



No. 244 March 2018

From the Acting President

South Australians are different from their neighbours in the other states, but I didn't need to tell you that.

Right from our white settlement beginnings we were doing things differently - no convicts, state aid was a lost cause, the Torrens Title system, the secret ballot, votes for women, the rise of the labour movement, willingness to disagree with the Federal Government over conscription or anything else, Thomas Playford taking control of electricity, being prepared to stand up against conscription again, and being prepared to take the consequences of opposing an unpopular war in Vietnam, to name a few.

We have a proud history of dissent and a willingness to stand up for a cause. Our dissenting history, particularly in the earlier years of the colony, saw progressive legislation. This was continued under Don Dunstan through the introduction of a range of legislation that was

certainly in keeping with our dissenting history.

For History Month (May) our guest is Dr Lynn Arnold: Quaker turned Anglican priest, educator, parliamentarian and Premier, and a leader in the campaign for peace in Vietnam. He is very well equipped to remind us of our history in the 60s and 70s in challenging the status quo of the time. Very South Australian for someone who was not born here!

As we march on into the 21st century we need to be continually challenged to look for the best and most significant parts of our history and to apply them to current politics.

What do they say about our willingness to look for alternatives to current political behaviours and to hold our leaders to account? What do those parts of our heritage say about reinforcing the directions that our political leaders want to take us? Do we remain committed to the needs of people or are we being seduced

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into accepting the whims of certain lobbyists?

It is up to each of us to decide how we appropriate our past and apply it to current circumstances. We may well disagree and that is fine as debate and discussion is the very essence of democracy.

Your Historical Society presents topics that both remind us of our past and also challenge us into the future, and we invite you to be a part of it each month as we ponder, think and act on our rich history.

Don't forget to put in your nominations for the Keain Medal for the best book on South Australian history, and they are due by 6 April, and you can find nomination forms on our website or in this Newsletter (page 7).

Similarly, don't forget to think about nominating for the Council of the Society. Nomination forms will be available at the April meeting. We will need, at least, a President and Vice-President.

Dr Adrian Brown, Acting President

Consult the website of the Historical Society of South Australia at www.hssa.org.au

PROGRAM DISTRIBUTION

Now that we are in a new venue, Burnside City Uniting Church, with padded chairs, good sound, easier-to-see screen, separate supper area, and parking on site makes me think about our members, new members and potential visitors who are missing out. The February meeting was very promising with 124 attending, and which showed there is room for more. Ten of those attending took this year's programs totalling 225 for distribution to such places as the East Torrens Historical Society, City of Adelaide, Brighton Historical Society, North Adelaide Library, St. Peters Area and Library, University of the Third Age, Blackwood and Environs, Uniting Church Historical Society, Immanuel College, Northern Areas Historical Group, Stirling Library, Payneham Library and the State Library. Committee members have taken approximately 150, and we posted 216 with the January newsletter, for a total of 590. This leaves approximately 1400 to be distributed. We need your help in distribution. Programs are in bundles of 10 and available at our Friday evenings 'Discovering SA's History', or phone Colin Deed 8277 2953, or email candahuckel@bigpond.com for arrangement to collect, or for Colin to deliver or post to you.

Wakefield Press, our generous sponsors, have their premises at 16 Rose Street, Mile End. Their telephone number is 8352 4455.

From the Acting 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 4 May 2018 at the Burnside City Uniting Church.

Nomination forms for the following office bearer positions are available from the Secretary: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Council Members.

The Maurice Keain Medal for 2017's best book on SA history will be presented at the meeting.

For further information please contact the Secretary (contact details on the final page of this Newsletter).

Adrian Brown, Vice-President and Acting President

HISTORY MONTH: MAY

In 2018, South Australia's History Festival will have something for everyone, with all kinds of events - tours, talks, walks, exhibitions, concerts and more - about all kinds of history. The full program will be released in *The Advertiser* on Saturday 7 April, and will then be available soon after in libraries, visitor information centres and from event organisers. This Society's contribution to the Festival will be the talk on 4 May by Lynn Arnold: 'Raggers and Radicals'.

