



**No. 281      May 2024**



Wakefield Street Trams 1909. SLSA B4396 Adelaide was the first Australian city to have a permanent tramway system when the Adelaide & Suburban Tramway Company opened the Kensington-City line. (image courtesy of 'A Colourful History' facebook page)

## CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

### 'HISTORICALSOCSA' YOUTUBE CHANNEL

One of the projects for HSSA's 50<sup>th</sup> is to make accessible some of the many interesting HSSA guest speaker talks that had been recorded dating back to the first meeting in 1974. There is possibly up to 50 talks that will eventually be published and currently about 20 talks are available on the Youtube site and new ones will be added throughout the year.

This project began two years ago when a cache of 250 tapes were discovered in storage. A search began to find the speakers so that copyright releases could be signed before each tape was digitized, then editing to remove irrelevant bits of chatter or pauses in the address before being converted to a video file. The State Library has selected a few to add to the JD Somerville Collection, so it was decided to upload them onto the internet. We should point out that although they are 'videos', it is basically an audio file with a static image.

Switch to it on your Smart TV, or tune in on your mobile while on a road trip, or on your computer; we are sure you will find a topic of interest. <https://www.youtube.com/@HistoricalSocSA>

***HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2024 HSSA SUBSCRIPTION YET?  
If unsure, enquire at [annebowman1943@gmail.com](mailto:annebowman1943@gmail.com)***

**This Society appreciates your support more than you know and with costs going up, your membership needs to be paid promptly please. Thanking you.**

MONTHLY TALKS are held at 7.30pm sharp at the BURNSIDE CITY UNITING CHURCH, 384 Portrush Rd, entry off Fisher Street. Visitors always welcome with \$5 entry

**FRIDAY JUNE 7:  
THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FRONTIER AND ITS  
LEGACIES: A TRUTH-TELLING PROJECT –  
Dr Skye Krichauff**



(image: Bark hut near River Light 1847)

The research project maps the nature and extent of conflict between Aboriginal people and settlers in South Australia, from the arrival of sealers and whalers in the early 1800s until Federation in 1901. The project is based at the University of Adelaide and emerged out of the call from the *Uluru Statement from the Heart* to engage in 'truth-telling about our history'.

Research has involved an extensive examination of archival sources and the collection of oral histories from Aboriginal people and settler descendants. Dr Skye Krichauff will demonstrate the website and interactive digital 'Story map' developed by the project team and explain why the level of violence in the Adelaide, Hills and Fleurieu Peninsula was comparatively low and short lived.

**About the speaker:** Dr Skye Krichauff is an ethno-historian who combines the methodologies of history, anthropology and oral history. She is interested in colonial cross-cultural relations, the relationship between history and memory, and how societies live with historical injustices (in particular how Australians live with the enduring legacies of colonialism). She is currently employed as a Senior Lecturer at the University of Adelaide.



**FRIDAY JULY 5:  
'THERE ARE PIANOS EVERYWHERE' OSCAR  
COMETTANT AND OTHER TRAVEL WRITERS ON PIANOS  
IN SA – Benjamin Nicholls**



The French musician and composer Oscar Comettant's hyperbolic writing on pianos in Australia has been taken up wholesale by Aussies in the last seventy years. Oftentimes he is quoted with little criticism, but occasionally there's a note of suspicion. He guessed that there were 700,000 pianos in the

Australian colonies by 1888. Ben will look to test these exaggerated claims along with those of other famous visitors from Trollope to Twain. Of course, we should be sceptical about the boasts of local boosters, but what about these tourists? With some context, we can separate the insights from the puff when it comes to pianos. Musical examples will also be given on the piano.

**About the speaker:** Ben Nicholls is a pianist and historian researching the piano in South Australia for his PhD in the Department of Historical and Classical Studies at the University of Adelaide. His research is supported by an Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship. He has given lecture/performances for the South Australian History Festival, the State Library



of South Australia, and PianoLab, as well as papers for the Society of Global Nineteenth-Century Studies and the Society for the History of Emotions. He's written music for video games and short films, and studied classical piano performance at the Elder Conservatorium with Professor Anna Goldsworthy. He dreams of cycling around the state to trace the route of a piano tuner from the 1890s.

## 2022-2023 HSSA ANNUAL REPORT

The Society held ten monthly talks with a variety of well-chosen topics to entertain and educate our members and visitors alike. A couple of field trips were also arranged for a small interested group. The Book Sale at the end of last year was very successful and added some cash to our coffers. Audience numbers are still down compared with pre-Covid however a slight increase has been noted, plus we have some new members and appreciate seeing our regulars. Interest in our social media is growing – the benefit being it raises awareness of history and heritage matters which are aims of the Society.

Congratulations to the Journal committee, the annual Journal, INSIGHTS 3 was an especially big undertaking. It was a little late for distribution in November however, by now all members should be in receipt of their copy.

At the last AGM we welcomed three new members to Council - as preparations for this our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary plans were ramping up, it was good timing. A fair bit of work has already been done behind the scenes in regards to the events of 2024, the details of which will be revealed in due course. We are happy that all council members have nominated for re-election.

