

No. 228 January 2015

From the President

As members would be aware, in 2014 the Historical Society of South Australia (HSSA) marked 40 years of celebrating and promoting South Australian history. Over the decades, public awareness of our history and heritage has considerably grown. Major events such as the State's 150th in 1986, have contributed to this renewed interest. The forthcoming observation of the centenary of the Anzac campaign (and World War I in general) is likely to generate a new wave of interest. The growing interest in Anzac Day and what it represents is notable as it is engaging many younger Australians who may not otherwise have any real interest in our past.

The HSSA's 41st programme of lecture meetings and other events is now on the website and there is a summary of the lecture topics and speakers in this edition of the Newsletter. Each year the Society presents 10 lectures (everyone is most welcome to attend these free events) and we strive, I think successfully, to present a

varied range of topics delivered by speakers who are authorities in their particular fields of research.

The Society is very pleased to announce that our recently appointed Governor, His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AO, has accepted our invitation to become our Patron. We also extend our thanks to the previous patron, Rear-Admiral Kevin Scarce, and wish him and Mrs Scarce well for their new roles.

I look forward to seeing both long-time supporters and new members at our events during the year. Finally, a reminder that payment of membership fees for 2015 can now be made; the membership form is available on the website and is included in the programme brochure.

Do come along to the lecture meetings this year and learn more about South Australia's history.

Geoffrey Bishop, President

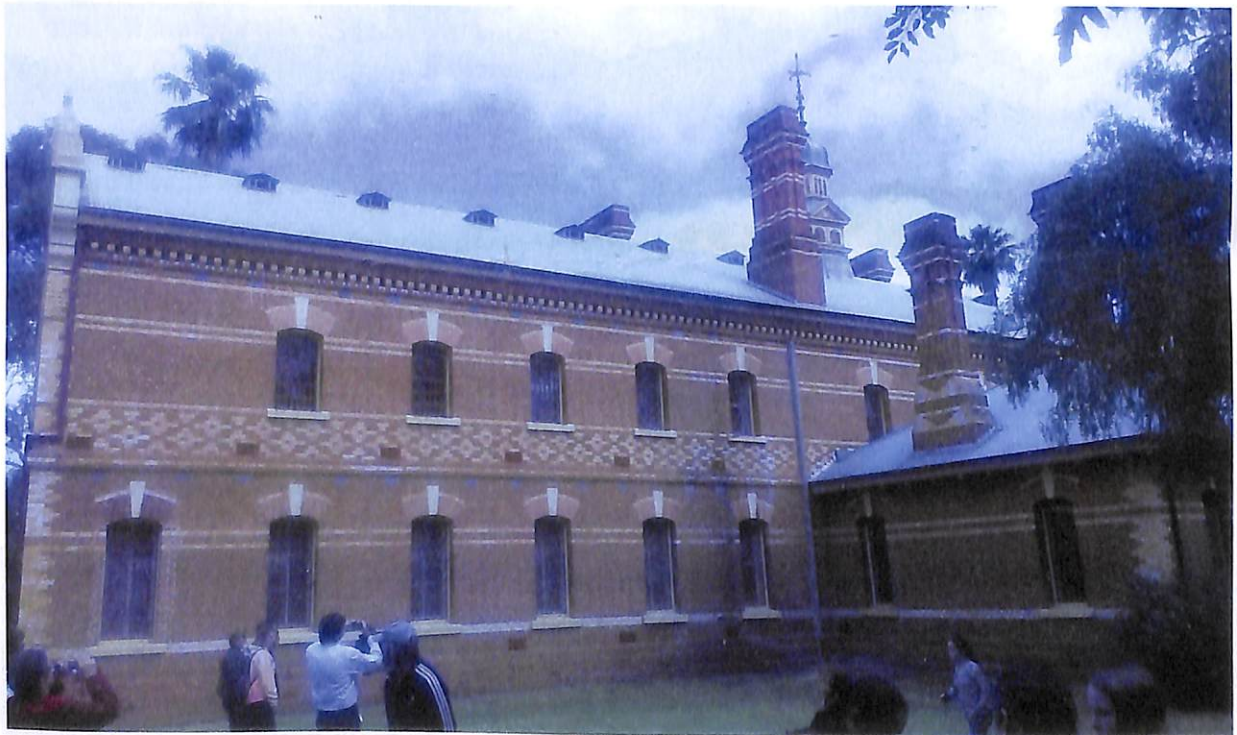
The website of the Historical Society of South Australia is again up and running.

