



No. 279 January 2024



AIMS OF THE SOCIETY:

- To arouse interest in and to promote the study and discussion of South Australian and Australian history
- To promote the collection, preservation and classification of source material of all kinds relating to South Australian and Australian history
- To publish historical records and articles
- To promote interchange of information among members of the Society by lectures, readings, discussions and exhibitions
- To co-operate with similar Societies throughout Australia.
- To do all such other things as are conducive or incidental to the attainment of the above objects or any of them

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Society turns 50 this year, certainly a great milestone. There will be some reminiscing this year, culminating at a special afternoon event on **Sunday 20th October** at the Walkerville Town Hall, when a history of the Society, compiled by Robert Martin, will be launched and distributed to members. Think about how much life has changed since 1974 when

Heavy rain resulted in the heaviest flood of Lake Eyre for at least 500 years, and the River Murray was in flood.





In Parliament, the SA Premier was Don Dunstan and Opposition Leader Bruce Eastick. Governor of South Australia was Sir Mark Oliphant.

In May, Prime Minister Gough Whitlam faced the electorate, just 18 months after taking office, in a double



dissolution election; Sir Paul Hasluck was Governor-General and then Sir John Kerr. Deposits on drink containers was legislated in South Australia. Because of an increase in boating and boating accidents, in the interest of safety, a Bill for an Act to provide for the control of boating was introduced in the Legislative Council. Road signs and building regulations went metric.

The 1974 Australian referendum was held simultaneously with the federal election -- with proposals on democratic elections (including one person one vote), simultaneous Senate and House elections, methods of altering the Constitution and local government (receiving final overall votes of 46.8% Yes: 48.3% No).

On TV, the long running American soap opera *The Young and the Restless* started its very first broadcast in Australia. The 28-hour *Telethon* aired to raise funds for the relief effort of Darwin after the city was wiped out by Cyclone Tracy. In October, test colour transmissions commenced across all networks, and *Countdown* began on the ABC.

Films released were *Alvin Purple Rides Again*, the *Cars that Ate Paris*, and feature film *No. 96*. In the sequel to *The Adventures of Barry McKenzie*, *Barry McKenzie Holds his Own*, Gough Whitlam

cameos at the close of the film to confer upon Edna the title of Dame, henceforth to be known as “Dame Edna”.

The 1974 Adelaide Festival, led by Artistic Director Anthony Steel, was the first festival to use the brand new Festival Theatre. The programme included Premier Don Dunstan's celebrated reading of Ogden Nash's verses to Saint-Saens' *Carnival of the Animals* to a sell-out audience at the Adelaide Zoo.

Also, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh visited Adelaide. South Australian Railways split into two new entities, Australian National and State Transport Authority. The first of the 1974 Australian stamps went on sale, a series of four featuring Australian animals – wombat 20c spiny anteater 25c brushtail possum 30c and feathertail glider 75c. Ricky Ponting, cricketer was born and Sir Frank Packer died.

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Report of Formation of the Historical Society of South Australia

A most successful inaugural meeting was held in the Art Gallery Lecture Theatre on 19th July, 1974, attended by about 200 people. On the 4th September, 1974, a special meeting was held, when a constitution was adopted and a council of 12 was elected.

On September 19th, 1974, Dr. J. M. Tregenza and Mr. R. Broomhill spoke at the South Australian Institute of Teacher Building on the

Depression of the 1920's and 1930's in South Australia. Mr. R. H. Parsons is to speak on the 13th November, 1974 on the History of Hindmarsh at the South Australian Institute of Teachers Building, 163a Greenhill Road, Parkside.

Those interested in the society can obtain information by contacting Mr. R. M. Gibbs of 7 Minnow Drive, Glenalta. Phone 278 3204.

