

No. 231 July 2015

## From the President



### Council Members L-R:

Standing: Anthea Buxton (Secretary), Colin Deed (Meetings Coordinator), Margaret Cliff (Supper/Tours Coordinator), Adrian Brown (Vice-President), Rosemary Abbott, Daniela Rose (Publications) and Geoffrey Bishop.

Seated: Andrew Buxton (President), Elspeth Grant (Online Coordinator) and Anne Bowman (Treasurer)

Absent: Patricia Sumerling (Program Coordinator)

### Council's role:

The HSSA Council is the committee responsible for coordinating all of the activities of the Society. Its members are elected annually at the AGM. Additional members may be co-opted from time to time. The Council meets bi-monthly, on the first Thursday after the Lecture meetings, at the home of the President. New Council members are always welcome. Enquiries should be directed to the President or Secretary.

## From the President

Australia enjoys particularly varied national and local histories. The storied past can provide inspiration to old and new generations who take the trouble to explore it. Having recently returned to Adelaide from a round trip for work that took in our South-East, Melbourne, Sydney and Broken Hill, I was constantly amazed at the new takes I heard on our varied past. The drive through the Adelaide Hills, the Murray district, Keith, the Coonawarra and Mount Gambier, with its geographical variety, carves a path through our indigenous history, and the history of exploration, settlement, climate, agriculture and industry. It is a history that has inspired its champions in every community. There are numerous voluntary organisations dedicated to preserving and communicating their stories and how they fit into the South Australian story. This effort is repeated across the country. All members and friends of the HSSA are reminded of the opportunity to explore another part of our past in the upcoming annual Day Field Trip to Kapunda and Anlaby on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September. Details have been forwarded by post and email to members and are also available on our website at [www.hssa.org.au/](http://www.hssa.org.au/) along with information on our other activities.

The rich tapestry of South Australia's history is nowhere more evident than in the subjects covered by the recipients of the Small Grants Awards distributed annually by the Historical Society of South Australia. Many of the projects funded in the 2014-2015 round of grants have now reached their culmination and the range of items conceived and produced is wonderful to see.

Members of the Council of HSSA were recently invited to attend the launch of materials produced by the Mark Oliphant College at Gepps Cross as part of their History studies, under the guidance of teacher Elspeth Grant. Researching various aspects of Mark Oliphant's life and work, *'Putting the MO into MOC'*, the students were clearly inspired and had learnt many skills across the fields of research, evidence analysis and historical writing. We are particularly pleased that Elspeth has accepted my invitation to be co-opted onto the HSSA Council. Another earlier project, produced by the Friends of Marble Hill, the venue for our About Time History Festival excursion, resulted in a brand new leaflet outlining the history of Marble Hill and giving an update on its redevelopment. Other grant recipients have delivered on projects covering the following subjects; Barwell Boys and Little Brothers Family and Friends, Bible Christian

# From the President

Methodism in SA, the SA School of Art, Elizabeth Woolcock - the only woman hanged in Old Adelaide Gaol, SA Hostel stories, Princeland, Vida - a pastor's wife, The Secret History of Adelaide's Universities. We hope to highlight the outcome of some of these other grants made in future newsletters. The Council, acting on behalf of HSSA members, is pleased and proud to be able to make a small contribution to the success of such projects through its Small Grants Awards.

In closing, I note with sadness the passing of legendary former University of Adelaide History Professor Hugh Stretton.

Appointed Professor at Adelaide in his mid-30s, Stretton's work reached well beyond the field of history, into the political sciences, as well as influencing Australian and South Australian government policies, notably in the field of public housing. His decision to step down from his professorship, so that he could concentrate on teaching and research, showed a level of commitment to history that truly inspired a generation or more of students and his peers, during the heyday of the History Faculty at Adelaide University. Vale Hugh Stretton.

Yours, in history

*Andrew Buxton*

*President*

## What are you reading?

*Red Professor: The Cold War Life of Fred Rose* by Peter Monteath and Valerie Munt (Wakefield Press)

I always like a good spy story and couldn't put this book down. At first I warmed to the Cambridge graduate who settled in Australia in 1937 as a socialist and anthropologist dedicated to the study of Indigenous Australians. He would do anything to undertake fieldwork in remote places. As the authors remind us, 'the drama of Rose's life, seldom far from the surface, rapidly escalated as the twentieth century reached its halfway mark'. And so we follow his life in great detail wondering if he was ever a spy while in Australia for 20 years. This was the time of the Petrov affair and the Rose files held by ASIO were voluminous.

