



No. 241 July 2017

From the Vice-President

At the time of our last HSSA Newsletter we were faced with a management crisis with the unexpected resignations of our President and Secretary and too few nominations for the Council. Questions were being asked about the future of your Society. Since that time, five new nominations were received for the Council and while we still have to appoint a President and Secretary this represents an exciting opportunity for the future.

With half of the Council being new this represents a great opportunity for renewal for your Society as we are able to review our activities with very fresh eyes and the encouragement of continuing Council members.

For over forty years the HSSA has served the people of South Australia and been able to present quality lectures to members and visitors alike. We have also been able to publish a Journal where the Editorial Committee has had to make decisions about which articles to leave out rather than what to include.

Now is the opportunity to review our other activities and challenges and the Council would welcome your suggestions so that we might be able to reflect what you, the members, want from the Society. Please feel free to communicate directly with me so that your suggestions can be discussed and contribute to the ongoing success and future of the HSSA. These are, indeed, exciting times.

Dr Adrian Brown

Discovering SA's History

Friday 4 Aug 7.30pm

Bernard Whimpress

Sundry Extras: Byways in Sports History

My start in writing/publishing began with a magazine/newspaper (*Football Times*) in 1975 and was followed by five years as editor of the *South Australian Football Budget* (1979-83) which gave me the chance to put around one million words into print. My first book, *The South Australian Football Story* was supported by my employer and my next, *Adelaide Oval Test Cricket 1884-1984* was a commissioned history.

Some books are offshoots – *Passport to Nowhere* – from my PhD thesis and *Chuckers* from *Passport*. Magazine articles develop into books. Some books are for academic audiences, some niche publishing I do is for special collectors. A number of mainstream publishers have supported my work, most notably Andre Deutsch/Carlton Books in the UK; Penguin, Allen & Unwin, Harper Collins, Hardie Grant and Rigby in Australia; and Wakefield Press and Axiom locally.

Dr Bernard Whimpress is a writer, historian and former curator of the Adelaide Oval Museum. Bernard has written, co-written and edited 29 books mainly on sport, including *The Official MCC Ashes Treasures* (4 editions), *Passport to Nowhere: Aborigines in Australian Cricket 1850-1939*, *The Greatest Ashes Battles*, *The Penguin History of Australian Cricket* and *The South Australian Football Story*. He published and edited the Australian cricket journal *Baggy Green* from 1998 to 2010.

In addition to his sports writing Bernard has co-authored two books on Adelaide heritage, written an 8000 word introduction to a book on the Heidelberg School, published articles on Aboriginal history, oral history, war history and psychohistory as well as journalism, essays, book reviews, obituaries and even a few poems for around 50 journals, magazines and newspapers in Australia and overseas.

Friday 1 Sep. 7.30pm

Madeleine Regan

**From the Veneto to Frogmore and Findon Roads:
Stories of Italian market gardeners, 1920s – 1970s**

An oral history project which features interviews with sons and daughters of market gardeners who arrived from the Veneto Region between 1926 and 1928 and farmed in Kidman Park and Flinders Park. Madeleine Regan began the project in 2006 and has recorded over 80 hours of interviews held by the State Library of SA. She has worked with members of the Veneto community in Adelaide on a number of public events. In 2014 with a heritage grant from the City of Charles Sturt she developed a website: venetimarketgardeners1927.net

The presentation will provide a historical context of the market gardens. It will focus on personal stories and

photos of direct descendants of the 19 'pioneer' Italian men and women who worked commercial market gardens in Adelaide's western suburbs. Madeleine will outline the history of the project.

In 2016 Madeleine began PhD studies at Flinders University. Her thesis analyses the group of Veneti market gardeners within the history of Italian migration to, and settlement in, South Australia. Madeleine is a former secondary humanities teacher. She is secretary of Oral History Australia SA/NT and has worked on oral history projects for the Adelaide City Council, City of Charles Sturt and the Port of Adelaide National Trust.

Contributing to SA's History

A FESTIVAL VIEW

Bernard Whimpress

This year's South Australian History Festival was bigger than ever with over 600 events. I won't claim to have set any Guinness Book of Records for attendance but I did visit 21 of them (including three of my own). We don't have darling buds of May but it was a good time to be out and about.

