

No. 251 May 2019

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

The annual History Festival throughout May gives South Australians and visitors many opportunities to learn about and reflect on how individual South Australians showed courage and overcame various challenges - economic, social, cultural, political, scientific, mechanical and environmental - to be innovative and ultimately and altruistically aiming to improve the quality of life for future South Australians and in the wider world. It is good to recall some of the original mechanical inventions.

Throughout 2019 events and exhibits will commemorate the achievement of two Adelaide boys who as pilots, in 1919, defied gravity to fly for the first time 14,000 miles from England to Darwin in an open-cockpit plane that variously exposed them to snow, sleet, hail and unbearable heat, on a dangerous and unpredictable flight route. In a visit to free ongoing exhibits, such as that of the Smith brothers and their epic flight, at the Display Wall of the State Library of South Australia, you can witness diverse significant developments and achievements of South Australians.

John Ridley, an English miller and landowner, lived in South Australia from 1839 to 1853. The area of land under farming in the colony was expanding to both feed the settlers and meet

export demands to England. A shortage of labour in 1842 was so severe that Governor Grey appealed to England for more migrants. To help overcome the crisis in the colony Ridley invented the first stripper in 1843-4, the world's first 'mechanical grain harvester'. This machine revolutionised wheat harvesting and resulted in an increase in wheat-growing in South Australia, boosted good quality wheat production, and reduced the number of labourers needed to harvest the crop. See a fascinating model of his machine in the Economic Botany building at the Adelaide Botanic Gardens.

To meet demands for food and export production colonial farming expanded into the mallee country. The root systems of the mallee eucalypts were hard to remove and cultivation of this country was difficult. In 1878 blacksmith and farmer Richard B. Smith invented the 'stump jump plough' which during cultivation allowed the plough to ride over roots and rocks remaining in the soil. The 'Vixen' plough was improved in association with his brother Clarence H. Smith and commercially manufactured on Yorke Peninsula.

David Unaipon (1872-1967) of the Ngarrindjeri people was a student, preacher and inventor at the Point McLeay Mission. He was a highly intelligent person and after a day's work

remained up until the small hours of the morning deep in studying Sir Isaac Newton's works. By 1909 he had designed a 'sheep-shearing comb', an innovation that revolutionised sheep shearing in an industry that earned enormous income for Australia. His portrait is on Australia's \$50 note.

Many South Australian innovators are permanently commemorated. There is, for instance, a statue of the radical social reformer Mary Lee on North Terrace; Indigenous leaders are remembered in their achievement of the Tandanya cultural centre on Grenfell Street and the event of National Reconciliation Week 27 May – 3 June; and Sir Thomas Elder who imported camels enabling the expansion of the colonial transport system and boosted resource production and exports is celebrated by a statue on the University of Adelaide North Terrace campus and in Elder Hall and a park named for him.

At the Society's May meeting, Adelaide authors Robert Foster and Paul Sendzluik were awarded the Historical Society of South Australia's Keain Medal for their highly commended book, *A History of South Australia*. Congratulations to the authors for their valuable contribution to recording our history.

At the meeting the proposed changes to the Society's Constitution (see the March Newsletter) were approved.

Also at the May meeting, the following persons were elected as Officers and Council members for the year 2019-20:

President: Pamela Rajkowski OAM

Vice-President: Dr Geoffrey Bishop

Secretary: Dr Bridget Jolly

Treasurer: Anne Bowman

Council Members: Dr David Faber, Dr Jenny Hein, Robert Martin, Lyn O'Grady, Patricia Sumerling.

We look forward to seeing members at coming meetings and field visits.

Pamela Rajkowski

We have a new website! Check it out at <https://.historicalsocietysa.wordpress.com/>

Thanks to Jenny Hein and Bridget Jolly for their good work setting up this website.

For voluntary service across many years, a thank you doesn't seem to be enough:

Dr Brian Dickey has retired from the Editorial Committee overseeing the production of the Society's annual Journal. We are grateful to him for his many years of support at this and other tasks. His replacement on the committee is Dr Jenny Hein.

Thanks also to **Margaret Cliff** who has retired from the Society's Council, also after a long period of service. In recent years we have been especially grateful to her for being in charge of the suppers at the general meetings, and for helping to prepare the Newsletter for posting.

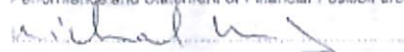
A gentle reminder that subscriptions were due in January. If you have not attended to this matter, please do so promptly.