REMEMBERING MAGGY RAGLESS

The City of Mitcham is honouring the late Maggy Ragless by instituting a local history grant in her name. Many of us remember Maggy and her devotion to local history; she was the City's historian from 1986 to 2012. Individuals and groups based in Mitcham are encouraged to apply: details are at

<http://www.mitcamcouncil.sa.gov.au/page.aspx?u=1895>

Friday 6 April 7.30 pm

Perry Snodgrass

Why artists came to 'The Land of Promise' during 1836 and 1837

Perry Snodgrass will start the talk with the atmosphere in England at the time. The First Reform Bill, the industrial revolution and the growth of the middle class.

Parliamentary debates argued that the formation of the National Gallery in London would provide educational benefits to artists and that art would have a civilising effect on the general public. It was widely believed that art would elevate and refine the working mass and keep them out of the alehouse. These beliefs informed the founding fathers of South Australia who were looking for sobriety and respectability, and people with art training would have been deemed ideal candidates for immigration.

The speaker will introduce her five artists: Colonel William Light, who arrived on the *Rapid*; Mary Hindmarsh, the Governor's daughter who came with her family on the *Buffalo*; and gentleman artist / lawyer John Michael Skipper who arrived on the *Africaine*. In early 1837 sisters Martha Berkeley and Theresa Chauncy Walker came with Martha's husband, Captain



William Light, 1786–1839, Mr Bate's tent, Neptune Bay, Kangaroo Island, 1836, Kangaroo Island, watercolour on paper
21.6 x 31.1 cm; Courtesy of the State Library of South Australia, Adelaide PRG.1.1.182

Charles Berkeley RN on the *John Renwick*. There will be images of their work that show their first glimpse of their new home and the everyday life of early South Australia.

This talk is selected from an Art History Master's thesis completed in 2013 at Adelaide University. Moving to Adelaide in 2007 opened up new opportunities. Having practiced as an artist in Daylesford, Victoria, Perry enrolled at the Adelaide Central School of Art and gained an Associate Degree in Visual Art in 2009. Fascinated by the art history component of the course, she continued to study Art History at Adelaide University. In 2014 she published a historical novel *Against the Tide*. It is a story of her convict roots in NSW.

Friday 4 May 7.30 pm

Lynn Arnold

Raggers and Radicals: Uni in the 1960s and 1970s

'In the 1950s and 60s crowds of thousands would turn out to watch the lunch hour Procession Day marches of 30 or more floats, typically of a political bent. The floats, along with the Prosh rag published from 1954, often veered into questionable taste of giant phalluses and sexual innuendo, while exuberant student rowdiness approached larrikinism with smoke bombs, theft of road signs, and vandalising of street lights ...

'The late 1960s and early 1970s saw a rise in radicalism amongst the world-wide student population, and Adelaide campaigns were mounted against the Vietnam War, racism and apartheid, the treatment of Aboriginals, capital punishment, nuclear warfare, and university administration and education ...

'A public image of radical students as long-haired, drug addicted, promiscuous, pseudo-intellectual ratbags with hippie clothing and suspect personal hygiene has been countered in Ann Draper's thesis which found that many Adelaide activists were academically successful and



A demonstration in 1969.

morally concerned students who graduated to become useful and skilled members of society.'
(Extracts from the 'Raggers and Radicals' exhibition at the University of Adelaide, 2017)

The Rev. Dr Lynn Arnold AO has had a distinguished and varied career, including his premiership of SA during 1992-93, having been a Labor MP since 1985, and work later at a high level for World Vision and Anglicare. In 2014 he was ordained a priest in the Anglican Church.

As a young man in the 1960s and '70s, Lynn was notable for his involvement in radical activity, especially in opposition to Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. His capacities as a public speaker were well to the fore even then.

All lecture meetings commence at 7.30 pm on the first Friday of the month at the Burnside City Uniting Church, corner of Portrush Road and Fisher Street, Tasmore.

What are you reading?