2 May, Book launch: *South Australians on the Eve of War*

Wakefield Press evening launch at the Migration Museum of new book on South Australian responses to the First World War. Emeritus Professor Eric Richards gave a rich summary of the book in launching it.

5 May, Norman Etherington, 'My North Adelaide Houses'

A fascinating afternoon talk at the North Adelaide Institute about houses the speaker occupied and owned in Strangways Terrace, Tynte Street, Brougham Court, Jeffcott Street and others. Etherington showed photographs of the present day houses and 100 years ago to give a sense of the changing historical context. The speaker made an amusing aside about the horror of contemplating living in Prospect as

his family grew although he managed to avoid that.

5 May, Don Hopgood, 'Jitterbugging With the Yanks'

An evening presentation for the HSSA's monthly meeting. Former deputy premier and still active trumpet player Hopgood's talk was lively detailing the Adelaide jazz scene, social history and the American influence which boosted the venues catering to the wild new dance form.

6 May, 'Pride, Passion and Propaganda'

A First World War exhibition of recruitment posters and patriotic buttons organised by Ron Blum at the Second Valley War Memorial Hall which was brilliantly captioned and displayed.



Curator Ron Blum at Second Valley

7 May, Bernard Whimpress, 'Adelaide Oval Sculptures'

My first tour which took in the various statues and monuments on the southern and eastern sides of the oval: Barrie Robran, Victor Richardson Gates, Malcolm Blight, Russell Ebert, Sir Donald Bradman, Jack Reedman and not forgetting Hercules.



Cheer Up Piano, Army Museum

7 May, Army Museum

Whenever I drive down Anzac Highway the sign advertising the Army Museum at Keswick Barracks beckons me in. The museum is a

traditional display of great artefacts – the best being the Cheer Up Piano. My only criticism is that it fails to ask why we have fought our wars?

8 May, 'Celebrating Fifty Years of Golf'

To Flagstaff Hill Golf Club to see this exhibition the highlight of which was the video directed by former History Trust museums manager (and long-time Flagstaff member) Geoff Speirs. The video features the most famous golf foursome to ever play in Australia – Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Gary Player and Bruce Devlin – at Flagstaff in 1967 and incorporates action film and photographs

9 May, Wynton Heading and Roger Woodcock, 'Talking Footy: A Night Out with the Boys'

A Power Point presentation at the St Peter's Town Hall depicting the Norwood Football Club's leading players over its 140 year history after which audience members were asked to select 'the greatest'. Candidates included 'Topsy' Waldron, 'Wacka' Scott, Jack Oatey, John Marriott, Bob Oatey, Michael Taylor, Michael Aish, Gary McIntosh and glad to note Phil Carman receiving a mention.

**10 May, Bernard Whimpress,
'Adelaide Oval: A Photo-
Document'**

My illustrated talk at the North Adelaide Institute concentrated on around 120 photographs of the ground I took in 2009 before the demolition of the western grandstands. I added extra black and white pictures to show changes in the fabric of the Oval's history. The main aim was to emphasise the charm and romance of the old ground.

12 May, 'Mt Osmond Golf Club: Ninety Years of Stories'

The Mt Osmond Golf Clubhouse (designed by architect Philip Claridge) is the finest in the state and 25 years since my last visit it remains as elegant as ever.



I also posed for a photograph in front of a display of hickory shafted clubs with a long-time member, remembering that each of us had started with hickories.

**13 May, Andrew Dearman,
'The Handmade Photographs'**

An enthralling demonstration of 19th century style photography (including processing) outside the Adelaide Central School of Art in the old Glenside Mental Hospital site.



Andrew Dearman

**14 May, 'Muriel Matters: A
South Australian Suffragette'**

Frances Bedford MP gave an absorbing illustrated talk at the Prospect Town Hall about the life of the South Australian-born suffragette who famously chained herself to the grille of the Ladies' Gallery in the British House of Commons in 1908. The talk covered wider issues of social justice.