The Historical Society of South Australia Inc		
Statement of Financial Performance		
Financial year ending 31 December 2018		
	2018	2017
Income		
Subscriptions	\$8,759.00	\$8,060.00
Credit Card Surcharge	\$46.00	\$67.00
Donations received	\$1,107.00	\$992.00
Newsletter/Journal/Book/Tape Sales	\$165.00	\$94.00
Grants & Tax (Franking Credit refund)	\$6,184.00	\$0.00
Raffle Income	\$649.45	\$716.80
Field Trip Income	\$293.00	\$80.00
Fundraising Events	\$551.00	\$631.00
Interest Income	\$20.22	\$29.81
Dividend Income	\$12,827.86	\$12,079.52
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$30,592.53	\$22,749.93
Expenses		
Newsletter	\$1,642.30	\$1,424.42
Journal	\$6,692.80	\$5,183.29
Storage	\$1,044.00	\$1,104.00
Miscellaneous expenses	\$45.00	\$920.10
Postage	\$1,865.73	\$1,338.67
Administration expenses	\$743.65	\$307.76
Brokerage Expenses	\$1,307.61	\$0.00
Office Holders Expenses	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Insurance	\$1,414.33	\$1,354.33
Publicity	\$1,121.07	\$235.00
Grants	\$500.00	\$3,350.00
Meeting Expenses	\$2,442.34	\$2,745.10
Field Trip Expenditure	\$255.00	\$0.00
Bank Charges	\$80.24	\$402.47
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$20,654.07	\$19,865.14
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$9,938.46	\$2,884.79

The Historical Society of South Australia Inc		
Statement of Financial Position		
As of 31 December 2018		
	2018	2017
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank	\$15,347.69	\$11,185.26
Shareholdings at Market Value	\$238,362.43	\$259,605.08
Prepaid Expenses	\$1,259.86	\$1,292.03
Total Current Assets	\$254,969.98	\$272,282.37
TOTAL ASSETS	\$254,969.98	\$272,282.37
Liabilities		
Revenue Received in Advance	\$2,270.00	\$1,475.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$2,270.00	\$1,475.00
NET ASSETS	\$252,699.98	\$270,807.37
Equity		
Retained Earnings	\$185,841.00	\$183,956.21
Investment Reserve - Revaluation	\$55,920.52	\$83,966.37
Current Year Surplus/(Deficit)	\$9,938.46	\$2,884.79
TOTAL EQUITY	\$252,699.98	\$270,807.37

AUDITOR'S REPORT

I report that I have audited the Books and Records of the Historical Society of South Australia for the year ended 31 December 2018. In my opinion, the above Statement of Financial Performance and Statement of Financial Position are properly drawn up and present fairly the state of the Society's affairs and its results for the year ended on that date.



Michael H Hissey (BA Acc, CPA)

25/4/2019

Friday 7 June 7.30 pm

Professor Derek Abbott

Who was the Somerton Man? A tour of South Australia's unparalleled historical mystery.

In 1948 a man was found dead on Somerton Beach and to this day he remains unidentified. To add to the mystery no cause of death was found. He had an athletic physique, and was wearing a smart suit. This presentation will review the mystery in its historical context and what we know to date. A number of open questions for historical research surrounding the times will be outlined.

Derek Abbott is a professor of engineering at the University of Adelaide, who also has an interest in historical research. He has studied the Somerton case for a little over 10 years. His research interests lie in complex systems, biomedical engineering, engineering forensics and forensic genealogy. He won a 2004 Tall Poppy Award for science, the 2015 David Dewhurst Medal for biomedical engineering, the 2018 Barry Inglis Medal for measurement

science, and the 2019 M. A. Sargent Medal for eminence in engineering.

Somerton Beach Body Mystery

Twenty people called or telephoned police headquarters last night to identify the body found on the Somerton Beach last Wednesday, but the man still remains unidentified.

A Blackwood woman reported to the police that she believed that the man, aged about 40 was her husband who had been missing from home for more than a week.

Police have arranged for the woman and a number of people from other districts to view the body today.

It is now believed that the man took poison on the beach on Tuesday night, having pre-

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.

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

Friday 5 July 7.30 pm

Reverend Dr Brian J Chalmers

Revivalism within South Australian Methodism 1838-1939: Persuasive, Positive and Pragmatic

In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Methodism was arguably the most vigorous religious group in South Australia with the largest body of regular church attendees and Sunday school enrolments. A handful of Methodists were present at the commencement of the colony in 1836. By 1900, self-described Methodists comprised 25 per cent of the state's population, and hovered around the same figure through to 1939. At the end of the nineteenth century, Methodism was the largest non-Anglican Protestant religion in South Australia. This talk explores some trends and challenges that helped to make this century of growth possible.

