

No. 229 March 2015

## From the President

'So that whilst we seize upon the events which comprise tremendous fighting, and which suggest, even in the brevity of official *communiqués*, the roar and clamour of battles and the clash and shock of steel, we are apt to accept as inevitable the hardships and sufferings, the courage and the cheerfulness which have accompanied trench warfare.' So wrote the author and journalist Edgar Wallace in the World War I periodical *The War of the Nations* in January 1915.

Last year we observed the centenary of the outbreak of World War I. This April, we mark the centenary of the Gallipoli campaign. The Society's April lecture will be given by Peter Donovan and is entitled 'Gallipoli's Kapunda associations'.

The Great European Conflict is how Edgar Wallace referred to the war and little did he know early in 1915 that the conflict still had many years to go before it was resolved. The casualties on both sides of the conflict were huge. The official casualties for the British Empire forces were 946,023, comprising Great Britain 743,702; Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa 140,923; India 61,398.

Many Australian and New Zealand troops fought on the Western front in France and Belgium. Edgar Wallace described the battlefields of Flanders: 'Flanders, rain-soaked, sodden, unprotected from the storms of hail and sleet which swept over the flat country, was the most unlikely and

most undesirable country for an army to winter [in. The] trenches, which ran in a regular zigzag line, facing, as it would seem to the novice, no way in particular, and following in their general design and plan the momentary eccentricities of its constructors, were little more than earthen tanks to collect the water. The beautiful pictures of trenches which have been drawn for us under more favourable conditions bore no resemblance to those in which the British Army spent the latter days of 1914.'

I would be very surprised if most families in Australia did not have at least one person serving during World War I. The projects going on around South Australia to record the stories of the men whose names are recalled on our war memorials and those who returned alive are showing just how many men enlisted, even from some relatively small communities.

In my own family, four of the Bishop lads served in the AIF and two were killed – Alfred Norman Bishop MM and Walter Lewis Bishop. My Bishop grandmother had one brother who served; he returned but was badly affected by 'shell-shock', as it was then known. On my mother's side of the family, her father and two of his brothers served; all returned though my grandfather had been reported 'Missing, presumed killed' in 1917 but this proved not to be so. My grandmother's brother also served; he returned but suffered the effects of two gassings for the rest of his life.

# From the President

My grandfather Robinson rarely spoke about the War and certainly I never heard about his having been reported 'Missing'. He was a member of the RSL and well into his 80s marched on Anzac Day in Adelaide. My grandmother's brother did tell us a bit about his experiences (he was a machine-gunner) but more so about the interesting trip back to Australia in 1919 when he somehow managed to do an overland trip via Turkey and Persia, ending up in Colombo.

This great uncle died when I was 12 so I never really got to know him well but he had a great love of history and influenced both my brother and me in this regard. One story he told us was that when he enlisted, in Adelaide on 6 June 1916, he asked the Attesting Officer how many names they wanted on the form. The blunt reply was, 'All of them', to which the reply was, 'Sir, they won't fit.' My great uncle was William Arthur George Parkinson Morgan and sure enough, his names on the form are in two lines. My grandmother called him Arthur but to most people he was known as Arlie.

Arlie served for most of the War in the 5<sup>th</sup> Machine Gun Battalion; he was promoted to Corporal in March 1918 and Temporary Sergeant in March 1919, and was mentioned in despatches for outstanding bravery on 7 April 1918 when he rescued several Australian soldiers under enemy fire. A week later he was wounded in action (gassed) and sent to England for treatment. He arrived back in Australia in August 1919. My memories of him are prompted yet by the large number of books of photographs of places in France he brought back with him (which we still have) and photographs of French families with whom he corresponded long after the war years.

To conclude, our historical society in East Torrens recently staged a display on World War I at the Uraidla & Summertown Show. We focussed on Europe in 1915 and were staggered by the extent of the destruction in towns such as Ypres, Neuve Chapelle and Albert. The extent of the carnage is brought home by these words penned by D.H. Lawrence: 'The War was not strife, it was murder, each side trying to murder the other side evilly.'