In conclusion, it has been a good year and sincere thanks go to Council members for their support and encouragement, and to you our members for your support and patronage, as we continue our 50<sup>th</sup> year.

**Lyn O'Grady, President**

**HSSA Council Succession Planning:** We are looking for additional members to join HSSA Council to ensure a smooth transition when a council member goes on holiday or leaves the committee. Each role is to have a backup person. No prior knowledge required, training is offered in PowerPoint presentations, social media, control desk operations, finances, etc. There are just six Council meetings of about an hour and 10 monthly talks each year.

## 2022-2023 FINANCE REPORT

### HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC

Statement of Financial Performance  
Financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

	2023	2022
<b>Income</b>		
Subscriptions	\$7,455.00	\$8,026.00
Credit Card Surcharge	\$32.00	\$50.00
Donations received	\$618.00	\$589.00
Newsletter/Journal/Book/Tape Sales	\$596.00	\$121.50
Grants	\$0.00	\$0.00
Franking Credit refund	\$3,929.00	\$5,581.00
Raffle Income	\$444.00	\$503.00
Field Trip Income	\$50.00	\$0.00
Fundraising Events	\$290.00	\$255.00
Interest Income	\$0.00	\$0.00
Dividend Income	\$11,399.45	\$11,346.60
Gain on Share Acquisition	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$24,813.45</b>	<b>\$26,572.10</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Newsletter	\$1,830.42	\$1,488.33
Journal	\$4,500.00	\$4,695.00
Storage	\$1,505.00	\$1,393.00
Miscellaneous expenses	\$486.55	\$762.28
Postage	\$1,284.85	\$1,589.50
Administration expenses	\$261.36	\$758.25
Brokerage Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
Office Holders Expenses	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Insurance	\$1,439.67	\$1,434.67
Publicity	\$961.32	\$938.51
Grants	\$1,000.00	\$8,534.00
Meeting Expenses	\$3,645.28	\$3,252.98
Field Trip Expenditure	\$50.00	\$0.00
Bank Charges	\$17.51	\$24.76
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$18,482.06</b>	<b>\$26,371.28</b>
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$6,331.39</b>	<b>\$200.82</b>

	2023	2022
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash at Bank	\$9,933.87	\$23,028.58
Shareholdings at Market Value	\$305,373.61	\$268,378.51
Prepaid Expenses	\$1,486.01	\$1,458.48
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$316,793.49</b>	<b>\$292,865.57</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$316,793.49</b>	<b>\$292,865.57</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Membership Fees Received in Advance	\$3,525.00	\$3,555.00
Journal Fees Received in Advance	\$72.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$3,597.00</b>	<b>\$3,555.00</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$313,196.49</b>	<b>\$289,310.57</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Retained Earnings	\$228,756.92	\$228,556.10
Investment Reserve - Revaluation	\$78,108.18	\$60,653.65
Current Year Surplus/(Deficit)	\$6,331.39	\$200.82
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>\$313,196.49</b>	<b>\$289,310.57</b>

**AUDITOR'S REPORT**

I report that I have audited the Books and Records of the Historical Society of South Australia for the year and Performance and Statement of Financial Position are properly drawn up and present fairly the state of the S



25/3/2024

Michael H Hissey (BA Acc, CPA)

**Anne Bowman, Treasurer**

**HSSA JOURNAL : Call for Papers/Proposals**

The next issue is scheduled to be published in November 2024 and we invite scholars from all disciplines who are researching South Australian history to submit papers, or proposals for papers, for inclusion in this, and subsequent editions. We would particularly like to encourage post-graduate student and early career researcher contributions.

For more information <https://historicalsocietysa.com/journal-newsletter/> or contact the editor [karen.agutter@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:karen.agutter@adelaide.edu.au)

## HSSA JOURNAL EDITOR: Dr Karen Agutter

Although some of you know me, I wanted to introduce myself as the new editor of the journal of the Society and tell you a bit about my own history and future ambitions.

I came a little later to history as a career, working first as a nurse. I grew up and trained in Melbourne, and nursing took me overseas where I spent 15 happy years in Europe and the UK. On returning to Australia, I followed a long-held dream and applied to university. Having completed my undergrad and honours (History, Italian and German) at Flinders University I received a scholarship and completed my first PhD - a comparative study of the experiences of Italian migrants in Australia, Canada, Great Britain, and Argentina during the First World War. I stayed at Flinders for some years as a casual academic in history, but also teaching academic literacy in the University's student learning centre.

I moved to the University of Adelaide to complete a second PhD in 2018, and was then fortunate to spend four fascinating years researching the post-World War Two migrant hostels as part of the Australian Research Council funded, Hostel Stories Project. This research took me to archive offices across the country, led to multiple publications, dozens of public lectures and more than 120 oral histories, as we sought to capture the migrant experience of hostel life.