Brian Chalmers is a graduate of the Royal Military College, Duntroon and served in the Australian Army and Royal Australian Air Force. As an ordained minister, his appointments included parish minister and church planter. His recent doctoral research at Flinders University was on



FIG 280/171453 State Library of South Australia

Methodists and revivalism in South Australia, undertaken in retirement.

Man is not a machine that can be remodelled for quite other purposes as occasion demands, in the hope that it will go on functioning as regularly as before but in a quite different way. He carries his whole history with him; in his very structure is written the history of mankind.

Carl Jung

A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history.

Mahatma Gandhi

Meet the Old Colonists: Victorian-style

When Emanuel Solomon announced that he would give a banquet at the Adelaide Town Hall on 28 December 1871 for his fellow 'old colonists' he unwittingly set in motion the creation of a series of photographic mosaics that depict 1730 of South Australia's Old Colonists.

In 2007 the State Library of South Australia embarked on a multi-faceted project to preserve and digitise these mosaics and to identify the men and women depicted. The images are now online - most for the first time.

This, the seventh article in the series 'Meet the Old Colonists', highlights the significance of the South Australian mosaics by introducing the only other comparable work in Australia.

In Australasia the term 'Old Colonist' was generally associated with free settlers who arrived in the first few years of a British colony. It had particular currency in South Australia, as an entirely free settlement. Here, the term 'Old Colonist' originally meant someone who arrived before the first economic crisis culminated in 1841, and stayed when many others left the colony and immigration plummeted in 1842 and 1843.¹

The term also had currency in Victoria, which had a limited intake of convicts. The relative significance of the status of 'Old Colonist' is indicated by searching on the term in digitised Australian newspapers.



"old colonist"~0

Search

▼ Place

- South Australia (48,014)
- Victoria (46,566)
- New South Wales (17,979)
- Queensland (9,025)
- Tasmania (7,694)
- Western Australia (6,797)
- Northern Territory (122)
- ACT (52)
- National (5)
- International (2)

Search results trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper, 14 April 2019

The Old Colonists of both South Australia and Victoria began celebrating their status in the 1850s. In Adelaide, a public holiday was proclaimed on 27 March 1851 to commemorate the first sale of town land in 1837. A committee, chaired by James Hurtle Fisher, was formed to organise an Old Colonists' Festival. It included a dinner for over 700 held in a massive tent at the rear of the City-Bridge Hotel, Morphett Street.²

began preparing a photographic memorial 'of all the old colonists of standing and position from the first year of settlement, 1835, to the end of 1842'.⁵

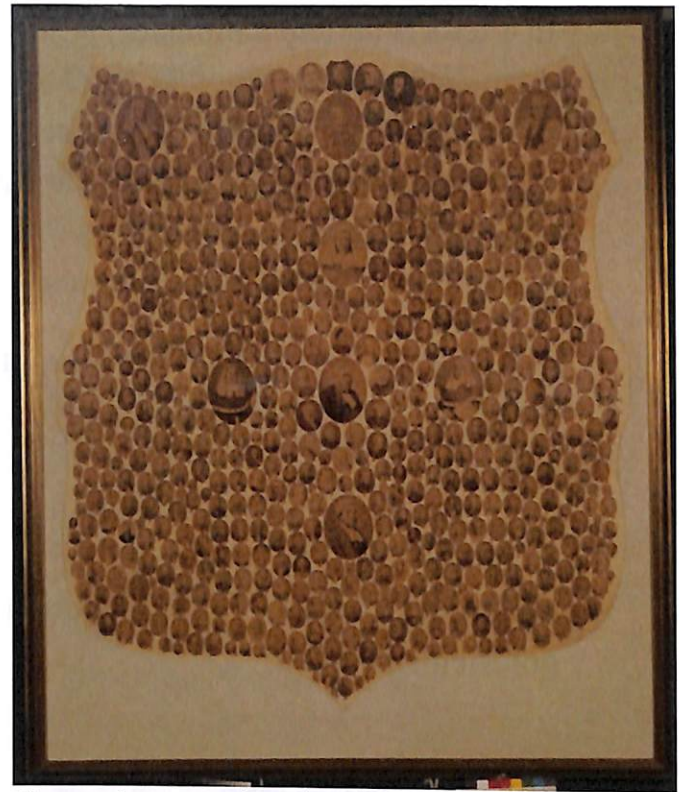
William Lockhart Morton, who arrived at Port Phillip in 1841 and became a pastoralist, explorer and inventor, was credited as the originator of the idea, but the Association was also involved. Chuck was supplied with a list of 600 names, including deceased and absent old colonists.⁶