If he wasn't, one comes in for some rude changes of attitude. In the mid-1950s Rose went to live in East Germany where he became a professor of anthropology, and afterwards was recruited by the Stasi. You have to ask yourself what kind of person you are dealing with when he spies on his own family, visiting Australian friends, and other western visitors. In the end when he died in a reunified Germany all he had left was his socialist commitments, for he had given everything else up. A tale well told with the evidence of weighty research.

*Patricia Sumerling*

Readers are invited to share information on books they have been reading. The entries should be short, 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.

# Discovering SA's History

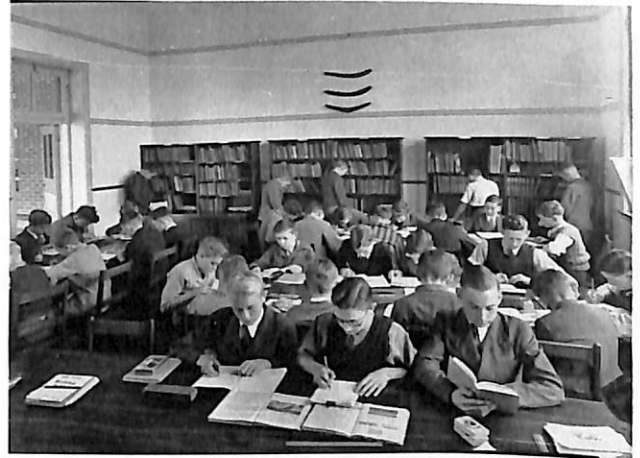
Friday 7 August, 7.30 pm

Andrew Buxton

**Change and continuity in the history classroom: the evolution of history teaching and the experience of students in the 1940s, the 1980s and today.**

By building snapshots of the classrooms in which children learnt history in the 1940s, the 1980s and today, we can better appreciate the purpose and impact of historical education on children's knowledge and understanding of the past. The teaching and learning of history in schools has changed dramatically, though at its core it remains the same. Beyond describing the features of the classrooms in these periods, this talk will attempt to explain why the changes happened, from the impact of technologies, to changes brought about by local, national and international events and trends in education.

Andrew became a history teacher in the late 1970s, following in the footsteps of his father Gordon, who started teaching in the late 1940s. He retired from the classroom in 2014, after 36 years as a teacher and administrator in schools in South Australia.



Andrew has held numerous offices across the history community, amongst them serving two terms as National and State President of the History Teachers Associations, Vice-President of the History Council, and he is currently President of the HSSA.

**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.**

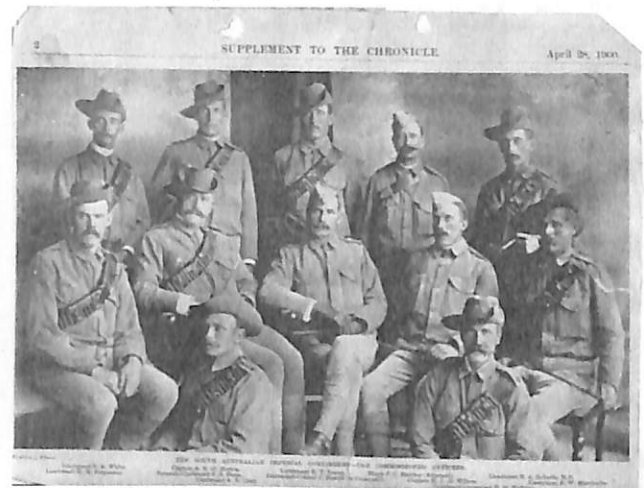
Friday 4 September, 7.30pm

Tony Stimson

## South Australia's First War: the Anglo-Boer War, 1899- 1902

By late 1899 the war in South Africa was going badly and to the amazement of the British public there was no end in sight. How could a handful of farmers, mostly of Dutch descent, defy the might of the British Empire? Hundreds of thousands of troops were committed to South Africa but the war was to drag on for two and a half years as the Boers waged a successful guerrilla campaign. Fiercely independent, armed with their Bibles and the latest Mauser rifles, and operating in free ranging commandos across the veldt, the burghers proved a difficult nut to crack.

Focusing mainly on the 230 men of the 4th South Australian Contingent, this illustrated talk looks at the experiences of the more than 1,500 South Australians who served in the war, overwhelmingly as mounted infantry. What sort of men volunteered? Why were they so keen to fight? How and where were they trained? What did they think of Africa, the landscape and the people? What role did they play in Lord Kitchener's ruthless campaign to bring the war to an



From *The Chronicle* 28 April  
1900: Commissioned officers of  
the South Australian Imperial  
Contingent

end? How did they react when ordered to burn Boer farmhouses? Is there a link with the Anzacs of 1915?

