



No. 226 July 2014

From the President

I recently had reason to look back through some past HSSA Journals and it reinforced my view that the journal has been an important part of the life of the Society and has made a major contribution to recording the history of South Australia.

The article I was re-reading was Michael Lucke's paper on Fort Glanville which appeared in the 1992 Journal (No. 20) but I then went on to read most of the other papers in that edition. As has been the case in all editions of the journal, the subjects are quite varied and you could say that they 'accommodate all interests'.

The 1992 edition included articles on Jack Ellerton Becker, founder of the Adelaide College of Music (Peter Howell), South Australian wine exports to England (George Bell), three South Australian librarians (Colin Badger), Darnley Naylor and the League of Nations (V.A. Edgeloe), and Patricia Sumerling's strange but true story of Sir William Orpen's painting 'Sowing New Seed for the Board of Agriculture and

Technical Instruction for Ireland' (1913) - even the title of the work is extraordinary. The level of interest (or curiosity) that this painting caused when it was put on display at the Art Gallery was amazing. It rivalled, in another field, the first flowering of the Victoria Lily at the Adelaide Botanic Garden in 1867 when 30,000 visitors came to view the huge plant in flower over a five-week period.

Edition No. 20 also contains Stewart Cockburn's entertaining and informative recollections of his early years as a newspaper reporter and a review of his book *Playford: Benevolent Despot*. Other books reviewed that year included *Flinders University: The First 25 Years 1966-1991* (David Hilliard), *Le Messuriers of Port Adelaide: Five Generations of Enterprise in Transport and Timber* (John Tregenza), and *The Torrens Park Estate; A Social and Architectural History* (Ken Preiss and Pamela Oborn).

From the President

This is an outline of the content of just one edition, which was sort of selected at random. This picture is repeated year after year. We should be very proud of our journals and we owe a real debt of thanks to the editors and the editorial committees for maintaining this high standard year after year. It also reflects the number of people 'out there' researching our history. So, if you are looking for some good winter reading you need look no further than the HSSA journals, and don't forget, copies of some editions are still available through our Secretary.

'A chronicle is very different from history proper.'

Howard Nemerow

'History as well as life itself is complicated -- neither life nor history is an enterprise for those who seek simplicity and consistency.'

Jared Diamond

Society matters

Coming events are listed elsewhere in this edition so I will not go into details here. Suffice to say, we have two good speakers and topics lined up for the August and September lecture meetings - Dr Susan Marsden and Allison Reynolds. Information regarding two *Visiting SA's History* events are also listed - the visit to St Dominic's Priory College and Chapel on Wednesday 13th August and a day tour to Ashbourne - Kondoparinga Homestead on Sunday 28th September. Bookings are required for both events.

Geoffrey Bishop



Daniela Cosmini-Rose, the speaker at the May meeting, with the President, Geoffrey Bishop. Photo by Colin Deed.

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.

Further Reading: the history of the North Terrace Cultural Institutions

In the discussion following Brian Samuels' talk at our July meeting it was suggested that he supply this list for our newsletter.

General

J Daly *Decisions and Disasters: Alienation of the Adelaide Parklands* (Bland House, 1987), ch. 4 'North Terrace Institutions'

S Marsden, P Stark & P Sumerling (eds) *Heritage of the City of Adelaide* (Adelaide City Council, 1991)

B Samuels 'The Evolution of the North Terrace Cultural Institutions and their Buildings: An Historical Chronology' (Processed typescript, History Trust of SA, 1986)

Art Gallery

M Horton & D Thomas (eds) *Art Gallery of South Australia 1881-1981* (The Gallery, 1981)

Various *The Story of the Elder Bequest: Art Gallery of South Australia* (The Gallery, 2000)

Botanic Garden

R Aitken *Seeds of Change: An Illustrated History of Adelaide Botanic Garden* (The Botanic Garden, 2006)

BJ Best *George William Francis first Director of the Adelaide Botanic Garden* (The author, 1986)