Consult it at www.hssa.org.au/

Discovering SA's History



End of year celebration 7 November 2014



Z Ward, Glenside Hospital, open to the public 2 November 2014

Discovering SA's History



Sidesaddle collection at Kondoparinga 28 September 2014



Refreshments at Kondoparinga

Friday 6 February 7.30pm

Professor Emerita Margaret Allen

Forgotten Connections: India and South Australia, 1880s to 1940s

Indian-Australian connections have been sadly neglected in the study of Australian history. India figured prominently in the life and imaginations of many South Australians and during the period 1880s - 1940s a number of Indians lived in Adelaide and the country, undertaking a number of occupations. This talk will explore a number of aspects, including hawkers, the White Australia Policy, the trading of horses to India and the work of Christian missionaries.

Professor Emerita Margaret Allen taught Women's Studies and History over four decades, retiring from the University of Adelaide in 2010. She is interested in transnational, postcolonial and feminist histories and the concept of whiteness. Her current research focuses upon relationships between India and Australia and Indians and Australians in the late 19th and early twentieth centuries. She is working on



Australian women missionaries in India as well as exploring the ways Indian men domiciled in Australia negotiated the White Australia Policy. Gender and notions of difference are central in her work.

She has also researched nineteenth century Australian women writers and the making of a colonial culture, publishing a number of papers on the South Australian writer, Catherine E.M. Martin. She has long experience in oral history, and participated in a project on oral histories of older women of Non English Speaking Backgrounds. She was a Chief Investigator on the Australian Research Council funded Australian Women's Archives Project from 2003.

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.

Friday 6 March 7.30pm

Dr Dino Hodge

Don Dunstan: Style over Substance?



The notion of Don Dunstan in pink shorts is iconic. Its power lies in the emotional reactions – the love, the hate and the nostalgia – that are evoked. Yet this dominating image and the associated reactions have limited bearing on Dunstan's public or private lives. Could this partially explain why many prior attempts to document the man, his achievements and his shortcomings have failed?

In this talk, author Dr Dino Hodge explores this question, and discusses some of the challenges he encountered in writing the first biography to be published about this remarkable premier. In doing so, he

considers the maxim that writing a biography about a famous person is particularly difficult because everyone has their own version of a story they would like told. Dino will review the background to the narrative he chose for this biography, analyse the continuing impact of the media on our perceptions of Dunstan, and consider why more biographies are needed.

Dino Hodge, born and raised in Adelaide, has worked with the Human Rights Commission in the Northern Territory and as a political adviser to a cabinet minister in Canberra. *Don Dunstan, Intimacy and Liberty* was published by Wakefield Press in 2014.

What's coming in 2015

I hope you will all agree that the Historical Society of SA was very fortunate in having some enthralling speakers in 2014 to celebrate our fortieth year.

Each year many of our speakers are recommended to me long before the annual program is finalised. Good and entertaining speakers are invited again and again because our members really love a good tale told entertainingly. Fortunately, for those members who missed some of the talks, some of them are published in our annual journal. This year we have two speakers who are returning by popular request. They are Dr Philip Jones and Dylan Walker.

We begin the year in February with a talk about a little known area of study, which is early Indian-South Australian connections, and Indian migration. Professor Emerita Margaret Allen will tell us about those who settled in the city of Adelaide and the country, with occupations ranging from hawker to horse trader. The talk will also include interaction with Christian missionaries and the effects of the White Australian Policy.

Following the first publication of a biography of Don Dunstan in 2014, Dino Hodge will give his talk on 6 March, *Don Dunstan: Style over Substance?* His talk discusses the difficulties of writing about a famous person when everyone has their own

version of a story they would like told. The talk will also 'analyse the continuing impact of the media on our perceptions of Dunstan, and consider why more biographies are needed.' The talk is sure to be a crowd-drawer.

As a memorial to the many South Australians who participated in the First World War, and for the centenary of Gallipoli, Peter Donovan will present a talk on 10 April, about the young men of Kapunda who joined up, and the town's role in the war. His publication *Storm: An Australian country town and World War 1* discusses Kapunda as a microcosm of Australia during the war.