Dr Tony Stimson is a former Vice President of the HSSA and editor of the Newsletter. After gaining his PhD in History, Tony co-founded Eynesbury Senior College and other educational institutes in Adelaide. In his retirement, it was interest in the exploits of one of his grandfathers, Major A.E.M. Norton DSO, that spurred his research into the Anglo-Boer War and several trips to battlefields where the South Australians fought. Tony is particularly keen to meet descendants of the men who served in South Africa. His book on the 4th South Australian Imperial Bushmen will appear in 2015.

## *Grave Matters: A Tour of North Road Cemetery*

by Susan Marsden (July 2015)

### *Introduction and overview*

On 3 May, as an 'About Time' History festival event arranged jointly by the Professional Historians Association (SA) and the History Council of South Australia, Dr Susan Marsden guided a tour of a highly significant historic place, an evocative walled colonial cemetery in suburban Nailsworth near Main North Road. This is the North Road Cemetery. Even the name is suggestive of early colonial origins, and it was established in 1853 by South Australia's first Anglican bishop, Augustus Short.

In this tour Susan hoped to link popular interest in visiting old cemeteries with historical methodology. She drew on cemetery plans and histories, other research in Australian history, heritage, and family records, and visited headstones commemorating famous people, war veterans and her own ancestors. (*See also acknowledgements and a note on sources, below*).

North Road Cemetery is one of the oldest cemeteries in South Australia, established by the Anglican church within 20 years

of the founding of this British colony. 'North Road' (Main North Road) was the main road north from the new capital city of Adelaide to the pasturelands opening up beyond Gawler. The cemetery is a large rectangle lying between Main North Road and Derlanger Ave at Nailsworth. The rows, or 'paths', are numbered 1-51 (no 1 at the Derlanger Avenue end to 51 at Main North Road). They intersect a central tree-shaded avenue with a chapel at the centre. This spacious walled burial ground of 7.3 hectares (18 acres), was extended from the original two-acre (0.8 hectare) cemetery established in 1853 by Bishop Short, and is still maintained by the Anglican Diocese of Adelaide.

Augustus Short (1802-83) arrived with his family in South Australia in 1847. He oversaw the beginning of construction of St Peter's Anglican Cathedral in 1869, and was a founder and first vice-chancellor of the University of Adelaide in 1874. He resigned as bishop in 1881 and returned to England where he died in 1883. (Some of his children are buried at North Road Cemetery, including Charles Marryat Short). 'Short successfully accomplished the immense task of building up the Church of England in South Australia. His Tractarian churchmanship was divisive, but it proved to be a firm basis for the Church and imparted to the

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diocese of Adelaide its distinctive character.’-

Short was - characteristically - annoyed by the separation of denominations at South Australia's main cemetery, West Terrace Cemetery. He established a separate Anglican cemetery, that also served Christ Church in North Adelaide. The first grant of right of burial was to William Carter on 15 April 1853. Since 1989 with a name change from North Road Anglican Cemetery to North Road Cemetery, it has been 'open to people of all Christian denominations seeking a sense of history, heritage and serenity'. - Burial and memorial services are conducted at the Chapel of the Resurrection, consecrated in 1905. Napier Waller's fine mosaic was added in the 1960s above the altar. (The artist was also responsible for the Hall of Memory mosaic and stained glass windows at the Australian War Memorial).

The statement of significance for the cemetery on the South Australian State Heritage Register reads:

Established in 1853 and originally intended simply as the parish burial ground of Christ Church, North Adelaide, the North Road Cemetery eventually became the main Anglican burial ground to serve

Adelaide. Like West Terrace Cemetery, it is of exceptional State significance.

The cemetery has some of South Australia's principal pioneers, explorers and leaders buried within its bounds. Charles Hawker, Daisy Bates, the Mortlock family, the Bagot family, William Charles Belt and William Bakewell the lawyers, Sir Ross and Keith Smith, John Chambers, William Milne, Harry Butler and Jimmy Melrose are just a few of those whose remains lie there.

In its history and development it reflects the difficulties of the Anglican Church in adapting to a society in which there was to be no established church.

It contains many fine monuments, some of them unique, and many representative of the range of more elaborate and expensive monuments available in South Australia in the second half of the nineteenth century and early decades of the twentieth century.