R Smith *Ghosts of the Garden* (Norwood, 2002)

SA Museum

HM Hale 'The First Hundred Years of the Museum - 1856-1956', *Records of the South Australian Museum* vol XII (The Museum, 1956)

State Library

C Bridge *A Trunk Full of Books* (Wakefield Press, 1986)

M Talbot *A Chance to Read: a history of the institutes movement in South Australia* (Adelaide, 1992)

University of Adelaide

WGK Duncan & RA Leonard *The University of Adelaide 1874-1974* (Rigby, 1973)

VA Edgeloe *The University of Adelaide Mitchell Building 1879-1979* (The University, 1979)

R Linn *The Spirit of Knowledge : a Social History of the University of Adelaide, North Terrace Campus* (University of Adelaide Press, c2011)

University of South Australia

A Aeuckens, *The People's University* (SAIT, 1989)

Discovering SA's History

Friday 1 August 7.30pm

Susan Marsden

*The West Lakes Scheme:
transforming a swamp into a
prestigious subdivision*

West Lakes was created between the 1970s and 90s, transforming what many considered a wasteland of swamp and sand into well-groomed waterways, parks and homes. Who carried out this huge engineering project, and was the perception of the area consistent with its reality, before and after the signing of the West Lakes Indenture in 1969?

In this talk Susan will outline the results of her research for a book on the history of West Lakes. The book was commissioned by the City of Charles Sturt and will be published this year by Wakefield Press. The book's title, *A year-round holiday: the histories of West Lakes*, quotes the marketing slogan used to successfully sell this development as a prestigious place to live. The title also suggests how many histories reside in this place before and after its transformation.

The story extends back in time nearly 200 years and covers an extensive and environmentally complex region, now comprising a large swathe of western metropolitan Adelaide. The story of this intriguing place, before and after the West Lakes scheme, is told going back in time from 2013, the last year of AFL



West Lakes 1979 looking SW over SA Housing Trust development (centre), the new lake (and Delfin Island) towards the coast (Image courtesy of Housing SA, SAHT Memorabilia Collection: WES 0231)

football at Football Park. The talk will be well illustrated and will reveal the evolution of the region and a diversity of people and pastimes.

Susan Marsden is a long-term member of the Historical Society of South Australia, and has been a council member and newsletter editor. Her career as a professional historian is entwined with the West Lakes history as her first commissioned book, *A history of Woodville* (1977), included an account of the then-incomplete West Lakes Scheme. She has since written many other books and heritage studies, and recorded hundreds of oral histories. She was employed as SA's first State Historian by the History Trust (1987-1995), and was a founder of the Oral History Association and the Professional Historians Association (SA). She was awarded the History Council of SA's inaugural Life-long Achievement Award in 2012, and is currently president.

Discovering SA's History

Friday 5 September 7.30pm

Allison Reynolds

Cake - more than a still life ...
Sallie Heysen's story

Allison Reynolds graduated from the University of Adelaide with an MA (Gastronomy). Appointments followed as Gastronomer in Residence at Carrick Hill and later The Queen Adelaide Club. Her passion for food history and old cookery books continues and has resulted in presentations and engagement with regional and local communities through her South Australian Cookbook Road Show. Allison's paper on Sallie Heysen (wife of Sir Hans Heysen and mother of Nora Heysen) has recently been included in *Art and Food* published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing. Allison is currently researching the history of the Anzac biscuit.

This presentation will examine the important role of Sallie Heysen's cooking and how it not only nourished the body but also sustained the artistic spirit of two famous professional artists, her husband Hans and their daughter Nora.

The many artists and famous visitors to The Cedars (their home in Hahndorf) to meet Hans Heysen and view his artwork recall the family's idyllic home in the Adelaide Hills -



Sallie, Hans, and two of their eight children. From the family archives. Kind permission of Allan Campbell, Curator, The Cedars.

they remember the hospitality and especially Sallie's baking.

Family conversations, letters and published documents reveal that Sallie was indeed an accomplished cook. Further research has uncovered a collection of treasured family recipes stored in a battered yet colourful old chocolate box.

