

# HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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Institute Building, 122 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide 5000

President: Mrs H.R. Pearce

Acting Newsletter Editor: Ms Alexandra Marsden

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## 1. NEXT MEETINGS

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### AUGUST

Date and Time: Friday, August 1 at 8.00 p.m.  
Place: State Library Lecture Theatre  
Speaker: Mr Donald Langmead  
Subject: G.S. Kingston's "parcel of trumpery: the Adelaide Gaol, contractual mismanagement and avant-garde architecture"

Mr Langmead is a Senior Lecturer in the History of Architecture at the School of Architecture, S.A. Institute of Technology. He has been undertaking detailed research into the life and works of G.S. Kingston for his doctoral thesis for the last four years. The lecture promises to be a witty, informative and polemical expose of a nineteenth century Adelaide controversy.

### SEPTEMBER

Date and Time: Tuesday, September 2 at 8.00 p.m.  
Place: State Library Lecture Theatre  
Speaker: Mr Vic. Reeves  
Subject: Film evening.

This will be the second time that members have the chance to see some of Mr Reeve's fascinating early South Australian films. He has been collecting a wide range of films for many years, is always keen to search through dusty attics and cans and is happy to show them around. He has also deposited copies of his rare films in the National Library in Canberra.  
This should be a most entertaining and informative evening.

## 2. FIELD TRIPS

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### AUGUST

A trip to the Constitutional Museum has been arranged for Sunday, August 24 at 2.00 p.m. A tour through the audio-visual section of the Museum will be followed by a talk and general discussion on the aims and function of the Museum, led by the Director, Peter Cahalan.

### SEPTEMBER

"Tea and Pianolas"

This convivial afternoon will now take place on Sunday, September 21. Details of time and place will be announced at the August lecture meeting. