



# HISTORY SA

Newsletter of The Historical Society of South Australia Incorporated

No. 242 September 2017

## From the President's Desk

At the Society's well-attended September meeting we were engaged by Madeleine Regan's oral history project 'From the Veneto to Frogmore and Findon Roads'. Her project has involved collecting the stories of the Italian market gardeners of Adelaide's western suburbs who settled in the area soon after emigrating from Italy in the late 1920s.

This is relatively modern history but without this type of research the stories of the lives of these brave and hard-working people would so easily be lost. Even now, her informants are the children of the original migrants, the earlier generation having passed on. Madeleine's talk was given another dimension by having two of her 'case studies' co-presenting with her. Her engaging assistants were Frankie Ballestrin and Johnny Marchioro and they brought real Italian flavour to the talk.

The lives of the pioneers were undoubtedly hard but Frankie and Johnny considered that their families were lucky to have come to South Australia. Italy after World War I was impoverished and even moving half way around the world to a foreign land and culture had better prospects than staying in Italy.

A number of similar projects have been undertaken in recent years resulting in the publication of some valuable histories. Some of the stories recounted are harrowing to read and others are a celebration of life in a new country. If you have not seen these books do hunt them out – for instance, *We left – E partimmo: Narratives of the Sangiorgesi in South Australia* (Antonio Mercurio and Angela Scarino) and *Caulonia in the Heart – Caulonia nel cuore: The settlement in Australia of migrants from a Southern*

## From the President's Desk

*Italian town* (Daniela Cosmini-Rose and Desmond O'Connor).

Aside from Society events, there is presently considerable concern amongst researchers at the State Government's commercialisation of our Lands Titles System. A 40-year services agreement has been entered into with a private consortium. Leaving aside the politics of such a move, historians are waiting to see what it will mean for access to records for research purposes. Our LTO records are invaluable sources of information for both family and other historians. Many researchers have memories of waiting in queues to obtain bound title volumes, and now are able to access title information on-line. It remains to be seen if this will continue, either free or at cost.

It was good to see the letter to the editor in *The Advertiser* (1 September 2017) from Dr Susan Marsden, former State Historian and Chair of the History Council of South Australia. Dr Marsden has just returned from travelling in parts of Europe and was reflecting on how people there preserve and present their heritage to local and international visitors. What she saw and experienced gave rise to some lessons for South Australia. First, she wrote,

South Australians 'should be well-informed about and proud of their heritage, as are the Portuguese. Students should be required to learn about SA as well as Australian history and heritage'. Second, we should be taking note of the huge tourism drawcard that is provided in parts of Europe by world heritage listing. Tourism helps fund and promote heritage features (such as Alto Douro's remarkable terraced vineyards on the steep slopes of the Douro valley). We should be getting behind the current bid for listing of the Mount Lofty Ranges, a region of world significance in its own right.

We look forward to seeing members and visitors at our last two talks for the year, one on camels and Afghans and the other on Max Harris, poet, bookseller and commentator.

In closing, we are delighted to announce that Bridget Jolly has taken on the demanding role of the Society's Secretary.

*Geoffrey Bishop and Adrian Brown*

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)

Think about which SA history book you will nominate for the **Keain Medal** as the best published in 2017.

# Contributing to SA's History

## Can you help? Where is it?



This photograph appeared in Newsletter No. 240 May 2017. As mentioned, it was taken by South Australian artist Ronald Coudrey, probably in the 1960s. The 'For Sale' sign is not in focus but what is readable is the header stating that the building is *c1849 and is a former temperance hotel*. Well, we received a few suggestions as to where it is located and, in fact, the very first suggestion proved to be correct.

The building, now Heritage-listed, is at Aldinga and for many years was Hart's Temperance Hotel. It was built in about 1868 and from 1890 to 1920 was operated by Francis Hart as a temperance establishment.



This other photograph is from SLSA (B27772) and is captioned 'Hart's Temperance Hotel, 1880s'. Given the period of Hart's ownership it is more likely to be in the 1890s. The signage boasts 'Good Stabling'.

The photograph is quite delightful in its staging and begs the question, 'What is going on?' It could easily be an episode from a short story.

*The Cyclopaedia of South Australia* (Volume 2, 1909) states that Francis Hart came to Victoria from England in 1862 and removed to Aldinga in 1863 where he worked as a baker before establishing his own business, as a butcher. In 1890 he took over the Temperance Hotel which 'is a well-known and very popular resort for travellers, tourists, and summer visitors, being well appointed in every respect. It is situated about a mile from the picturesque beach at Port Willunga, where holiday-makers may enjoy bathing and fishing and other sea-side pursuits, being conveyed thither by traps, etc., from the hotel.' Francis Hart was a member of the Willunga District Council for 13 years, and was the chairman for five years.

Another photograph from c. 1909 shows the verandah roof painted in the then popular striped style, with the picket fence still in place.

*Geoffrey Bishop*

Don't forget the History Trust of SA's STATE HISTORY CONFERENCE 6 - 8 October at Immanuel College, Novar Gardens: *Hearts and Minds: Revaluing the Past*. See details at the Trust's website.

Fri. 6 October 7:30 pm

Dr Pamela Rajkowski  
OAM

**Elder's Innovation -  
Camels and Afghans:  
from Bikaner to Beltana  
and beyond.**

Pam Rajkowski won a Historical Society grant under the title "From Bikaner to Beltana, from Karachi to Port Augusta and Fremantle". This talk focuses on South Australia's leading role in the coming of Afghans and camels to Australia, and how that innovation forged the development of this colony, then others.

'The solution to the problem of finding suitable transport for inland exploration and travel was to bring in camels. As nobody at the time knew how to handle camels, cameleers were recruited to Australia as well. The introduction of camels and the so-called "Afghan" cameleers proved to be a turning point in the exploration and development of the Australian interior.' (Afghan cameleers in Australia: Australia.gov.au)

The author of several publications about these cameleers and other topics, Pamela Rajkowski is a new Society committee member.



Some of you will remember her very interesting walk around Adelaide and the West Terrace Cemetery in May 2016 in which places where Afghans lived, worshipped and were buried, were visited.

Pamela Rajkowski was born of Polish parents and educated in Catholic primary and secondary schools in Adelaide, after which she studied to become a secondary school teacher at Flinders University and Sturt College of Advanced Education. She has taught History, Geography, English, Social Studies and Health Education. Between 1979 and 1985 she travelled extensively in Australia for research and interviews relevant to the history of the Afghan cameleers. Other topics such as the Stolen Generation and the history of Beltana have engaged her since. For more information about Pam and her publications, see her website at [www.pamelarajkowski.com](http://www.pamelarajkowski.com)

Fri. 3 Nov. 7:30 pm

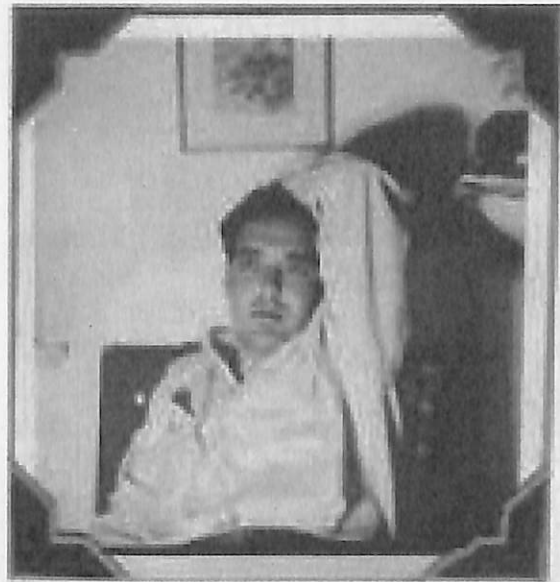
## Samela Harris and Peter Goers

### Max Harris: Celebrated poet, bookseller and commentator

For this occasion Samela Harris will be interviewed by the well-known public broadcaster Peter Goers about her famous father, the erudite and controversial Max Harris (1921-1995) who was the publisher of *Angry Penguins*, a poet, an arty bookseller, a commentator in a multitude of fields, and remembered for his role in the Ern Malley Affair.