The monuments contain much documentary evidence, some of it not

recorded elsewhere, of considerable importance to the history of the State. The cemetery also contains a fine, and in South Australia a rare, example of an Anglican cemetery chapel.

What can historic cemeteries tell us? Australian grave inscriptions supply information for local history, family history, biography and broader social history. They reintroduce women and children and obscure people into the historical record. They give information on Australian burial practices and rituals, such as the symbolism of headstone form and motifs, as well as details on site design and planning. The artwork on headstones is usually symbolic and may add to the text to illustrate the associations of the person buried.

Heritage studies combine biographical details with assessment of physical heritage, including, as at North Road, not only headstones, and the chapel but also the enclosing stone walls. Fencing the cemetery boundary served two main purposes. The walls formed a place of repose separated from daily traffic, and served a practical purpose in protecting graves from damage by wandering stock. Let's not forget that this was once a 'country' section and until well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century was surrounded mainly by

farmland. The walls enclosed a place visited by many thousands of mourners and other people. As Muller has written in his thesis on West Terrace Cemetery, this was a public place in a quite different way than today. The mainly British settlers aimed to create a landscape of order and beauty to befit the deceased's last resting place, influenced by views promoted in Victorian Britain and the need to establish appropriate social standards in the new colony. This involved not just religious and social rituals of grave visitation and personal remembrance but also the use of the grounds as a social gathering place, for walking and reflection. The cemetery was a more popular public destination than today, and the monuments and inscriptions acted as instructional texts, as we see at North Road Cemetery.

## Notable burials

There have been more than 26,000 burials since the cemetery's foundation. Andrew Boucaut notes '37 or so knights; explorers, judges, tragic and unexpected deaths'. There is, for example, a headstone 'In memory of Albert Clark, aged 23 years, who died from injuries sustained at the Rundle Street fire on Christmas Eve 1886. A noble sacrifice in the execution of his duty'. Helen, a volunteer at the cemetery, is compiling a list of information about every

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serviceman (over 680) in the cemetery. Twenty-one died at Gallipoli. A total of 112 names and details of servicemen and ex-servicemen buried here are provided on the RSL Virtual War Memorial website.

There are many notable internments, some of them detailed in several websites referring to the cemetery. As Australian Dictionary of Biography entries usually (but not always) include burial place, a search on 'North Road Cemetery' and variants brought up nearly 100 names of eminent Australians buried here. They include Daisy Bates, journalist, welfare worker and Protector of Aborigines - whose headstone was supplied by the Commonwealth; Henry John (Harry) Butler, an early Australian aviator - as evident in the headstone (while the sculpture of a plane has been stolen, his Red Devil plane is still on display at Minlaton); Thomas Worsnop, town clerk and author; Charles Rasp, discoverer of mineral deposits at Broken Hill and a founding shareholder of BHP; the Smith brothers, airmen Sir Keith and Sir Ross Smith; Richard Schomburgk, botanist and director of the Adelaide Botanic Garden; Harriet Stirling, joint founder of the School for Mothers and Mareeba Babies Hospital; and several premiers, pastoralists, ministers, scholars, footballers and cricketers.

### Family history - Hornabrook, Rutherford and Marsden

Amongst the burials are several generations of Susan's own Hornabrook and Rutherford family (maternal side) as well as her father, Bruce Marsden. Charles Soward Hornabrook was an architect, Anglican priest and Anglican Archdeacon of Adelaide. He was the eldest son of Charles Hornabrook (1832-1903), who emigrated in 1850 to join his father John in the new colony, and followed him as licensee of York Hotel in Adelaide (Charles Street in the city was named after him). Eliza Maria Hornabrook (nee Soward) was his wife, and Charles Soward (CSH), Lilla and Amy were three of their 10 children. Several of them are buried here. CSH and Anna (nee Newton) had five children: Len, Denys and Jean are buried or remembered here. Denys and his wife Mollie were Susan's grandparents.

Susan and her sister Alexandra recorded an interview with Denys and his sister Jean who vividly recalled the impact on the family of the death of their older brother Len during the First World War. Leonard Hornabrook died of injuries (killed in action) in France in 1918, where he's buried. He was a 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant, Leicestershire Regiment (as also listed in the War Memorial, on the corner of

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Kintore Ave/North Terrace, Adelaide). From the interview recorded with his niece Jean Hornabrook, Len joined up in October 1914, at first flew with Royal Flying Corps, and was then with the regiment in trenches in France where all the headquarters staff was gassed and Len died of gas poisoning.