On 1 May, a popular speaker, Dr Philip Jones, has been invited, this time to give the wonderful talk he gave at Writers' Week last year following the publication of his book, *'Behind the Doors': an art history from Yuendumu* which is about the history and heritage significance of many pairs of doors at a school that were painted more than 30 years ago using Aboriginal themes, and their fate when they were due to be replaced as part of government maintenance. Suffice to say, several of the magnificent doors are now on display in the Art Gallery of SA.

On 5 June Dr Lesley McLean is giving a presentation on the churchwoman, Alison Gent, who was a radical feminist and activist for the ordination of women.

For something entirely different, but still about the history of South Australia, Dr John Radcliffe and two fellow speakers, Arthur Tideman and Dr Don Plowman will give an inspiring presentation on 3 July about a website they have been working on for some while that is a huge historical resource on South Australian agriculture.

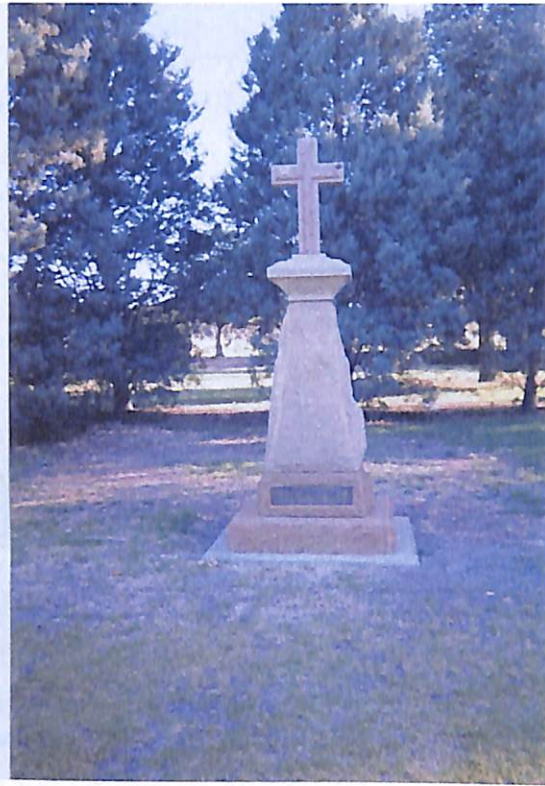
Andrew Buxton, a history teacher of long standing, recent past president of the History Teachers' Association, and our vice president, is giving a presentation on how history was taught in the 1940s, the 1980s and currently. It's titled *Change and continuity in the history classroom: the evolution of history teaching and experience of students in the 1940s, the 1980s and today*, and some of you present may be old enough to remember those bad old days or even young enough to experience firsthand, history at school in the 1980s.

Co-founder of Eynesbury Senior College, former vice president of the Historical Society and Newsletter editor, Dr Tony Stimson, will present an illustrated talk on 4 September entitled *South Australia's First War: the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902*. His talk focuses on 230 men of the 4th SA Contingent and their experiences.

We are in for a real treat on 2 October when Phil Butterss and Keith Conlon give an entertaining presentation *Poet of the larrikin and the Anzac: CJ Dennis* based on Phil's 2014 publication. While Phil gives the talk, Keith will recite the poetry of CJ Dennis.

A returning favourite speaker on 6 November, is silent movie buff Dylan Walker. His talk title is *'The Only Fun We Have Once in Three Weeks': South Australian Picture Showmen from Colonial Times to the Great Depression*. Showing photos and film, Dylan reiterates the importance of picture shows in rural and regional communities in South Australia and how they have been overlooked in local histories. He reminds us that 'the picture show was the dominant all-year-round amusement in rural South Australia...' For this talk he focuses on one picture showman in the early 1930s who screened *Sunshine Susie* (Saville 1931) in 35 towns in six weeks covering over 1,600kms. This talk will discuss how the early picture showmen overcame barriers of distance and such experiences as encountered during the great depression.

Patricia Sumerling



The Dardanelles Cenotaph - Our Unknown War Memorial

A war memorial stands unobtrusively in Adelaide's South Parklands. Life flows quietly around this cenotaph, and little attention is paid to it. Until recently no memorial services had been conducted before it in living memory. This monument was originally located in Wattle Grove on Sir Lewis Cohen Avenue but was relocated subsequent to 1935.