When the mosaic was completed in late 1872 it measured six feet in height (183 cm) and contained 713 likenesses. As Jack Cato, pioneering historian of Australian photography, noted,

From the historian's point of view it was a magnificent effort, but let us also view it from the financial angle, for Chuck was a business man...⁷

While Chuck borrowed and copied images of unavailable colonists, the local living were invited to his studio in Melbourne's Royal Arcade. Sittings were free, but 'at a reasonable estimate Chuck received a thousand pounds' worth of orders' from his sitters for prints of their individual portraits.⁸

Then, when his huge mosaic was complete, he copied it on a 15 x 12 [inches] plate and sold prints from it,



The explorers and early colonists of Victoria by Thomas Foster Chuck, 1872, SLV H5056

at one guinea each. Who could resist this composite picture showing father in such important company? It was Victoria's 'Debrett'.⁹

Did news of Chuck's project inspire Emanuel Solomon to commission Adelaide photographer Henry Jones to commemorate the Old Colonists' Banquet with a mosaic? Chuck's work was conceived in 1870 and took three years to complete; Jones's was made in six months between January and June 1872.¹⁰

Certainly no previous mosaics constructed in Australia contained more than a few dozen portraits. Those depicted also had more specific associations; such as members of a legislative council, business or choir.

Chuck had no imitators in Victoria. South Australia too may have only had Jones's single Old Colonists mosaic if it had not been for the competitive spirit of his former employer, Townsend Duryea.

Duryea had been South Australia's pre-eminent photographer since he arrived in Adelaide from America, via Melbourne, in 1855. He may have been aggrieved that Solomon chose Jones to create the Banquet Group, but like Chuck he also recognised a business opportunity.¹¹

On 9 January 1872, less than a week after Solomon's first advertisement inviting old colonists to have their portraits taken by Jones, Duryea began his own newspaper campaign, stating his intention to create a large group picture of the pioneers of South Australia. By October he was marketing the availability of multiple mosaics reproduced in many sizes.¹²

Jones did not follow Duryea's entrepreneurial example, but, as Cato expresses it, he

did something very important that Duryea did not do – he photographed all the pioneers' wives, and set them up in a similar mosaic.¹³

Whether the State Library of South Australia's Old Colonists' mosaics are the result of simultaneous invention or imitation, the result is a

collection that is unique in size and scope in Australasia.

Beth M Robertson

State Library of South Australia

¹ Solomon's invitation to his 'Old Colonists' Banquet' was to 'all those ... who dated their arrival before 1841', *South Australian Register*, 16 December 1871, p. 2.

² Account of the dinner – *South Australian*, 28 March 1851, p. 3.

³ Sally O'Neill, 'Coppin, George Selth (1819–1906)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*.

⁴ Frances O'Neill, *A place of their own: the Old Colonists Homes in Victoria*, Melbourne, Victoria, 2005, p. 10.

⁵ *The Age*, 4 August 1870, p. 2.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *Bendigo Advertiser*, 7 December 1872, p. 2; Jack Cato, *The story of the camera in Australia*, Melbourne, 1955, p. 60.

⁸ Cato, p. 61.

⁹ *Ibid.* In 1880 Coppin, representing the Old Colonists' Association, donated the original work to the Public Library (State Library of Victoria), *The Age*, 14 February 1880, p. 5.

¹⁰ *Evening Journal*, 12 June 1872, p. 1. 'The Old Colonists Banquet Group' by Henry Jones, SLSA B 47769 is 131 cm in height (framed) and contained 444 portraits in its original form. A later owner added 71 more portraits.

¹¹ R. J. Noye, 'Duryea, Townsend (1823–1888)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*.

¹² *The Express and Telegraph*, 9 January 1872, p. 2; *ibid.*, 16 October 1872, p. 4. Duryea's largest work, 'Old Colonists 1836–40', SLSA B 8235/1, is 170 cm in height (framed) and contained 735 portraits in its original form. Twenty-seven portraits in the upper left section are missing due to damage when Duryea's studio was destroyed by fire on 18 April 1875.

¹³ Cato, p. 173. Jones's 'Group of [women] Old Colonists', SLSA B 19985, is 131 cm in height (framed) and contains 598 portraits.