*Geoffrey Bishop, President*

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

Consult it at [www.hssa.org.au/](http://www.hssa.org.au/)

'No history text-book in the world has ever been anything but a propaganda pamphlet in the service of governments.' Marcel Pagnol: *La Gloire de mon père*

(Comment on this pronouncement is invited in the form of Letters to the Editor.)

Wakefield Press, our generous sponsors, have moved their premises to 16 Rose Street, Mile End. The new telephone number is 8352 4455.

# From the President

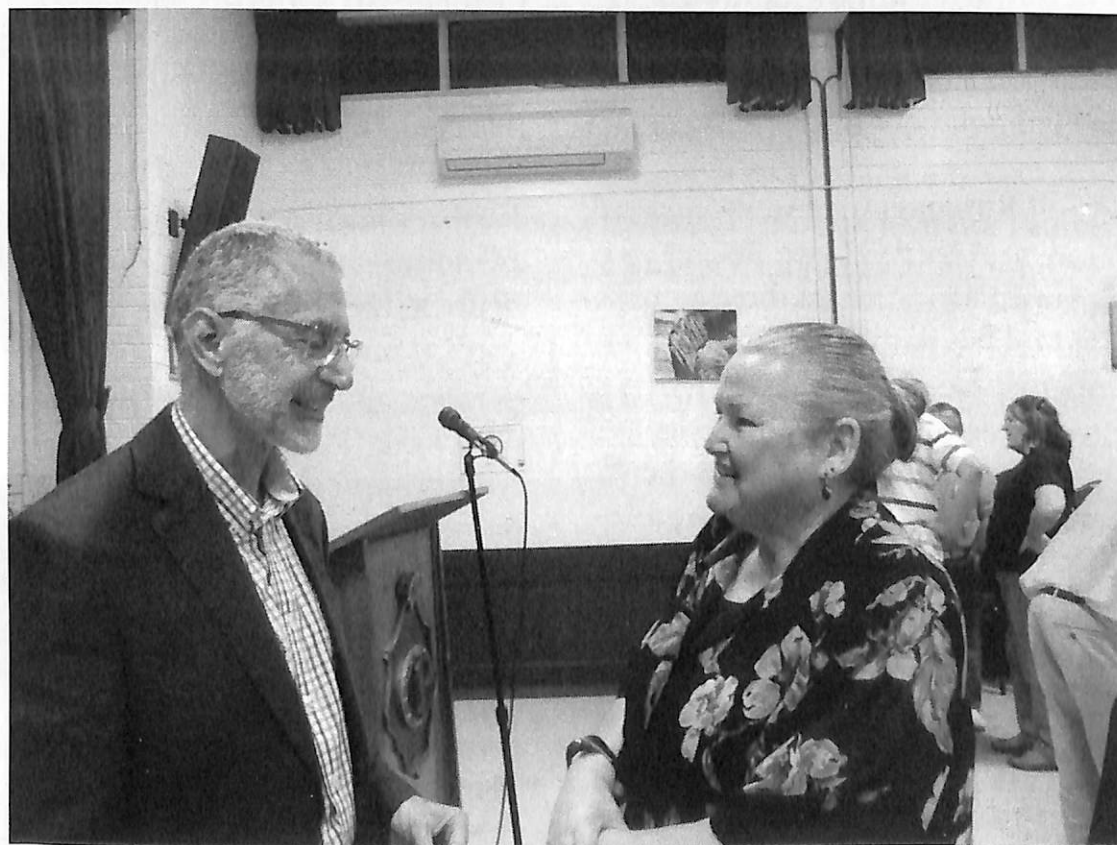
## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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 1 May 2015 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*