16 May, 'Raggers and Radicals: Student Activity and Activism from 1880'

Exhibition in the Barr Smith Library featuring photographs, student publications and pamphlets showing student pranks and demonstrations from the light-hearted to those opposing war and other abuses of human rights.

21 May, 'Adelaide Oval Sculptures'

A repeat of the tour of 7 May.

21 May, 'Row Back in Time: A History of Torrens Rowing Club'

Exhibition of photographs, equipment, trophies and other memorabilia dating back to 1903 in the clubrooms just east of Jolley's Boathouse. Material was well arranged given the space had been used for a wedding reception the night before.

21 May, 'Government House Open Day'

Too many people trooping through the house taking selfies to enjoy properly so I made do with a brief circuit around the grounds. Chief item of interest was an antique Super Shell petrol bowser by some sheds out the back. What is the story behind that?

25 May, 'Baby Boomers Rock Adelaide'

This event held in the function room at Finn MacCool's (Norwood Hotel) was number 31 convened by former radio DJ Jim Slade so obviously the format is successful. The band was good but I was dismayed to find on arriving late (at 7.30) all but 10 of the audience seated as for a concert at large round tables. I had a few dances but a show that ended at 10pm was hardly rock n'roll.

26 May, 'George S Hutton: A Photographic Memory'

Well curated exhibition at 66 Commercial Road, Port Adelaide. Hutton was a professional photographer in the Port from the 1930s to the 1980s with studios in Glanville, Exeter, Semaphore, Port Adelaide and Largs Bay and items included a substantial range of pictures, plus interesting



artefacts including photographic books, manuals, antique cameras and processing materials.

27 May, 'He Shot the Sheriff: Crimes from the Archive'

An illustrated talk at the Metropolitan Hotel run by a State Records archivist beginning with early hangings, discussion of the building of the Adelaide Gaol, and continuing with fascinating stories of convict escapes, a murder at Government House and various bizarre crimes.

28 May, Adelaide Gaol History Day

I have to admit missing most of the 'history' by visiting on a damp

morning just after opening time of 10am. I love the atmosphere (albeit grim) at the gaol and captured around 100 photos before crowds arrive including one of a wreath placed on the grave of Elizabeth Woolcock (the only woman hanged in South Australia).

31 May, South Australian History Awards Presentation

The History Council's South Australian Awards at the Treasures Wall of the State Library and attended by SA Governor Hieu Van Le close the Festival. It turns out to be a good night for me and congratulations to other award winners, nominees and Festival organisers.

BOOK REVIEWS

Geoffrey Hindley

*Saladin: Hero of Islam [1976]
2016*

Pen & Sword Military Books

For peaceniks the reading of militaria is a necessary guilty pleasure. Organised violence has ever been part of the human panorama unfortunately. And on a boring day such literature can be counted on to deliver drama and pathos. Pen & Sword Books of Yorkshire cater to the armchair field-marshal pacifist and otherwise with sober aplomb.

Even in his own day in the 11th century Saladin fascinated all who encountered him, including his Western enemies, as much as his Moslem competitors. Chivalrous and politic, firm and dynamic, he was the very model of a Machiavellian Prince, astute in governance and military affairs, although not of course infallible. Of Kurdish origin, he was raised a gentleman and rose in his patron's service in Syria. Observers of that country's present tragedy would profit from reading this book for its geopolitical insights. Dispatched by his overlord to dominate his heretic Fatimid vassals in Cairo, Saladin carved out a dominion for himself, and maintained its independence before returning to

laboriously conquer a Syrian power base. His rule in due course extended from Western North Africa North to Mosul in Mesopotamia. Thereafter and only thereafter was he free to accomplish his religious mission to liberate Jerusalem from the Frankish barbarians who had conquered it with such disgusting slaughter a century before. A book to be highly recommended for elucidating one of the major figures of a major world civilisation still in being.