WARTIME FOOTBALL IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

by Dr Graeme Turnbull

The admission of the Glenelg football club in 1921 brought membership of the South Australian Football League to eight clubs, a situation that was to continue for the following 21 seasons, but Australia's involvement in the Second World War brought a significant and unique change.

The Second World War had an immediate impact on every aspect of Australian life and organised sport was no exception. Despite increasing numbers of men enlisting for service in the armed forces from 1939, the usual eight-team competition continued until the end of the 1941 season. The entry of Japan into the conflict and the escalating threat to Australia and the Pacific region meant an even greater war effort became necessary.

As more and more civilians joined the military forces and allied industries many players were lost to League football. In some quarters there was doubt as to whether senior football should continue and indeed many country football competitions went into recess for the duration of the war. Moreover significant sections of the Australian society became hostile to the continuation of organised sport. This feeling and attitude towards whether major sporting events should continue or not was widely debated throughout Australia.

Rather than continue with eight teams the SANFL made a decision to combine the eight existing league clubs into four pairs under combined titles.

Bernard Whimpress in *The South Australian Football Story* very appropriately summarised the new competition:

During the period 1942-4 football was played in response to an appeal by the Allied Forces Welfare Co-ordination Committee. It provided entertainment for the public and troops on leave, with members of the Services admitted free. Owing to a shortage of players clubs were amalgamated and arranged according to geographical position, the combinations being Norwood-North Adelaide; Sturt-South Adelaide; West Adelaide-Glenelg; and Port Adelaide-West Torrens. The [combined] clubs wore the colours of North, Sturt, Glenelg and Port Adelaide respectively.(1)

Each season, from 1942 to 1944 consisted of only 12 minor rounds before the finals (the major round) were commenced. Despite there being only four teams in the competition all teams participated in the finals as the traditional final-four format was retained. This in turn resulted in a unique situation whereby the Norwood-North Adelaide combination which won the 1943 and 1944 premierships actually won fewer games than any other club during the three years. The Port Adelaide-West Torrens combination won the 1942 premiership.

Each season did not commence until the middle of May and in order to stretch the length of the season by several weeks only one match was played instead of the usual two on several weekends. All matches with one exception were played on a Saturday, the variation being a match between Sturt-South and Norwood-North which was scheduled for the Monday public holiday in June 1944.

All finals were played at the Adelaide oval and the draw (fixture of matches) was so arranged that one match was played at the Adelaide oval each week with suburban ovals at Alberton,

Norwood and Unley being used where two matches were played on the same Saturday. The Glenelg oval was the venue for two matches in 1944. One match in the first year of the combined competition originally scheduled to be played at the Alberton oval (home ground of the Port Adelaide club) was moved to the Unley oval when at short notice the Civil Defence Authorities required the facilities at Alberton.⁽²⁾ Port Adelaide were not impressed by this decision but football understandably did not take precedence during these wartime years.

Revenue from gate receipts was distributed to patriotic and charitable funds while volunteers acted as gate attendants and support staff at matches. Final team selections were subject to many last-minute variations and in some instances depended on the availability of off-duty service personnel. Interstate footballers from the services were subject to a ballot on the Friday before matches, one player in such circumstances being allowed to play in one of the combined teams.

Such arrangements applied in reverse and South Australian footballers located interstate in the services or employed in the munitions were eligible to play football in local competitions. Notable examples of South Australians who played in the VFL during this period included Jack Oatey from Norwood and Colin Churchett from Glenelg who both played for South Melbourne in 1944. Laurie Cahill from South Adelaide played for Richmond in 1943. Gil Langley and Harold Zucker both from Sturt played for Essendon and Hawthorn in 1943 and 1942 respectively.

Ross Reynolds from Sturt-South was the leading goalkicker in the 1942 competition with 45 goals. Bill Issac from Norwood-North was the leading goalkicker in both 1943 and 1944 with 74 and 76 goals respectively. It is also worth

noting that no matches during the three years of the combined competition resulted in a drawn game (final scores level).

The 1942 season was notable in that three teams, Sturt-South, Port-Torrens and West-Glenelg, all completed the minor round with seven wins and five losses. Norwood-North only won three matches before losing the First Semi-Final to the West-Glenelg combination. Sturt-South lost both finals leaving West-Glenelg to meet Port-Torrens in the Grand Final. Behind at three quarter time, Port-Torrens finally overhauled their opponents in the last quarter to win the premiership.