Among the kitchen shelves at The Cedars are a few English and Australian cookery books from the late Victorian and Edwardian era. These books revealed Sallie's signature - 'Sallie Bartels' - indicating her connection with a well-established Adelaide family before her marriage to Hans in 1904.

Letters from Nora during her 1930s art study tour in UK also reveal many home food memories. During the 1940s she served as Australia's first female war artist and wrote home about how sustaining and vital family food parcels were.

Visiting SA's History

**St Dominic's Priory, 139 Molesworth St, North Adelaide,
Wednesday 13th August, 10:00 am**

The Principal of St Dominic's Priory College, Sr Jill Havey, invites members to visit this hidden treasure of North Adelaide on Wednesday 13 August at 10 am. The tour will last an hour and will include the viewing of some beautifully worked vestments, calligraphy and a valuable book collection. Further details available from Margaret Ford-Feckner on 04 388 388 94. Cost \$5, bookings required.

KONDOPARINGA HOMESTEAD

Sunday 28th September 2014

Bus leaves Burnside 9:00am -- Returns approx. 4:30pm

- * A 25 roomed mansion once owned by the Rymill Family
- * Nestled amongst Australian flora and fauna on the banks of the Finnis River
- * Largest display of side-saddles in the Southern Hemisphere along with antique furniture, clothing, tapestries and collections
- * Guided tours with commentary on the house and contents
- * Two course hot cooked lunch with choice of 4 mains and 3 sweets
- * Lecture with discussion on Rymill Family
- * Mystery stop for morning tea
- * Comfortable Woodside Coach

OUR ONLY FULL DAY EVENT IN 2014

BOOK NOW - ONLY \$50.00 per head

Phone Margaret Cliff - 8362 9517 - or see Margaret at the Friday night meetings

St Dominic's Priory

I submit this article to encourage members to come for the tour of the Priory on 13 August (see opposite):

Margaret Ford-Feckner

On October 2nd 1891 one of the sisters at St Dominic's North Adelaide wrote:

We shall be very busy this week, making preparations for the laying of the foundation stone. If all those who have been invited come, there will be hardly any room in the road for the cabs and carriages to pass. We have to provide refreshments for about 400 people. Sr M. J. is making cakes every day for her very life. As it is very hot, there will have to be soda water, lemonade, tea and coffee. ¹

*The Register*² newspaper did indeed report that a large number of people gathered in Molesworth Street, North Adelaide, to see Archbishop Reynolds lay the foundation-stone of the new Chapel. The contractor for the work, Mr. J. J. Leahy, built the Gothic style chapel. When completed 2 years later, in 1893 at a total cost of £8,000, the chapel was seen plainly from the city. It was opened with 'all due pomp and impressiveness'. A newspaper article in *The Advertiser*³ described the beautiful chapel. The general plan was drawn up

by a Melbourne firm of architects and Mr. E. J. Woods supervised the work. The building included a choir and outer choir, sanctuary, and two side chapels. Over the outer choir was the organ gallery, approached by a stair of kauri pine. There was a bell turret and stone spire. The walls were built of hard bricks faced with brown Teatree Gully freestone. The dressings, tracery, copings, and most external portions, were executed in Murray Bridge stone. The roof was covered with blue slate. The floors of the choir, outer choir, and side chapels were of kauri and the sanctuary floor was laid with tiles manufactured by Minton, Hollins, & Co of Staffordshire England. The large window in the sanctuary was filled with stained glass from the works of Messrs. Hardman, of Birmingham England, and represented the Adoration of Our Lord with angels and saints offering homage to the Redeemer. The three windows in the Lady Chapel were of stained glass by Messrs. Montgomery and Grimby, of Melbourne and Adelaide. The window at the back of the Lady Altar represents the Annunciation, with tints of cathedral glass in lead lights, executed by Mr. E. F. Troy of Adelaide. The high altar, the most important internal fitting, was the gift of Mr. Aloysius McDonald, manager of the Bank of New South Wales. The altar was executed in Caen stone from the designs of the English architect, Mr. J. A. Hansom, designer of the Hansom cab and of so many fine monastic and ecclesiastical buildings in England. The altar stone was supported by rich diapered work surrounding an arched recess, within which was a sculptured stone representation of the Last Supper. Above the marble shelves on each side were traceried arcades deeply recessed and filled underneath