At the 2017 South Australian Media Awards, Samela Harris was inducted into the Hall of Fame for Outstanding Contribution to Journalism. The judges said: 'Samela Harris is one of the pioneering examples of female professional journalists in Australia ...While Adelaide had a long tradition of social and society notes in newspapers written by women, it had few women who

**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.**



Max Harris

worked at the hard end of news reporting until 'Sa' came along'. She was the first non-social pages female writer at *The News*, and broke ground on stories such as the ban on women in front bars, the moratorium marches, and opposition to the death penalty. She was also the first female football columnist, so far as is known, anywhere in Australia.

Peter Goers OAM is a South Australian actor, director, reviewer and current host of the radio program 'The Evening Show' on 891 ABC Adelaide, which broadcasts throughout South Australia 'and to the Silver City of Broken Hill'.

This event will be followed by the **END OF YEAR PARTY**. (Buy food and drink tokens at the October meeting or on the night.)

# Discovering SA's History

## Sunday 8 October 1:30 - 3:30 pm Afternoon Tour: Dragon Trees and other gems of the Waite Arboretum

This tour will focus on the Dragon Trees and what is happening seasonally in the garden. Afternoon tea will be in the Rose Garden (BYO plate to share and hot water). The tour will commence and conclude at the Waite Arboretum. Parking available in Claremont Avenue, Netherby.

Tour cost: Members \$10 Non-members \$15

Bookings can be directed to HSSA Secretary by email to [secretary@hssa.org.au](mailto:secretary@hssa.org.au)

Alternatively, bookings can be made with Pamela Rajkowski (Tours/Booking Officer) at our monthly Lecture Meetings or phone 0400 810 196.

### SECOND CHANCE

If you missed Bernard Whimpress's address to the August meeting, entitled 'Sundry Extras: byways In sports history', or if you would like a reminder of it, you can now buy it as a booklet, published by WHIM Press. This is a canter through Bernard's career as a sports writer, and includes his poem 'A Footy Crowd'. To obtain a copy, contact the author at [bernardwhimpress@gmail.com](mailto:bernardwhimpress@gmail.com)

### BOOK REVIEW

David Sutcliffe

*The Keys of Heaven*

2010 Russell Press

Good biographies like this one of the Reverend Charles Latimer Marson (b. 1859) navigate the tricky waters that flow between hagiography and hatchet jobs. Marson emerges as an attractive even saintly personality with feet of clay, and an abstemious pipe-smoking asthmatic. Very intelligent, he could accordingly be arrogant, for example, suffering understandably ill the prevailing moralism and complacency of the well-to-do amidst oceanic Victorian poverty. He was temperamental and moody, perhaps even manic-depressive. He was irascible enough not to suffer fools gladly, especially superiors. Another historical and literary test passed by this work with flying colours is that it gives a convincing portrait of the psychology and intellect of a social individual, weaving subjectivity and objective circumstance into a convincing whole.

A son of the manse and a puritanical evangelical Clapham Sect mother of dour sensibility, Charles Marson grew up by reaction jovial and hedonistic, but imbibed the sect's abolitionist and social missionary tendencies. These twin humanistic drives were to see him live an extraordinarily full and necessarily eventful life in late Victorian and early 20<sup>th</sup> century England, crossing paths in his day with the Arts and Crafts movement, Fabians and folk song collectors, Morris dancers and Marxists, social imperialists and journalists. Authors with whom he associated or collaborated while early in their later-

## Contributing to SA's History

famous careers included George Bernard Shaw, Edith Nesbit, Olive Schreiner and Jerome K Jerome.