Port-Torrens dominated the second season of the wartime competition only losing two of their 12 matches during the minor round. A newspaper report just before the finals series was due to commence described the Port-Torrens team as being in convincing form and producing machine-like displays⁽³⁾. West-Glenelg second, Norwood-North third and Sturt-South who completed the minor round fourth then commenced the finals series. Port-Torrens won the Second Semi-Final but the Norwood-North combination surprised all and won all three finals in which they were engaged to claim the premiership. It was certainly Norwood-North's year for in late August 1943 before the commencement of the finals series all teams competed in a lightning premiership at Adelaide oval: Norwood-North also won this contest which raised funds for the Children's Hospital in addition to the regular premiership.

In 1944 Port-Torrens again won 12 matches to top the premiership ladder at the end of the minor round. Finishing last Norwood-North won only three matches prior to the finals but then repeated their 1943 effort winning all three finals to again finish the season premiers and defeating their arch rivals Port-Torrens in the Grand Final. Inaccurate kicking for goal

contributed to the downfall of the Port-Torrens combination who would have been the premiership favourites going into the Grand Final given their form during the season and their comprehensive win in the Second Semi-Final, but Norwood-North were not to be denied their unique feat.

Finishing last on the premiership table but with all four teams still eligible to play in the finals, anything could happen, creating what many would consider a farcical situation, but that's what happened in 1944 when the SA premiership was won from last place. This was not the only occasion in Australian football when such an event had taken place.(4)

Despite the rather unusual events to conclude the 1944 season the three years of the combined competition served a very useful purpose: it kept the League football competition alive even if subdued and somewhat limited, provided an outlet for the general public during difficult times and matches played raised valuable funds for patriotic causes. The restricted truncated competition more importantly kept the foundation of SA League football intact and provided the base from which post-war football was successfully launched.

The SANFL was in a position to be able to restore the traditional eight-team format in 1945 and the Grand Final ironically was played between the Port Adelaide and West Torrens clubs who had been combined as the one team during the previous three seasons. For the record West Torrens won the Grand Final. The SANFL then enjoyed a period up to the 1970s that now can be looked back on as the 'Golden era of the SANFL' but that's another story.

Interstate the Victorian Football League (VFL) competition continued as normal during war years although the Geelong club did not compete in the 1942 and 1943 seasons. The

Victorian Football Association (VFA) went into recess between 1942 and 1944. In Western Australia the WANFL competition reverted to an under-age format during the 1942-44 period. One club, Swan Districts, did not field a team in 1942.

Voting in the Magarey Medal was suspended during the combined competition years so there is no winner of the highest individual award in South Australian football for the years 1942-44. In a similar manner, individual club best and fairest player awards were also usually cancelled during these years, although the 1971 and 1972 annual reports of the North Adelaide football club list players who won the club's fairest and most brilliant award in the years 1942 to 1944 inclusive. (5)

Newspaper size and production was limited during the war years and what space was available was naturally heavily weighted towards news from the European and Pacific theatres of conflict and such news dominated newspaper coverage. Nevertheless, the local four-team wartime SANFL competition still received more than adequate print space.

Selected teams for the forthcoming Saturday matches were published in the Friday edition each week of *The Advertiser*. The Saturday paper reviewed matches that were scheduled to be played later that day. Full results, quarter by quarter scores, best players and a listing of all individual goalkickers were given prominent coverage in the Monday edition of the newspaper, together with a summary of both matches (in the weeks that two games were scheduled for the Saturday).

In relation to the team selections published in the Friday edition of the paper, final playing lists were not always known in time for the Friday print deadline due to the lack of last-minute knowledge of individual player availability and the ballot mentioned earlier.

From necessity some team lists only indicate a list of players from whom it was intended to select the team, leaving gaps and the unknown for the current-day historian. Team lists published in *The Advertiser* on the Friday morning do not necessarily represent the actual team that took the field on Saturday afternoon. As a consequence accurate records of every player involved in these unique and historic years of South Australian football cannot be compiled but player records are as accurate as what is published in the newspaper will allow.