History

Yet if the passerby pauses to note the three epigraphs atop the granite plinth, they immediately suggest that it has a unique place in the history of the Australian cult of commemoration of our war dead.

This memorial is in fact a relic of the very birth of that cult, as Governor General Munro Ferguson attested in 1915. **It is in fact the first cenotaph dedicated to the ANZACs in Australia, and one of the earliest memorials to the Great War dead anywhere in the world.** Indeed the cenotaph had its genesis in the shock of the first casualty reports from Gallipoli. Accordingly soldiers and their families regarded the glorification of war as unseemly. The primary function of the cenotaph, above and beyond the important demands of national and community patriotism, was as a focus for mourning. This interpretation accords with author Jay Winter's findings regarding commemoration in Great Britain reported in his 1998 book *Sites of Memory, Sites of Mourning*.

The ledge of the abacus of the cenotaph bears a dedication to 'Australasian Soldiers'. This is purposely inclusive of our Kiwi brethren, and the moulding beneath memorialises the date of the assault at Anzac Cove in 'the Dardanelles', a reference to the scene of the naval operations with which the Gallipoli landing was so imperfectly combined. Clearly, as Professor Ken Inglis, an eminent authority on our national cult of commemoration of the fallen, notes in his *Sacred Places*, this cenotaph was erected before references to Gallipoli and the Expeditionary Corps became ritualised.

Unveiling

A plaque now affixed to the pedestal of the obelisk records that it was 'unveiled by his Excellency the Governor General Sir R Munro Ferguson, Wattle Day Sept 7th 1915.' The Anzacs were still clinging to their foothold on that faraway peninsula within cooee of Troy, mythical locus of the most classical traditions of our culture concerning the tragedy of war. The following day the *Adelaide Register* reported His Excellency as declaring that

'This initiative had caused Adelaide to be the first city in the Commonwealth to erect a memorial to the landing of the troops on Gallipoli...'

Construction and Statuary Significance

The builder of this human-scale monument was one Walter Torode, a well-known master builder then active in the City of Adelaide (where he built the Stock Exchange amongst other edifices) and surrounds. Wattle Grove, with its peaceful garden, seating and sheltering pergola with which the Cenotaph was complemented was situated to make it a place for reflection by the citizenry, particularly of the nearby park-side suburbs of which Torode was a developer. The State Library holds a photograph of the Soldiers' Mothers Association

assembled at the monument on ANZAC Day 1927.

Torode intended the Cenotaph to have a non-military appearance with a view to a peaceful post-war career. The proposition that it be surmounted by a tripod of rifles stacked at rest as at the Salisbury SA Cenotaph and elsewhere was accordingly set aside. Originally the rough-hewn column, deliberately reminiscent of the cliffs of Gallipoli was crowned, not by a cross (the expression of Torode's Christianity as a Sunday School Superintendent for the Brougham Place Congregational Church) but by the Southern Cross in the sky and a bowl of flowers.

Cost and Funding

Torode funded the Gallipoli Memorial Garden by public appeal and out of his own pocket, thus financing the provision of materials. His employees donated their labour. The City Council supervised the work, invested 12 Pounds in planting the Wattle Grove and 5 Pounds per annum for a time in maintaining it, and they undertook the management of the area.

Dr David Faber

Thanks are due to Messrs Kyle Penick, David Stephen and Bill Denny AM.

Kondoparinga Homestead Field Trip

Led by Council member Colin Deed and marshalled by Margaret Cliff and Terry Saunderson, the members of the annual Field Trip group gathered at the Burnside Community Centre car park on Sunday, 28 September 2014.

Anticipation built as tour leader Colin Deed promised some mystery stops before the party reached its planned destination.

While, through the advent of a bushfire ban, our planned morning tea break at Mt Bold was ruled out, quick thinking by Colin and our bus driver saw us detour to the delightful refurbished town park in the centre of Meadows. Tea and coffee, accompanied by delicious strudel cake and the obligatory loo break saw a refreshed tour party reboard the bus for the final stage of the journey to Kondoparinga. Council member Andrew Buxton took the opportunity and the microphone to offer a brief thank you to Colin and Margaret for all the planning behind the field trip and to forewarn the members present of his plan to interview as many as possible for a planned series of member profiles for slides on lecture nights and/or the HSSA newsletter. Seat swapping became more common as the trip progressed, showing the value of the field trip in helping members to get better acquainted with each other.