As you may have guessed, I am largely an historian of migration with a particular interest in the migrant experience, and the interaction between migrant and receiving communities. Over the years I have published on many aspects of migration history (you can find these on my Adelaide Uni bio or at academia.com if you are so inclined). Although no longer in paid employment I continue to research and write, and my current projects include the history of the 395 unaccompanied displaced teenagers who arrived in Australia after WWII, the experiences in remote camps of the displaced persons and special project/assisted migrant workers who were under two-year

work contracts, and the role of Department of Immigration social workers. There are a number of other projects still in the planning stages and, I suspect like many of you, the list of things I want to know about just keeps growing.

Outside of this I am a registered professional historian, a volunteer and committee member at Genealogy SA, and a member of Writers SA. I have been involved in editorial roles at a number of journals and served on various other committees.

History has been very kind to me, and I hope to give back to the history community in some small part as editor of the Journal of the Historical Society of South Australia. I am passionate about the journal's growth and particularly keen to encourage post-graduate students and early career researchers as, like most of us, I am acutely aware of the growing intergenerational divide in history in this State.

**Dr Karen Agutter**

**WHERE TO BUY: *WHERE TREASURES SHINE* Lionel Gee, a forgotten South Australian mining identity** by Judy Fander, (reviewed in the previous newsletter). Buy directly from the author. \$45.00 per copy, including postage within Australia, Phone orders 0412 758 776 email orders [jfander@ozemail.com.au](mailto:jfander@ozemail.com.au). Also available at Dymocks in Adelaide and Carto Graphics, Unley.

### **MORE ON LEGAL DEPOSIT:**

In order to raise awareness of legal deposit, the National Library of Australia has produced a short video and a blog to explain the history of legal deposit, how it works, and why it is important for preserving the history of Australia's written word.

Visit NLA website or search: the History of Legal Deposit: sixteenth century France to the Library today or [Write Yourself into History with Legal Deposit](#)

## A COLOURFUL HISTORY:

Some of you may already know of this Facebook page, *A Colourful History* (see also the image on the front cover). Last year I sent a message with some questions and this was the answer:

Hi Lyn, firstly I am happy for you to place my pictures in the publication. With respect to how I do the colouring, it's a bit of a process, once I have restored the black and white image, I use colourisation software that was written for me by a family member. That gives me a foundation to work with. The issue being that the colours are never even across the image, often completely incorrect etc. So I use Photoshop to repaint over the entire image.

As to why I add the colour to historical images? For me it brings a sense of realism to the image, time and place. It makes it easier to envisage the past. The reason I share my pictures is because I want to raise interest in our shared history – it's fascinating to reflect on the people and places that have made South Australia what it is today.



I started colouring family photographs in January 2020 after receiving the colourisation software for Christmas. My first attempts were woeful. Thank goodness, I have learnt so many more skills since then.

Colouring an image can take anywhere from four to six hours on average, sometimes much longer. The more details in the image the more pixels I have to colour. Thank you for reaching out, kind regards,  
**Kelly Bonato.**

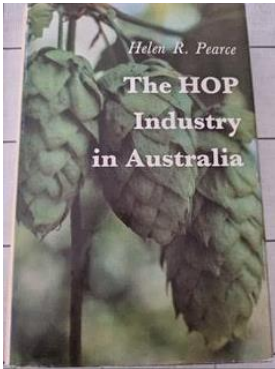
PS I'm a proud South Australian and my passion for infusing historical photographs has grown significantly throughout the last few years.

**Lyn O'Grady**

The Historical Society of South Australia is saddened to learn of the death of Helen Pearce who was President of this Society during 1980-1982.

She was born Helen Ruth Menz, a scion of the noted family of biscuit and confectionery makers. In 1957 she completed an Honours History thesis

at the University of Adelaide on the topic 'The Economic Development of Brewing in South Australia in the Nineteenth Century'. In 1976 her book *The Hop Industry in Australia* appeared (Melbourne University Press), the first complete study of this topic.



Helen's brother, Bill Menz (pictured here with Helen), also a longstanding member of the Society, has also died, just a couple of months before Helen. Helen's husband, Des Pearce, predeceased her. The Society extends condolences to her children and grandchildren.



## **Robert Martin**

### **HSSA grant applications 2024**

\*Sally Penn for Seymour College student record card preservation project, \$850 \*Jayden Bartlett, Creative folklore journalism, \$850 \*David Hilliard, publication of essays on SA church history, \$850 \*Marian Harvey, Hartley Agricultural Bureau 101 years, \$600 \*Brian Chalmers, Methodist revivalism, \$850 \*Martine Hawkes, Archival mapping of Woomera Immigration Centre, \$850 \*Kirby Moore, The visual archive of historical dress, \$600

## Historical Society of South Australia Inc.

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**Patron:** The Governor of South Australia,  
Her Excellency the Hon. Frances Adamson AC

**Website:** <https://historicalsocietysa.com>

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/HistoricalSocietySA](http://www.facebook.com/HistoricalSocietySA)

### HSSA COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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**Member:** Terry Saunderson

**HSSA JOURNAL Editor:** [Karen.agutter@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:Karen.agutter@adelaide.edu.au)

### COMMENTS & CONTRIBUTIONS

*(no more than 1000 words) are welcome by 23 June 2024*

Email [lyn.ogrady@gmail.com](mailto:lyn.ogrady@gmail.com)

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