For the record, the following players were the individual club captains who led the four combined teams over those three years:

Norwood-North: 1942 Kevin Hardiman, 1943 Albert Sawley, 1944 Owen Martin

Port-Torrens: 1942-44 Lewis Roberts

Sturt-South: 1942-43 James Dawes, 1944 Gil Langley

West-Glenelg: 1942 Ned Hender, 1943 Colin Smith, 1944 John Taylor

Scores from the Finals matches were:

1942

First Semi-Final: West-Glenelg 13.23 (101) defeated Norwood-North 9.16 (70)

Second Semi-Final: Port-Torrens 15.15 (105) defeated Sturt-South 10.6 (66)

Preliminary Final: West-Glenelg 19.20 (134) defeated Sturt-South 16.11 (107)

Grand Final: Port-Torrens 18.12 (120) defeated West-Glenelg 16.13 (109)

1943

First Semi-Final: Norwood-North 21.20 (146) defeated Sturt-South 10.16 (76)

Second Semi-Final: Port Torrens 14.15 (99) defeated West-Glenelg 10.13 (73)

Preliminary Final: Norwood-North 18.17 (125) defeated West-Glenelg 12.11 (83)

Grand Final: Norwood-North 12.10 (82) defeated Port-Torrens 8.13 (61)

1944

First Semi-Final: Norwood-North 21.19 (145) defeated West-Glenelg 8.10 (58)

Second Semi-Final: Port-Torrens 16.17 (113) defeated Sturt-South 11.7 (73)

Preliminary Final: Norwood-North 13.15 (93) defeated Sturt-South 11.11 (77)

Grand Final: Norwood-North 9.7 (61) defeated Port-Torrens 7.13 (55)

(1) Whimpress, B. 1983 *The South Australian Football Story*, South Australian National Football League, West Lakes, SA. p. 44

(2) *The (Adelaide) Advertiser* 10 July 1942 p. 10

(3) *The (Adelaide) Advertiser* 23 Aug. 1943 p. 7

(4) During the First World War, in 1916 in the VFL, Fitzroy won only two matches for the season but with only four teams competing in the competition due to the war, Fitzroy won all three of the finals matches in which they played and won the premiership.

(5) The fairest and most brilliant players listed are 1942 A G Sawley, 1943 O Martin, 1944 N J Way: p.22 1971 and p.26 1972, Annual Reports, North Adelaide Football Club. [Albert Sawley, Owen Martin and Neville Way]

Book Review:***The Battle of Hastings: The Fall of Anglo-Saxon England* by Harriet Harvey Wood**

(Atlantic Books London 2008)

During the night of the 13th and 14th of October 1066 two very different armies, each about 8,000 strong, raced for high ground just north of the port of Hastings. They were expressions of two different Viking-influenced societies. The crack English housecarl bodyguards and handy shire infantry levies were commanded by the elective King Harold Godwinson, long-time Viceroy in the previous reign of Edward the Confessor, newly crowned as the best qualified defender of the realm, victorious a matter of days before at Stamford Bridge in Yorkshire over his treacherous brother Tostig and the last of the marauding Viking energumens, Harold Hard-counsel of Norway. The invading expeditionary force, with a heavy cavalry component, was led by William the Bastard of Normandy, schooled in ruthlessness by his own years of minority as Duke of Normandy. William had been fortunate to obtain allegedly 'divine' late unseasonal winds, and in the coming battle was to survive three horses killed under him.

At first it was the English who earned their good luck, arriving in time to occupy a strong position at dawn on Caldbec Hill overlooking Senlac field, at the hoary apple tree rallying point for the local fyrd militias, ground Harold and the men of Wessex knew very well. However, King Harold had not been able to bring archers in numbers with him in his forced march south. So, he was unable to take full advantage of the forced deployment on bad ground within English bowshot of William's motley army of Norman knights, allies and mercenaries drawn by promises of English land and propaganda that Harold had perjured an oath to support William's claim to the English throne. As battle was joined to the sound of trumpets at 9.00am, the positional advantage lay as it was to lie at

Waterloo and Gettysburg with the defenders, on this occasion between combatants as evenly matched otherwise in their relative diversity as chessmen.

What happened militarily at Hastings is controversial, and authoress Wood, a distinguished Dark Age literary scholar, gleans every indication from her command of the sources, both primary and secondary. In effect the unprecedented, day-long battle resolved into a dour killing field, with William forced increasingly to rely on his squadrons of knights to charge again and again the looming English shield wall. There was no scope for grand maneuver, for while the Norman cavalry could feint in squadron, it was not sufficiently trained to do so en masse in line. Fortunately for William, squadron tactics proved sufficient to draw some pursuing English fyrds men out of position. The Normans being repeatedly thrown back, William's Breton allies broke and had to be rallied. On another occasion, William had to take off his helmet to arrest a line wavering under the influence of the rumour of his death. But in the end, William's henchmen secured footholds on both flanks of Caldbec Hill, and King Harold and his brothers were cut down at their Eastern command post under the banners of the Fighting Man and the Wyvern of Wessex, now the site of the High Altar of Battle Abbey. With the death of their commander and no relief in sight, the Housecarls committed themselves to rearguard fighting to the death and the fyrd retreated through the surrounding forest, taking their toll of many pursuers at Malfosse Ditch. It was a tragedy worthy of the literary tradition of Germanic saga, a Gotterdammerung.