Gerald Horne

The Counter-Revolution of 1776, New York University Press, 2014

The American Revolution of the late 18th century which established by a bitter war of independence the modern United States has generally benefitted from a good historical press. The Declaration of Independence itself has traditionally been seen as a precursor to the Declaration of the Rights of Man of the great French Revolution and thus as a document of fundamentally democratic tendency founded on the principle of No Taxation Without Representation. The failure of the Declaration of Independence to address the institution of human chattel slavery on which the socioeconomic structures of so many of the rebel colonies were based has tended to be seen as a peculiar anomaly given this benign reading of the origins of the United States of America.

Gerald Horne fundamentally questions this received opinion. If by Revolution we mean a progressive historical moment, he queries whether the movement which broke out in the 1770s was a revolution at all. Rather he sees it as a preventive counter-revolution, a reactionary attempt to forestall the abolitionism ascendant at the imperial level. That the American Revolution was led by a colonial oligarchy and supported by bourgeois popular interests few would doubt. Horne focusses on the colonial history of the all-pervasive 'peculiar institution' to undermine the unalloyed account of the supposed democratic tendency of the revolutionary movement. Why he asks, for example, were negro slaves typically supporters of the Crown rather than the rebels?

Horne finds the roots of this contradiction in the colonial history of the slave trade in relation to the wars for control of North America which were a feature of the 18th century. As the pretensions of France and Spain were progressively liquidated, the 'independency' of the slave-holding colonial ascendancies was, from an imperial point of view, exacerbated. The advent of abolitionism in the metropolis of empire created political estrangement which threatened in contradictory ways centre and periphery of the British imperial system.

Horne has certainly written a book which overturns facile celebration of the American Revolution and its legacy. It lays a basis for the history of the unresolved racial tension in the United States and the ambiguity of its relation to democracy in domestic and foreign affairs. The detail of his examination of 18th century colonial affairs in the Caribbean and mainland North America is the great strength of his argument, which is historically sound, and by no means dogmatic or meta-theoretical. While his prose style is at times a little idiosyncratic, such occasional literary flaws never substantially undermine the historical fascination of his argument. If there is any justice in the historical community, the history of the American Revolution will never be the same. Certainly any democratic tendencies it may have had should never again be mentioned in isolation from countervailing counter-revolutionary tendencies.

David Faber

Readers are invited to share information on history books they have been reading. The entries should be short, giving title, author, publisher and a comment on why you like the book.

Contributing to SA's History

The Historical Society of South Australia Inc.

Nomination for The Historical Society of South Australia's **Keain Medal** for the South Australian Historical Book of the Year for 2017.

Background: The Keain Medal is sponsored by Maurice Keain, a foundation member of the Society and past Council member and Vice-President and dedicated SA history publications collector.

Making a nomination: We invite members to nominate books relating to South Australian history and biography published during the past calendar year (2017). Please submit a separate form for each book you wish to nominate. It would be helpful if you could complete the form as fully as possible.

Please send your nomination(s) to Keain Medal Awards Committee, Historical Society of South Australia, PO Box 519, Kent Town SA 5071 or bring to a lecture meeting. Entries close at our meeting on Friday 6th April 2018.

The winner will be announced and the Keain Medal presented at our History Festival Monthly lecture on Friday 4th May 2018.

Title of Book:
Name of Author/s:
Publisher:..... Year of Publication: 2017
Brief description of the subject:

No of pages:; Illustrated? Yes/ No; Casebound? Soft covers?
Lists references?: Yes / No; Indexed?: Yes / No
Have you read the book? Yes / No

If you have read the book: Please comment on the following:
In what ways does this book contribute to existing knowledge on its subject?

What evidence is there of breadth and depth of research on the subject?

Any other comments (please continue on a separate page if insufficient space):

Please use the scale below to rank this publication in terms of its (1) contribution to existing knowledge, (2) the quality of the research and (3) the quality of its writing.
Recommended Strongly recommended Outstanding

Name of nominator (required):
Contact (telephone or email address):

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 several books per raffle which in turn gives the ticket holder a better chance of scoring a prize. Looking forward to more books in 2018. 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 6 May.