Sourced from Wikipedia and Trove. Images: Lake Eyre, AustraliaAirSafaris.com.au; Don Dunstan, Wikipedia; Sir Mark Oliphant, Nature.com article; *The Coromandel Times* 10 Oct. 1974

PREVIEW OF SPEAKERS FOR 2024

- 2 Feb: **Anthony Stimson: Morant and the South African War Memorial** (see page 7)
- 1 Mar: **Carolyn Spooner: Gawler: South Australia's First CountryTown.** (see page 8)
- 5 Apr: **Corinne Ball: Three-Ring Circus: The dramatic, mysterious and tragic life of Mabel Worley, a Destitute Asylum Girl.** Mabel was an insignificant working-class girl with an illegitimate child at 16, who fell into a life of booze and crime. However her life was much more than these bare bones.
- 3 May: **Patricia Sumerling: A City Pub Crawl: an illustrated history.** A talk including the architectural merits of some hotels, biographies of publicans, barmaids and patrons, as well as the many planned and unplanned events that have taken place in a hotel.
- 7 Jun: **Skye Krichauff: The South Australian Frontier and Its Legacies: A Truth-Telling project.** It maps the nature and extent of conflict between Aboriginal people and settlers in SA. The project emerged out of the call from the Uluru Statement from the Heart to engage in 'truth-telling about our history'.
- 5 Jul: **Benjamin Nicholls: "There are pianos everywhere": Oscar Comettant and other travel writers on South Australian music.** After the first Governor's piano floated ashore in 1837, pianos shaped people's public and private lives through to the 1920s. Hear excerpts of the era's music and discover what the piano meant for colony, empire, and fledgling nation.

- 2 Aug: **Robert Foster: The role of environmental factors in shaping Aboriginal/settler relations in colonial South Australia.** Recent research on the nature and extent of frontier conflict has revealed some underlying patterns of Aboriginal/settler relations and how it differed across the colony.
- 6 Sep: **Elizabeth Bor: Responses to Bushfires in South Australia from the 1820s to Federation.** Little was known about the impact of bushfires before Federation and how Aboriginal people and European colonists responded to it, until Elizabeth Bor began researching for her thesis.
- 4 Oct: **Martin Hamilton-Smith: Western Democracy Under Challenge:** The interesting case study of South Australia. Using the lens of a life spent as a soldier, businessman and politician to interpret the rise and fall of seven Australian leaders over thirty turbulent years.

(20 Oct: HSSA 50th Anniversary)

- 1 Nov: **Erin Reardon: RA&HS Archives – Walking into 185 Years of History (and Wondering What to do With It).** The daunting task of reviving the Royal Show archives fell to the former librarian Erin, who soon discovered he had autonomy and the expectation to decide the direction of the archives.

(**Field Trips** will be arranged throughout the year)

MEETINGS are held at 7.30pm at the BURNSIDE CITY
UNITING CHURCH, 384 Portrush Rd, off Fisher St.

FEBRUARY 2
MORANT AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR MEMORIAL
by Dr Tony Stimson



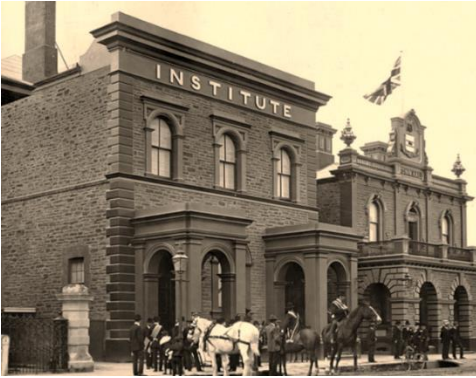
In 1904 Adelaide's South African War Memorial, sculptor Capt. Adrian Jones' 'Man on the Horse,' was unveiled to public acclaim, and 60 men who had died as a result of wartime service are named on its plaques. One name was missing: Harry 'Breaker' Morant, who served briefly in a South Australian unit before he went rogue and killed civilians with the Bushveldt Carbineers. He was executed by a firing squad in 1902.

Since 2021 Adelaide City Council and Plan SA have been considering an application to add Morant's name, an idea vigorously opposed by the SABWA and veterans' organisations. This debate has a lot to say about community attitudes and the fate of war memorials in an age when history is hotly contested. The Australian War Memorial's position remains that Morant was guilty of war crimes.

About the speaker: Tony was co-founder and principal of Eynesbury Senior College 1990-2007. Since then, he has been a frequent visitor to South African battlefields and (with Jennifer Humphries) is about to publish *Citizen Soldiers: South Australians at the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902*. He is president of the South Australian Boer War Association (SABWA) and a former vice president of HSSA.