Why had Harold given battle, asking proven but tired forces for one more effort? Why had he rejected canny Welsh advice to draw the enemy into the interior over scorched earth while reinforcing his power? Did the humanity of this literate man lead him astray? Or was the opportunity to bottle William up at a strong point from which the English might if need be

retire to fight with even better chances another day simply too tempting?

If anyone still doubts a woman's capacity to write military history in convincing social context, this book will allay them. This study masterfully interprets expert opinion for the general reader. It also proves that having a perspective is no disability for the scrupulous scholar. Hopefully not, for this reviewer like Ms Wood would rather have fought under Harold than charged with William. The latter's reign was uneasy and brutal, and the imposition of the Norman Yoke, no mere radical shibboleth, laid the racial and political foundations of a British monarchism which remains with us even in the antipodes. The year 1066 remains a date worthy of historical discussion.

David Faber

Brian Samuels has supplied the following item from the *West Coast Sentinel* of Streaky Bay, 22 July 1943:

OBITUARY: MR. JIM WALKER

Mr. Jim Walker, an old resident of Streaky Bay, was found dead in his house on Saturday afternoon. Mr. Harry Brown had been in the habit of visiting him after VDC [Voluntary Defence Corps] parades, and on this occasion found him dead on the floor with extensive burns on his legs and the lower part of his body. It is believed that he fell asleep by the fire and that the bottoms of his trousers became ignited, and that he was unable to remove them before he was seriously burnt. He was born at or near Clare, but the exact date cannot be determined. It is known, however, that he was baptised at St. Aloysius' Church, Seven Hills, on January 16, 1862 — he would therefore have been at least 81 years of age.

Very little is known of his early life, but it is

clear that he was a lover of and had an extensive acquaintance with the great open spaces of Australia. Many a tale he used to tell of his outback life, and he travelled at one time with Henry Lawson, the great Australian interpreter of life "back o' beyond." Indeed, with his long wiry figure (he was over six feet in height) he could almost have stepped from the pages of one of Lawson's stories. He was one of a hardy race of outback workers who are fast dwindling in these modern days of motor cars and planes. For many years Jim was employed by the Mudge estate in fencing and other work, but latterly he lived alone on Montgomerie Terrace.

Jim was a great reader, and his vocabulary and knowledge of books were by no means negligible. As a rhymer he will be remembered by readers of "The Sentinel," where his verses have from time to time appeared. Many of these verses are dedicated to little children, and are thus indicative of his well known love for them. In past years he was a contributor to journals in the eastern States, and in particular pars from him were often to be seen in the "Aboriginalities" page of the "Bulletin," under the nom de plume of "Bowyangs."

His wanderings were not confined to Australia; he fought in the Boer war, and when over 50 years of age managed to conceal that fact and enlisted in a Pioneer Battalion and fought in Europe during the Great War. Some years ago he set out in a buggy and pair for Western Australia, where his sister (Mrs. Charlotte Helena White) still lives in Perth. After proceeding thus as far as Denial Bay, he was persuaded to sell the outfit and complete the journey by plane. Later, Mrs. White came to visit him at Streaky Bay. It is believed that a brother still lives at Mount Hope.

Long ago in the coaching days Jim's mother and sister kept an eating house on the road between Lake Hamilton and Sheringa, known as the "Old Mulberry Tree," and this tree was planted by Mrs. White.

The funeral took place at Streaky Bay on Sunday

afternoon, the Rev. Father Cullinan officiating at the graveside. Members of Streaky Bay sub-branch of the RSS and AILA acted as pallbearers, and at the conclusion of the religious rites the "Soldiers' Remembrance" was read and poppies were dropped into the grave.

Thus passes one of Streaky Bay's oldest identities.



The Keain medal of 2018 was awarded to the two authors of the new book *A History of South Australia* published by Cambridge University Press. Pictured here are from left co-author Paul Sendziuk, Maurice Keain who instituted the award, and co-author Robert Foster. The medals were awarded at the meeting of the Historical Society of SA on 3 May.

Contributions to this Newsletter are always welcome. The deadline for the next edition is Sunday 7 July.

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