¹ *Chapel, Cloister & Classroom: Reflections on the Dominican Sisters at North Adelaide.* Stephanie Burley and Katherine Teague. North Adelaide 1993. Page 3

² *South Australian Register* Monday 2 November 1891 p 6

³ *The Advertiser* Friday 21 July 1893 p 6

with sculpture. On one side the marriage feast at Cana was represented, and on the other the parable of the loaves and fishes. Above was a canopy entirely filled in with intricate flowing tracery and finished on top with a cornice and carved cresting. This beautiful work, considered one of the most elegant and appropriate designs ever erected in the Australian colonies, was executed by Mr. Bolton, of Cheltenham, England. The adornments of the chapel were magnificent, and most of the fancy work, such as the beautiful embroidery work of the high altar panels and the embellishments of the two other altars, were executed by the sisters. The Annunciation window at the back of the Lady's altar was the gift of the Very Rev. Dean Kennedy, the St. Rose window at the side was presented by Mr. E. J. Woods, and the St. Catherine window was given by Mr. J. J. Leahy, the contractor. The quality of the work throughout the building was generally admitted to be carried out in the best manner. For the opening of the chapel, the High altar was resplendent with flowers and illuminated with candelabra. A flood of light filtered through the stained-glass windows on the sanctuary, making a most impressive scene. The attire of the priests was also the work of the sisters. The music of the mass was sung by the nuns, who, after the opening ceremony, gave a luncheon in the convent for a large number of ladies and gentlemen who accepted their hospitality.

Letter to the Editor: Brickwork Kilns of Beverley

You will recall that HSSA some years ago organised a tour of the state-heritage-listed brickwork kilns at Toogood Avenue, Beverley, together with the pugholes of Bowden and Brompton.

I draw your attention to the item in the *Weekly Times Messenger* of 21 May 2014 that funding in the draft budget of the City of Charles Sturt for the conservation of the brick kilns in Beverley is being agitated against. No doubt, these people that do not appreciate heritage would demolish the Colosseum if they lived in Rome, or have the canals filled in if they lived in Venice, and one wonders why they chose to live in the area. The brickwork kilns are in a poor state of repair, due to minimal funding by the State Government or the City of Charles Sturt over the years. Charles Sturt Council has taken little action to promote these heritage assets. Urgent action is required to stabilise the structures. The longer that conservation or protection is delayed, the more costly restoration will become in the future.

The conservation of these brick kilns is even more important now that the brickworks at Ashwin Parade/South Road, Torrensville, have been compromised by development and surrounding demolition, allowed by the City of West Torrens. I urge the HSSA members to expeditiously write to the councillors of Charles Sturt to have funding for the conservation of the Brickwork Kilns at Toogood Avenue, Beverley, included in the Council's budgeting.

Bart van der Wel

How Cows Ruined Adelaide's First Golf Course

Contributed by Margaret Ford-Feckner

In 1935 the newspapers gave vent to a war of words between golfers and some residents near and around North Adelaide. The residents were those who owned a house cow and pastured them on the North Adelaide parklands, including the North Adelaide Golf Course. This debate generated the article below about the history of golf in Adelaide. ...

How Cows Ruined Adelaide's First Golf Course¹. By H. A. Lindsay.