The journey to Kondoparinga took us via a circuitous route through wooded countryside, with the grass beneath already beginning to dry out with the rising temperatures.

The first view of the homestead at 78 Rymill Road, Ashbourne, is not particularly inspiring, or breathtaking, but the vistas north from the opposite side of the building were worth the wait.

South Australia's dependence on the horse until the early decades of the twentieth century was brought home to us all as our host, Sandra Taylor, regaled stories of the homestead throughout its history.

In particular, a real sense of admiration for the horsewomen of the past was evident in the comments amongst tour participants. Unfortunately, time did not allow us to partake in horse riding lessons, but then it is important to leave something to justify a return trip.

The fine balancing act between the preservation of the historic fabric of buildings like the homestead and the practical necessities of a working farm were all too evident as we toured the homestead.

As interesting as the homestead was on its own, with its 25 rooms, antique furniture, tapestries, clothing and sidesaddle collections, the stories of the passing fortunes of rural properties and the triumphs and tragedies of their owners are the real stuff of history. Our dynamic host left all the tour party exhausted by her

Visiting SA's History

accounts of past owners and her own busy life, one that involves juggling the responsibilities of a mother, a local and international horse judge, management of a herd of horses and the demands of an accommodation and function centre.

HSSA member Glen Woodward, in his characteristically entertaining fashion, then regaled us with a who's who of South Australian 'royalty' connected with the property, during final preparations for lunch. Served in two spacious rooms inside the homestead, the roast lunch was delightful and a credit to the staff. Not satisfied with providing an excellent meal, our hosts then organised a history quiz, a task made difficult at times as the 'contestants' were sitting in different rooms.

Following lunch the tour participants enjoyed a guided tour of the homestead and its collections, an eclectic mixture of furniture, art work and horse memorabilia. The sidesaddle collection, reputedly the largest in the Southern Hemisphere, is housed in one of the homestead's substantial rooms. Our host explained highlights on show, including saddles for children, as well as explaining the techniques of sidesaddle riding and jumping, the latter a seemingly dangerous pastime.

The very fashionable horse riding garments, and other outfits from past eras, are set out in a well-ordered display in the delightfully cool cellar. From original garments to more

recently made dresses, the collection gave a good insight into the impracticality of past fashions for their purpose and rural life, notwithstanding the quality of their handiwork. Sandra handmade many of the sidesaddle outfits, copying originals, while using similar material and embellishments and designing some of her own.

All too soon, our visit was over and after a brief thank you and presentation to Sandra by Andrew Buxton, the tour party reboarded the bus for a somewhat quieter journey home, after enjoying a very interesting and educational day.

Members are urged to seriously consider accompanying council members on the annual Field Trip, which in 2015 will visit Kapunda. The date is Sunday 13th September. A more detailed itinerary will be available shortly.

Andrew Buxton

Vice-President

'No harm's done to history by making it something someone would want to read.'

David McCullough

Z WARD - a hidden relic in South Australia's Glenside Hospital

Living adjacent to Z Ward in Conyngham Street, Glenside 'outside the fence' since 1983, and in my wife Anthea's case since 1957, we have grown up with stories of what happened and who lived 'behind the fence'.

The recent decision by the Weatherill government to 'offload' Glenside Hospital's Z Ward and adjoining land as surplus to requirements was lamented by many in the community. Coming as it did on the heels of the possible sale of Martindale Hall at Mintaro, many members of the public understandably expressed concern at what they perceived as another example of the unfortunate discarding of our built heritage, in a bid to address budget shortfalls. Public interest and concern heightened when the new owners of the building, Beach Energy, indicated a wish to make use of Z Ward for offices.

While heritage listing will likely protect the external façade of Z Ward and its unusual 'Ha Ha wall', the interior is another matter. Beach Energy have expanded rapidly in the last 12 months, now employing well in excess of 200 at their Conyngham Street headquarters, and office space is at a premium. Unfortunately, but understandably, cell style offices are

not conducive to modern business practices and it remains to be seen what is planned by way of restructuring the building's interior.