MARCH 1
HISTORIC GAWLER, South Australia's First Country Town
by Carolyn Spooner



Planned by Colonel William Light in 1837 on the banks of a river surrounded by hills and parklands, Gawler officially came into existence on 31 January 1839 having been laid out by 24 year old surveyor William Jacob of Jacob's Creek fame. Other influencers in the district were the pioneering German 49ers, industrialist James Martin, and

the extraordinary polymath, E H Coombe, editor and politician.

After the opening of its Institute in 1857, Gawler became something of an Athens of the South, holding a competition for a patriotic song in 1859. Also at this time a group of locals formed the Gawler Humbug Society which led to the publication of the Bunyip newspaper. And what does the 1894 visit of an English cricket team to Gawler tell us about the municipality?

About the speaker: Carolyn Spooner, recently retired from the State Library of South Australia after 45 years' work in a variety of roles. Her special interest was the unpublished/ archival collection where the untold stories can be unearthed. Over the years she has developed a suite of slideshow-talks based on a variety of topics – from sport to religion via taxidermists and undertakers, as well as some significant South Australians. Her current research interest is South Australian mapmaker WH Edmunds with a view to writing a book about him and his interesting family.





WRITE YOURSELF INTO HISTORY

Lynda Carmody (Project Officer, Legal Deposit) NLA

Since the 19th century, the published works of Australia have been collected and kept for future generations. In this article, I want to highlight the National Library of Australia's most comprehensive method of collecting, Legal Deposit, as well as its history, and why it should matter to you.

As a member of the Historical Society of South Australia, you've almost certainly discovered the wealth of the National Library's collections through our reading rooms or through Trove, or have explored the collections of the State Library of South Australia. You may be less aware that legal deposit is the way in which the heart of these collections has been built.

[Legal deposit](#), under the *Copyright Act*, provides for the creation of a living collection of all published books, newspapers, magazines, community newsletters, self-published works, government publications, maps, sheet music, and more that have been made available to the public for free or for sale in Australia.

It means that one copy of everything published electronically or in print is to be given to the National Library and to the state or territory library in which it was published. Australia's publishers and authors have been active participants in building these collections over time.

Legal deposit ensures that local histories are preserved for generations to come and continue to be accessible to future researchers. From our earliest holdings of local historical publications, such as [Some notes on the names Lyndoch and Barossa, prepared for the Lyndoch and District Historical Society](#) published by The Society in 1985, through to the most recent electronically deposited works such as the [Newsletter for the East Torrens Historical Society Inc.](#), the National Library ensures that these stories are not lost to time.

As researchers you may have written or be writing a history or family story that you are considering publishing and making available beyond your immediate family in the form of a book. By making this work available to the public for sale or for free, such as through your society library, it is considered to be published. You can ensure your research will be preserved and kept accessible over time by depositing it with the national and state or territory collection, helping to build and preserve Australia's published history.

You don't need to have an ISBN, and your work can be available in print or electronically. You can deposit electronic publications through the [National edeposit service \(NED\)](#) (<https://ned.gov.au/ned/>) which is quick, easy, and free, and the preferred format of the National Library.

If you are making your publication available to the public for free or for sale it should be given to the National Library and the State Library of South Australia through legal deposit.

Write yourself into history.

We're looking forward to receiving and caring for your work.

Find out more on our website [here](https://bit.ly/46lqBHh). (<https://bit.ly/46lqBHh>)



MUSIC, MIRTH AND MERRIMENT! THE ANZAC COVES. Direct from the Firing Line Somewhere in France. The Anzac Coves have performed at Buckingham Palace before HM King and Queen also before HRH Prince of Wales.'

Taken in London, England. 1918, a studio portrait of 'The Anzac Coves', 1 Australian Headquarters Pierrot Troupe. This concert party was the first of many field theatre troupes to be established within the AIF. The proceeds from a performance at King's Theatre, Hammersmith, were to go to the Australian Repatriation Fund for Discharged Soldiers. (Many of these soldier troupes turned professional after being demobilised.) Further reading at...

<https://www.austlit.edu.au/austlit/page/7539329?sth=7539481>

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land and strive to gain a deeper understanding of their ongoing connection to their country.

Historical Society of South Australia Inc.

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Her Excellency the Hon. Frances Adamson AC

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