Very few people today are aware that Adelaide had one of the first, if not the first, golf courses in Australia. Yet it is a fact, although all traces of the old greens, tees, and bunkers have vanished. Many years ago I met an old cabinet maker who had caddied on these long vanished links when he was a school boy. He not only showed me where they had been, but told me their history as well. The old man had a good memory, and when I consulted all available references I found that his story was true in every detail. In 1869 the then Governor of the Colony, Sir James Fergusson, and Mr. David Murray, a member of the Legislative Council, who had both been followers of the Royal and Ancient game in their native Scotland, decided to form a golf club and lay down a course. A site was chosen on the east parklands, to the north-east of where the Victoria Park racecourse is now, and the work of making the course was put in the hands of a gardener who had been a greenkeeper in Scotland. The work began

as soon as the autumn rain softened the ground. Greens and tees were built up, bunkers dug, fairways marked out, and by June the nine holes course was ready. The greens were only tiny affairs, some 20 ft. square, and all the grass-cutting was done with scythes. There was no watering of the grass, which was simply the natural pasture grass. The fairways were only 50 ft. wide, and the longest hole was about 120 yards.

Derisive Onlookers

When the clubs and balls arrived from Scotland, the 20 odd foundation members of the club, who were all Scots, turned up to play an opening series of games, all wearing the traditional red coats. And half the population of Adelaide also turned up, to see the fun. In those days anything which the "Swells" or "Nobs" did was thought amusing by the multitude. In this case a crowd came along prepared to laugh, and laugh they did. The first games were played in the presence of a highly amused gallery. If a player missed the ball, the crowd roared. If he hit it, they laughed just the same, on principle, it seemed. But the crowd soon tired of the novelty, and the golfers were left in peace as far as the gallery went. But there were other difficulties with which the little club had to contend. The game could be played only during a few short winter months. All the golf clubs, which were long headed affairs, with beechwood heads and ash shafts, had to be imported from Scotland, and it took more than six months to replace breakages. Then the clubs refused to stand up to the climate, the glue joints cracking open during the summer, and boys delighted in stealing the leather-coated, feather cored balls then in use, in spite of the fact that the players employed fore caddies to walk ahead and watch where the balls landed.

¹ *The Advertiser*, Saturday 19 Jan. 1935 p 27

Contributing to SA's History

Curse Of Cows

But the greatest handicap of all was the cows. The parklands then were a sort of vast, unfenced commonage, and nearly every family in the city and suburbs owned a cow, which was turned loose on the parklands to graze, and we can easily imagine how that golf course suffered. In the greenkeeper's skilled hands the scythe cut the greens so close that a rabbit might have been hard put to get a feed off them, but that did not stop the cows from walking all over them, fouling them, pitting them with hoof prints and sniffing with bovine curiosity at the little red flags on the pins before they tore them off and ate them. Then they would tramp all over the fairways as well, pitting them also with hoof prints, and this would be followed by a tour of the bunkers.

The Golfers Lose

Until 1875 this pioneer golf club struggled gamely on, but the odds were hopelessly against it. We can easily imagine the tumultuous emotions which filled the minds of the golfers when they surveyed their ruined fairways and greens, and the bitter curses which the greenkeeper directed against the offending cows as he filled in hoof-tracks by the thousand and tried to make the greens fit for play again. But the cows won in the end and the club passed out of existence. Golf was not played again in South Australia, with the exception of a few games on makeshift courses in paddocks at Gawler, Mitcham and Dulwich, until 1890, when the North Adelaide Golf Club was formed, and a nine holes course laid out on the site of the present municipal links. A few years later the old Glenelg course was laid out on the north side of the Bay road, but just before the war the lease of the land expired and the club was forced to seek another site at Seaton.

Marvellous Changes

The rest of the story of the game in South Australia is recent history. But how some of those pioneer golfers would marvel if they could come back today to look at courses like Seaton and Kooyonga, Mount Osmond and Mount Lofty, with their fine club houses, wonderful turf, kept green all the year round with sprinklers, and huge greens in place of the old-style "pocket-handkerchief" squares of turf! Equally marvellous would be our modern clubs and balls which can be driven three times as far as the old leather-and-feather ones. It is quite conceivable that, had that first golf course been on private property, where the cows could have been fenced off, a few stalwart players would have kept the game alive through the years. If that had happened, Adelaide would have had the doyen among Australian golf clubs, 66 years old, with a fine record of scores and traditions. But you can no more combine a golf course and cow pasturage than you can a garden and a fowl run. You can have one or the other inside a fence, but never the two. Placid, stupid, inquisitive cows, filled with an almost devilish propensity for mischief, ruined South Australia's pioneer golf course, and today no sign of it remains.