Dino Hodge, speaker at the March meeting, with Allison Murchie

Photograph by Adrian Brown

Friday 10 April 7.30 pm

Peter Donovan

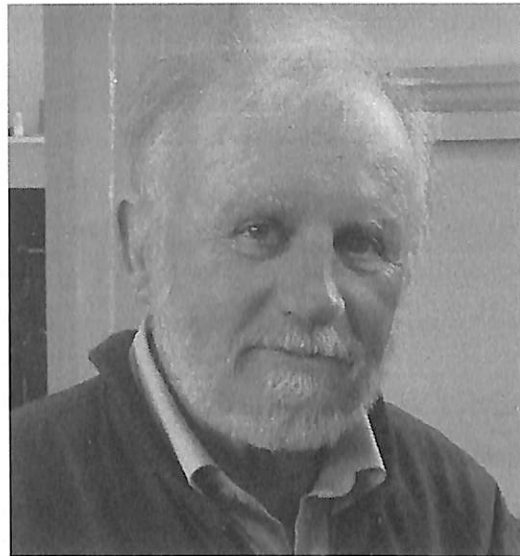
## Gallipoli's Kapunda associations

Please note the change from the normal date

The theme of Peter's book *Storm: An Australian country town and World War I* is that the response of the people of Kapunda to the Great War reflected that of Australians generally. In a similar fashion, the experiences of Kapunda men were broadly typical of what all went through from the time they enlisted in the AIF, to their training in Egypt, and fighting on the Gallipoli peninsula.

Several Kapunda men went ashore at ANZAC Cove on 25 April 1915. At least three were killed on the day of the landing though none of these has a known grave: three others are buried in separate cemeteries found on the peninsula. One of the latter – a Light Horseman – fought at Hill 60 in August 1915, which was the last significant battle of the campaign. Some survived the horror of Gallipoli only to die on the Western Front.

The presentation highlights features of the Gallipoli campaign, focusing on Kapunda ANZACS.



Veteran historian Peter Donovan was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters at the graduation ceremony at the University of New England in October 2014. In part, the citation read by the Vice-Chancellor summarises the basis for the recognition:

*For over thirty years Peter Donovan has been a leading figure in the field of public or applied history. The first person to make a full time, permanent career out of writing commissioned histories, Donovan has significantly raised the awareness of historical records and knowledge among many government, quasi-government and commercial institutions in Australia. He was a founder of the Professional Historians' Association in South Australia, an initiative followed in other states and overseas, and was also a leading figure in the creation of a national body.*

# Discovering SA's History

Friday 1 May 7.30pm

Philip Jones

'Behind the Doors': an art history of Yuendumu

A popular speaker, Dr Philip Jones, has been invited to give the talk he gave at Writers' Week last year following the publication of his book, *'Behind the Doors': an art history from Yuendumu* (Wakefield Press) 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.

Dr Philip Jones who is a Senior Curator in the Department of Anthropology has been at the South Australian 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 more recently, the ethnography and history of Australia's 'Afghan' cameleers. He is a graduate in law and history from the University of Adelaide, where he also



completed his doctorate in history in 1996.

His interest in the provenance of artefacts underpins much of his exhibition research and writing. During 2007 he published *Ochre and Rust: Artefacts and Encounters on Australian Frontiers*. The book traces the paths artefacts follow, from their makers to their collectors, as a means of re-examining frontier history. The book won the Prime Minister's Literary Award for Non-Fiction (2008) and the Chief Minister's Northern Territory History Book Award in 2009.

Philip Jones's address will be a contribution to *About Time*, HistorySA's History Month.

**All lecture meetings commence at 7.30 pm on (usually) the first Friday of the month at the Burnside Community Centre, corner of Portrush Road and Greenhill Road, Tasmore.**

# Visiting SA's History

**Sunday 3 May, 2-5 pm - 'Marble Hill' - talk, tour, afternoon tea - 314 Marble Hill Road, Marble Hill**

Join in a discussion and recall your memories of the years in which the National Trust of South Australia was the custodian of 'Marble Hill'. Bring along photographs and memories of the property during the NTSA era.

Book via Margaret Cliff 8362 9517. Contact Geoffrey Bishop for additional information 8390 3138.

Booking fee is \$15 including afternoon tea.

We will not be using a bus, but the entrance will be signposted and parking supervised for drop-off near the barn, where the discussion will take place.

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## WHAT ARE YOU READING?

Readers are invited to share information on books they have been reading. The entries should be short, 30-40 words, giving title, author, publisher and a short comment on why you like the book. We are restricting this to books on history, but from wherever, not just South Australia or Australia.