Charles Hornabrook, who died in 1922, and Anna, who died in 1953, are buried at North Road. Jean Mary Hornabrook, his youngest sister, who died nearly 80 years after Len, is also buried here with her parents, attesting to the strength and longevity of family attachments. And memories, for Susan's great aunt Jean also recorded her memories of Len's death when Susan recorded an interview with her in the 1980s.

There are closer associations, including Jean and Len's brother Denys and his wife Mollie Hornabrook, Susan's grandparents, and alongside their grave, her own father Bruce Cecil Marsden (1923-94) who is listed in *Gravesecrets* as a Hornabrook, and was the husband of Elizabeth Ann nee Hornabrook (still alive), eldest child of Mollie and Denys. She too has given us a recording and many photos and papers, now in Susan's safekeeping, illustrating how all these sources of information can be combined in telling a family history.

## Acknowledgements and a note on sources

Thanks to History SA for co-ordinating yet another rich 'About Time' festival through May and the tour's PHA co-arrangers, Caroline Adams and Geoff Speirs, as well as the interested people who attended the tour, and discovered many of the featured headstones. I particularly wish to thank the Cemetery director Andrew Boucaut for his advice, cemetery plan, and presence on the Sunday. He would like to encourage individual visits as well as other historical tours. To arrange the latter, contact him on (08) 8344 1051 (office hours M-F 9-5), email: [nrcem@bigpond.net.au](mailto:nrcem@bigpond.net.au).

As Manning Clark said famously, an historian always needs a good pair of boots to walk on the place he wants to write about, and that was well-illustrated in this cemetery visit. At the same time 'desk-top' research is helped considerably by recourse to reputable Internet sites. Three invaluable websites used here were the online edition of the Australian Dictionary of Biography, the Australian Heritage Places Inventory, and *Gravesecrets*.

## Adelaide Hat Pins

*Register* 13 April 1912 p12 - 'HAT PINS AS WEAPONS. Most men will support the proposal of one Town Clerk of Adelaide to prohibit the wearing of dangerous hat pins – even if married members of the City Council may hesitate to vote for the suggested bylaw. The necessity for such a rule, however, is a cynical reflection upon the commonsense of the small section of the feminine members of the community whose thoughtless persistence in a foolish habit endangers the eyesight of inoffensive citizens, There is an element of humour in the spectacle of the eminently serious-minded City Fathers gravely considering a scheme to limit the length of ladies' hat pins. Presently, perhaps, some jester will request the Council to prevent the display by misguided youths of 'loud' socks, on the plea that those gorgeous adornments hurt the feelings of sartorially sober Adelaideans! Seriously, however, it is lamentable that trifling nuisances such as projecting hat pins, which could be abolished by the exercise of a little good sense, must be made the subject of a bylaw. Australia is already overburdened with mandatory 'thou shalt nots,' and the pin peril is not so great as the danger that people will eventually conclude that any action is morally permissible which is not specifically forbidden by law. Surely the fair inhabitants of the City of Culture are more enlightened than their Sydney sisters, who have compelled the municipal authorities to make a legal offence of a barbarous fashion which good taste and common humanity should alike urge them voluntarily to renounce. The matter, of course, hardly demands the intervention of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; but could not the City

Councillors, before passing the bylaw, suggest to their lady friends that the formation of an Anti-Hat Pin Society would accomplish the desired object! 'Fashion' has hitherto been responsible for many mad freaks; possibly diverted into a right channel by Adelaide ladies, it would thus render useful public service in decreeing that pins shall not project beyond the headgear, or that the objectionable point shall be protected by some suitable ornament. Still, whatever the remedy, the trouble is sufficiently genuine to require attention. Although scoffers may laugh, those who have had personal experience of the painfully piercing properties of a many inch hat pin agree that the joke is far too pointed for just appreciation. Better the sacrifice of a thousand fads than of one man's eyesight. However much the necessity for the proposed bylaw may be regretted, the Council will be justified in directing that 'no person shall, while standing or walking upon any street within the City of Adelaide, wear a hat pin so that the same may inflict injury if it come in contact with any other person upon such street.' Strong-minded ladies may regard such an enactment as another attack upon 'women's rights,' but the most ardent upholder of those 'rights' will hardly contend that the ladies have a right to scratch the faces of respectable citizens with dagger-like hat pins – ornaments turned into weapons. One foresees certain administrative difficulties--an arrested lady might, for instance, use the offending instrument upon her captor – but probably the mere passage of the bylaw would speedily abate the nuisance, even if the cynic be right in his dictum that 'from Eve downward, if you want a woman to do anything— tell her not to do it.'

# 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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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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