the land having an even & gentle slope towards the South, quite enough to ensure good drainage, and with a fine healthy aspect towards the sea laid open by the Public Square on our Western Front.

At present the shops or 'stores' are for the most part clustered about the crest of the hill nearest to the smelting works of Captn. Hughes - but after having looked carefully at the shape of the Town & considered its bearings with reference to the proposed Railway, and the common road approaches from all the most promising mining localities in the neighbourhood, I am inclined to believe that Elizabeth Street, will become the chief line of business traffic at Wallaroo.

These geographical observations & reflections took up a good portion of the day, but I also found time to look at the incipient jetties & wharves which are in progress of construction at Wallaroo, and I most carefully inspected the Smelting works which are being built by the original Wallaroo Proprietors, viz. Captn Hughes, Elder Stirling & Co & others.

These smelting works are planned

on a very extensive scale, & are being built in a very first-class manner, adopting all the boldest expedients of modern science for the smelting of copper ores in Reverberatory Furnaces.

The Plant at present in course of construction, will comprise 10 smelting furnaces, & 3 Refining Furnaces: capable of turning out about 2000 tons of fine copper per an. but the plan of the works with reference to the hot air conduits & the main stack or chimney, is arranged so that at least 10 more smelting furnaces can at any time be added to the plant without interruption to the operation of the others for a single day.

I was pleased also to observe that the floor-level of mould-bed of the smelting works, was raised to such a judicious height as to admit of their turning out the immense quantity of 'slag' which must be produced not only without cost of cartage for removal, but with immediate & growing advantage, for they can just tumble it over on the narrow sea-beach, and so in the course of three or four years form for themselves, a very solid wharf or landing place, which with some account of sheet-piling, might enable Lighters and Barges to take off cargo at flood tides.

Abundance of good fire-clay is found in the neighbourhood, & nearly all the Bricks used in the construction of the Furnaces &

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air-conduits & chimney shaft are manufactured on the spot, at the rate of about 240 thousand per month.

Three or four of the Smelting Furnaces are already nearly completed, about 4000 tons of firewood & 1300 tons of ore, have been collected at the works, and I think that smelting operations may be commenced in the course of the next two months.-

On Saturday 5 inst I visited the 'Tipara' district, (about 14 miles south of Wallaroo), where a great number of mining claims have been taken up by various parties, but, excepting at a place called 'Moonta' (a name given by Capt'n Hughes to his portion of the District) I did not see that the Lessees had done anything towards developing the Mineral wealth of the locality, beyond some small attempts by the imperfect process called 'costeaning'.

At Moonta they have sunk several shafts, on sections 930 - 931 & 959 and in every case they have found rich lodes of copper ore. At 'Elder's Shaft' on Section 931 they have sunk to a depth of 11 fathoms, & raised a considerable quantity of good black sulphuret of copper, but I had no opportunity of examining the Lode, at another place however (I think section 959) I saw a magnificent lode of copper ore 13 feet wide, which exhibited every

appearance of becoming more & more valuable at a greater depth.

On Monday 7 inst I went down the 'Wombat' shaft at Wallaroo proper; this shaft is on Section 152A and is, I believe the first place where copper in quantity was discovered at Wallaroo.

At the Ten Fathom Level, I saw a Lode of solid copper ore, about 6 feet wide, running nearly East & West, and having an almost perpendicular 'dip'. This I thought sufficiently good, but when I descended to the Twenty fathom level, the scene was truly astonishing! there was a solid mass of copper ore varying in width from six to sixteen feet, above me certainly not less than fathoms in height, & beneath me I don't know how deep: I traversed about 240 fathoms of level, and at each end I found the ore continuous; not occurring in isolated stone of ore embedded here & there as usual in copper mines, but an entire mass of ore between the 'walls' of the Lode, which 'walls' are remarkably strong & well defined.

The 'Horne Shaft' on Section 144 is sunk upon the same course of ore as the 'Wombat' and is distant from it about a quarter of a mile. They are now driving from each these mines towards the other, so as to open a communication between them at the 20 fathom level.