In this context, Beach Energy's decision in late 2014 to open Z Ward to the public for a tour, was welcomed, as were the expressions of sympathy and understanding of the public's concerns by Beach's managers.

The queue of people to glimpse the building's interior snaked for close to 400 metres at times, well out onto Conyngham Street. The crowd was in a good mood and there was a real sense of anticipation at the opportunity to view, perhaps for the last time, a usually secret part of Adelaide's past.

The Glenside Hospital Historical Society, strongly supported by the National Trust of SA, had prepared a well-presented two page flyer giving a brief outline of the building's origin, its design features and construction, its residents and medical practices throughout its history. This information was accompanied by 14 photos, showing the past and present uses and structure of the building. Members of the public were invited to seek more information and updates on the website: www.heritagewatch.net.au

Once inside, you could not help but be struck by the similarity to many prisons. The thick doors, with their tiny peepholes, closed on stark cells.

Visiting SA's History

By contrast the dining and common areas were surprisingly spacious with very high ceilings. Nevertheless, all spaces afforded the residents views to the outside world, and the trees might have suggested a park-like environment to the troubled minds of those within the walls. For many visitors, their interest was piqued by the opportunity to view the so-called Ha Ha wall, with the ditch surrounding the building's garden that effectively doubled the height of the wall, making any contemplation of escape by the residents a fruitless exercise. Whilst the prison-like appearance of parts of the interior suggested a grim past, stories told suggested a more enlightened view, that it was more beneficial to place some people in an asylum, 'rather than in a gaol to serve their sentence.'

Despite its reputation, few residents were genuinely dangerous to themselves and others and the building's design and practices helped ensure that even these were never a genuine threat to the citizens of Adelaide.

Crowds at this rare opening of Z Block to the public, in excess of 2000, not only sent a clear message to all involved in the building's sale that concerns are widespread, they also prompted the new owners to schedule another viewing and reinforced the importance of the community in highlighting such heritage issues in South Australia.

Andrew Buxton, Vice-President



Ha Ha wall



Interior of Z Ward

'The past remains integral to us all, individually and collectively. We must concede the ancients their place, as I have argued. But their place is not simply back there in a separate and foreign country; it is assimilated in ourselves, and resurrected into an ever-changing present.'

David Lowenthal

Contributing to SA's History

HSSA GRANTS 2014

The Historical Society of South Australia Inc. is pleased to announce that it has made grants to assist with the following projects:

Barwell Boys and Little Brothers Family and Friends Association: *Barwell Boys Exhibition Record Book*: printing.

East Torrens Historical Society Inc: *Marble Hill: A Grand and Glorious View*: information brochure.

Historical Society of the Uniting Church in SA: *Bible Christian Methodism in SA 1850 - 1900*: book publication.

John McDouall Stuart Society Inc: publication of a book of sketches.

Kevin R Kakoschke: *Off the Barrier Highway*: book publication.

Dr Jenny Aland: *Voices from the Past and Present: Three Decades in the 150 Year History of the SA School of Art*: research and interviews.

David Sweet: *Vida - a pastor's wife*: towards an eBook publication.

Old Adelaide Gaol: *Elizabeth Woolcock - the only woman hanged in Old Adelaide Gaol*: exhibition.

Mark Oliphant College: *Putting the MO in MOC*: online interpretive resource.

SA German Association: German towns information signs.

Mount Pleasant District History Room: *For King and Country*: information boards.

Hostel Stories Team, History Dept, University of Adelaide: *Making SA Hostel stories accessible*: publication.

Kanawinka Writers and Historians: *Princeland Revisited*: history workshop.

Associate Professor Peter Monteath: *The Secret History of Adelaide's Universities*: research assistance.

'Of all the studies by which men acquire citizenship of the intellectual commonwealth, no single one is so indispensable as the study of the past.'

Bertrand Russell



Historical costumes at Kondoparinga Homestead

Contributing to SA's History

NOTICE BOARD and TABLE

The Notice Board and Table need your help in supply. Whether it is advertising for other clubs or societies, notices, brochures, booklets etc, all would be greatly appreciated.

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 2015. If you need help to carry or collect, please see Colin Deed at meetings or phone 8277 2953.

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