David Faber

Matthew Hughes

*Allenby & British Strategy in the
Middle East 1917-19*

1999 Frank Cass

This strategic study makes very clear that the framework in which Sir Edmund 'Bull' Allenby evolved his military thought and practice as a commander in Palestine was regional. His vision was not restricted to his provincial field of operations, but extended as far as Anatolia and Mesopotamia, from whence his Ottoman opponents drew their reinforcements and where the British Empire had strategic objectives. This realism enables us to see that Allenby's war was

a continuation of grand politics by other means, not an idealistic liberation of the Jews or Arabs, Moslem or Christian, from centuries of Ottoman misrule, as propaganda tended to portray it. In particular Allenby was increasingly charged with staking a British claim to Mosul in Iraq and its oil fields, not just creating a British military protectorate over Palestine. This was in terms of establishing facts on the ground to be horse traded at the peace table with Britain's covetous ally, France, anxious for imperial compensation for her grievous losses on the Western Front. The role of Allenby's forces in the seizure of Damascus on the road North, for example, would make little sense otherwise.

If this is the strength of the book, its weakness is the treatment of Allenby's victory at the 3rd Battle of Gaza, where Hughes plays the counterfactual armchair field marshal a trifle too much. Essentially he argues that Allenby would have destroyed the Ottoman 4th Army in Southern Palestine at first encounter, and penetrated further North by the end of the war, had he struck at Gaza rather than Beersheba, deploying the Desert Mounted column in pursuit after an artillery and infantry assault there. Yet Hughes admits that British Intelligence was not able to discern Ottoman dispositions

sufficiently to warrant such a strategy. Hence, after 2 failed attempts to take the beleaguered city by assault under a previous commander, Allenby elected to artfully envelop Beersheba in the Negev Desert and hammer Gaza with a destructive barrage supplemented by an infantry feint. He materially degraded the enemy before him, and although the pursuit from the Negev was hampered by the conditions, he obeyed his orders to take Jerusalem as a Xmas present for a British people brought up on the Bible and demoralised by years of trench warfare in France and the Low Countries. As Churchill is rumoured to have said, 'ifs do not make history'.

David Faber

Dear Mr Martin,
I've written a review of the book 'Line of Fire' by Ian Townsend, which you may care to run in the HSSA Newsletter.

Our History Group assisted Ian with his research, as the key people in the book came from Prospect, and hosted a book launch for him recently during History Festival.

Best Wishes,

David Kilner

Ian Townsend

Line of Fire

Fourth Estate 2017

Ian Townsend is a prize-winning journalist, documentary film maker and novelist, based in Brisbane.

In May 1942, five Australians, including three members of a family from Adelaide, were executed by the Japanese administration of Rabaul for espionage. Ian Townsend's fine book describes the circumstances leading up to this tragic event.

Prior to the War the area around Rabaul, then capital of the Australian territory of New Guinea, was extensively worked as coconut plantations, producing copra for export. Plantations were managed by European settlers including Australians. A woman from Prospect in Adelaide, Marjorie Manson, formed a relationship with one of the plantation owners named Ted Harvey and together with her 11-year old son Dickie and her brother Jimmy, went to live in Rabaul.

In January 1942, Japanese forces stormed ashore at Rabaul. Despite strong resistance by regular Australian army forces and the

local militia, the Japanese soon had the upper hand and took control of the city, establishing for themselves a strongly fortified base camp for the subsequent invasion of the New Guinea mainland.

After the invasion Harvey, the Mansons and another man fled into the jungle but were betrayed by a disgruntled local. When the Japanese captured them, they discovered the party possessed a revolver and a radio transmitter. At their court martial they were found guilty of espionage and sentenced to death, including young Dickie. A post-War inquiry found the court-martial fair and the executions lawful, but Marjorie's mother never discovered the truth and committed suicide in 1956.

Ian Townsend has brought together his skills as a documentary maker and novelist to create a gripping account of the Manson family's life leading up to the execution as well as the long shadow which these tragic events threw on the surviving members of the family in Australia.

David Kilner

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 books have been so good it has enabled the Shed Prize to be several books per raffle which gives the ticket holder a better chance of winning.

Looking forward to more books in 2017. If you need help to carry or collect please see Colin Deed at meetings or phone 8277 2953.

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Contributions to the Newsletter are always welcome. The deadline for submission of articles for the next Newsletter is Sunday 10 September.

The society website is up and running again. Consult it at www.hssa.org.au

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.