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The ore brought up from the 'Horne Shaft' is of a similar character to that which is found in the 'Wombat' mine, but has a greater admixture of quartz. I think the general yield of copper may be fairly estimated at from 15 to 20 per cent: and I was told that they were raising about 80 tons per day, one half of which is fit for shipment to England, and the remainder will be retained to be crushed either into [illegible] or fine copper, at the smelting works.-

After my underground researches at the 'Wombat' mine, I proceeded to visit other mines in the vicinity, the 'Duryea' the 'Devon' the '411' the 'Matta Matta' and some others.

At all these place I found that good ore had been raised; but at sections 411 & 415 and at the 'Devon' mining operations have lately been suspended in consequence of the influx of water; at the 'Devon' however, they are already erecting a steam engine to drain the mine. At the 'Duryea' mine I saw large heaps of ore, but much of it was of low quality. At the 'Matta Matta' (section 153B) which is on the same course of Lode as the 'Horne Shaft' & the 'Wombat' they have raised large quantities of very rich ore fit for shipment.

As I was desirous to return to Adelaide in time for the arrival of the English Mail, I had no time to

visit the 'New Cornwall' the 'Winkilla' - the 'Bingo' - the 'Cumberland' - and some other mines which are reputed to be worth looking at. But judging from what I did see during my short visit, I have no hesitation in declaring my belief that the recent mineral discoveries at Wallaroo & its neighbourhood, will prove to be the most important & beneficial accident that ever happened to South Australia.

There can be no doubt that extremely valuable deposits of copper ore are widely spread beneath the plains of Yorke's Peninsula, and I certainly never saw a mineral district which promised a more permanent supply of wealth. 'Wallaroo' is not an ephemeral fiction - it is a gigantic reality!

On Tuesday morning, 8 inst I travelled from Kadina to Port Arthur, at the north western head of St Vincent's Gulf & thence by steamer to Port Adelaide, arriving at home at about one o'clock on Wednesday morning, and your August dispatches were placed in my hands about 8 hours afterwards.

From the above narrative you will doubtless perceive that our financial policy must be somewhat modified to meet the novel requirements which are likely to arise; but as your recently received dispatches are now enjoying my attention, I must take

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some better opportunity to address you thoughtfully on such a subject. I cannot however close this letter, without informing you that throughout my visit to Wallaroo & its neighbourhood, Captn Hughes most kindly rendered me every possible facility & assistance.

(Source: ANZ Bank Archives, Melbourne: South Australian Banking Company, SA8 - Outward Letters of Manager of Adelaide to Manager London, Volume 7 - Letter 1055, 10 October 1861, pp 326-331.)

### *S.A.'s GREATS*

History SA (the former History Trust) has entered into an agreement with the Historical Society of South Australia to re-publish on their websites the biographical entries published in *S.A.'s Greats: the men and women of the North Terrace plaques* (Adelaide: Historical Society of South Australia, 2001). The text of the entries will be uploaded as published.



HSSA Committee Members and other interested parties at a gathering at the home of the President, Geoffrey Bishop, on 19 January. Left to right: Richard Venus, Margaret Ford-Feckner, Margaret Lucas, Patricia Sumerling, Peter Monteath, Anne Bowman, Robert Martin, Adrian Brown, Geoffrey Bishop, Terry Saunderson, Andrew Buxton, Margaret Cliff, Avis Huckel, Colin Deed. Photograph by Gaye Brown.

# Contributing to SA's History

## NOTICE BOARD and TABLE

Your help is appreciated to supply notices, posters, brochures and any material you may think could be of interest to our members and friends.

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

## THE SHED PRIZE

Your donated book(s) have been so good it has enabled The Shed Prize to be 2 - 3 books per raffle which in turn gives the ticket holder a better chance of scoring a prize.

Looking forward to more books in 2014. If you need help to carry or collect, please see Colin Deed at meetings or phone 8277 2953.

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