Postscript. By the end of the 1940s the golfers won the argument and cows were banned from the golf course at North Adelaide. Golfers were saved from the ignominy of standing in or finding their ball in a cow pat!

'If history can do anything it is to remind us that all our judgments are merely relative to time and circumstance.'

Herbert Butterfield

Book Review - *Our Fathers: twenty-six everyday heroes*, edited by Judy Macpherson Kent and Andrew Collett, Wakefield Press, 2014.

Amid the multitude of books that I read each year, and many are page turners, thoughtful reads, thrillers, local histories or a 'must read', one local history that came across my desk recently deserves a mention for being a little different.

Local histories take many forms and *Our Fathers* is one that is written to centre around the post-war new suburb of Linden Park and the primary school that a group of former pupils all went to in the 1950s. Evolving out of their 50-year reunion where a Year Seven class met in 2012, was one subject that kept arising and wouldn't go away - and that was stories about their fathers and how they came to buy property in the Linden Park locality. Behind what apparently were ordinary fathers with ordinary lives, there turned out to be something far from this assumption.

Because of the many different backgrounds of the contributors' fathers, the collection is divided into the categories of Immigration, Legacy of War, From Country to City, War Stories, Religion and Aussie Battlers.

All 26 stories contribute 'a significant piece of the jigsaw that comprises the background to our generation, who are proud to be called "baby boomers"' - so writes Andrew Collett. All the contributors, in their different ways, manage to convey 'a sense of place' when describing life in the Linden Park area.

This is a delightful swag of stories about fathers whose early lives were in dramatic contrast to those of their 'baby boomer' offspring, who were mostly destined to live in a peaceful post-war era when jobs for their fathers were plentiful and stable, and ownership of a newly-built family home was

possible. The back cover claims their 'stories of "everyday heroes" glow with love and fun - tinged with occasional sadness' and this publication goes a long way towards proving that no one family's life is ordinary.

I have to add that this delightful book would have been even more delightful if a little more attention had been paid to the editing and proof-reading. There are some sad lapses.

Patricia Sumerling

The Australian Homosexual Histories Conferences are run annually under the auspices of the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives based in Melbourne www.alga.org.au. One doesn't have to be homosexual to attend, just as one doesn't have to be a woman to have an interest in feminist history, or be an Aboriginal to have an interest in Indigenous history.

2014 November 28-29, Sydney, celebrating 30 years of decriminalisation of consenting homosexual activity in New South Wales
www.camp.org.au

2015 November 13-14, Adelaide, celebrating 40 years of decriminalisation of consenting homosexual activity in South Australia, the first Australian State to do so. To be held immediately preceding *Feast Queer Cultural Festival*. Register your interest at adelaidecoolmale@yahoo.com.au

Contributed by Bart van der Wel

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.

**Historical Society of South
Australia Inc. PO Box 519
Kent Town SA 5071**

Email: secretary@hssa.org.au

Website: www.hssa.org.au

President: Dr Geoffrey Bishop

Vice-President: Mr Andrew Buxton

Secretary: Mr Terry Saunderson:
8354 2736 (business hours)

Treasurer: Ms Anne Bowman: 8362
7772

Bookings: Ms Margaret Cliff: 8362
9517

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.

Newsletter Editor: Mr Robert Martin
8362 8262
psumerling@optusnet.com.au

Journal Editor: Dr Peter Monteath
8201 5568
peter.monteath@flinders.edu.au

Newsletter of the Historical Society
of South Australia Inc. ISSN 1444-
8459

Articles may be reproduced without permission provided they are unaltered and HistorySA is acknowledged.