A consciously Christian Socialist who edited a newspaper of that name, and as such a coherently Socialist Christian, Charles, as his biographer calls him, was given to anti-puritan High Church doctrinal and liturgical principles, doubtless seen by him as congenially anti-fundamentalist. There was a good deal of revolutionary Christian evangelism in the air in his day in Protestant England, as in contemporary Catholic Italy and elsewhere in Europe. Christ was seen by not a few as a figure of Socialist sanctity by those partial to the Sermon on the Mount. Christianity was one influence along with Socialism on the early labour movement in South Australia. Negatively Charles repeatedly fell back in a secularising capitalist industrial era on religion, fearing that he 'could find nothing to be enthusiastic about'; and religion in Protestant England had been nothing if not a source of repeated waves of enthusiasm. The Tolpuddle Martyrs, it must be remembered, were Methodist trade unionists, and trade union chapters were long naturally referred to as 'Chapels', whose members were 'brothers' mentored by a 'Father'. More positively, Charles was much influenced by Bishop John Colenso, 'the first man who suggested to me that it was possible to be a Christian without being intellectually a coward or a shuffler'. This in the heroic days of early Socialism, when the question of religion was much debated among devotees of the new philosophy, with some seeking to make treasure of old traditions, and others, equally influential on the emerging labour movement, turning to secular orientations.

Charles grew to manhood as nothing if not an activist, or in Gramscian terms an organic intellectual, one of that most under-investigated of cadres both major and minor without whom grand intellectual producers of national culture would be but generals without armies. Of the lower middle class, he empathised with the downtrodden proletariat, the working poor and the destitute, taking their part straight after he came down from Oxford, still at this stage a training academy for a clergy not always without charitable vocation. There, too impecunious or too proud to indulge in the usual special coaching in the mores of the ivory tower, he had settled despite reading Philosophy and Classics for a 3<sup>rd</sup> class or pass degree in History in 1881. Afterwards he graduated as a clergyman's volunteer assistant to the mean streets of St Jude's Parish, Whitechapel, the infamous, overcrowded and unsanitary London home to working class myriads, including the prostitutes preyed upon later in the decade by Jack the Ripper.

Another aspect of interest to the South Australian reader is that Charles Marson emigrated and lived and worked amongst us as a curate at St Peter's, Glenelg from 1889, shocking the parishioners with a sermon in support of the striking London dockworkers. He married on 5 June 1890 at St Andrew's Church, Walkerville, the friend of a decade and an original blue stocking, Chloe Bayne, educated at Newnham College, Cambridge (which did not however venture so far as to actually award women degrees until 1948!). She had never kept house but with Charles' assistance rose to the occasion with a good will which betokens a healthy romantic and sensual attachment between them during their honeymoon year, evident in their letters home.

# Contributing to SA's History

Another indication of the sense of hearty fun and the breadth of this Englishman's sympathies, which extended to indigenous Australians, was that he sang on his honeymoon the 1798 United Irish rebel song 'The Wearing o' the Green'. He gave the song another rendition in public at a workingmen's club to boot. High Church Charles might have been, but he was evidently no Tory. The niceties of Anglican Church politics of the era are brought out by the author with telling detail. Apparently the fact that the bride wore no gloves at the wedding was symbolic that she was liturgically in sympathy with her husband. In South Australia Charles was a Henry George land tax advocate and founding President of the South Australian Fabian Society and as such an influential contributor to the milieu from which the United Labour Party was emerging in the late colonial era under Kingston's premiership. Ill health forced Charles and Chloe's return to England with their daughter Mary in 1892.

It must not be thought that such an energetic soul returned to England to retire, any more than he had relinquished his Christian Socialist views in Australia. That is not the way of the migrant. As such his early career must be sufficient account of his further career. Those who wish to fully appreciate the fine service David Sutcliffe has done us all may apply to the author  
[davidsutcliffe27@btinternet.com](mailto:davidsutcliffe27@btinternet.com)

*David Faber*

Contributions to the Newsletter are always welcome. The deadline for submission of articles for the next Newsletter is Sunday 6 January.

## 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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## 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 2017. If you need help to carry or collect, please see Colin Deed at meetings or phone 8277 2953.

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