Here is a beginning:

*Joan of Arc. A History* by Helen Castor (Faber & Faber), is an insightful look at the life and times of Jeanne d'Arc, a remarkable young woman living in a turbulent period when females did not even think to attempt what she achieved.

*Geoffrey Bishop*

*The Bush. Travels in the heart of Australia* by Don Watson (Hamish Hamilton), is a wide-ranging meditation on the history of the Bush and its place in the national consciousness. A book at times moving, and salted by Watson's characteristic dry humour.

*Robert Martin*

Send contributions by post to the Society's address or by email to the Editor (addresses on page 8).

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**CORRECTION:** The brochure detailing this year's program attributes to S.T. Gill a lithograph of the Kapunda copper mine which is actually the work of J.W. Giles after George French Angas. Thanks to Philip Jones for pointing out this error.

## ANOTHER TIME

Brian Samuels has forwarded the following glimpses of life in South Australia before the First World War. Readers hardly need reminding that some attitudes, as expressed in the language and behaviour of a century ago, are not acceptable today.

MANNUM, October 9.

A novel dance in the shape of a Leap-Year Ball will be held as the final of a series of dances given during the season in aid of the institute. The ball will take place on Tuesday, October 15, and Messrs. Schuetze and Kleinschmidt of Lobethal have been engaged to supply the music.

At length the old fashioned way of travelling from Mannum to Adelaide per coach is to be substituted by the running of an up-to-date motor service by S. and K. Raphael of Adelaide, which will commence in about a fortnight. People are looking forward with interest to the beginning of this new mode of transit, and the service will no doubt be well patronized.

The wind-up dance of the Ivy Quadrille Class was held in the institute hall on Tuesday evening, when members arrived in fancy and masquerade costume, and an enjoyable evening was spent. The music was supplied by the Band, and Mr. S. Craig acted as M.C. At ten o'clock the dancers unmasked, and after supper dancing was continued until the early hours of the morning.

- *The Mount Barker Courier and Onkaparinga and Gumeracha Advertiser*, 11 October 1912, p3c

MANNUM.

October 8. —A correspondent writes: —  
The members of the Mannum Ivy Quadrille Class brought a very

successful season to a close with a fancy-dress masquerade ball, last night. The event was a great success, about 50 couples being present. During the evening Mr. Berriman, of the Commercial Bank, presented on behalf of the class members a silver tea service to Mr. W. Reschke, the honorary Secretary, as mark of their high esteem. Mr. Reschke ably responded. Among those in fancy dress were Mesdames Nuske, Christmas cracker; W. Canham, bush girl; W. Lawrence and S. Hobson, Weldon's fashions; E. Ryles, waitress; C. Banks, lady in brown; Misses B. Francis, pierotte; N. Reschke, billiards; H. Underwood, puff and powder; L. Egle and Sharp, Japanese ladies; D. Francis, nigger minstrel girl; B. Stockwell and E. Derricks, sunflowers; A. Derricks, bridge; S. Ryles, nurse; D. Ryles, Commonwealth; H. Schultz, fairy; B. Tabe, fortune teller; D. Byrnes, lady rider; D. Hobson, Tobler's chocolate; F. Weinert, fuchsia; W. Frick, cornflower; C. Frick, poppies; D. Merritt, starlight; K. Peterson and Promnitz, girl scouts, Messrs. M. Axer, 16th century; H. Rayson, Mephistopheles; A. Morris, vice versa; M. Tabe, Japanese lady; J. Oelrich, Japanese gentleman; R. Merritt, pierrot; W. Canham, nigger; A. Loxton, old woman; J. S. Lowe, sailor; E. Ryles, drover; S. Banks, old man; N. Tucker, nigger minstrel boy; W. Woods, telegraph boy; W. Doubtfire, the poor parson; G. Peterson, schoolgirl; C. Rosenberg, gentleman; H. Carlaw and H. Tucker, clowns; C. H. Lowe, "The Daily Herald." An excellent supper was provided, and music was supplied by Miss Ella Budrick. Mr. H. Carlaw was an efficient M.C. - *Daily Herald*, 11 October 1913, p8d

# 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

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

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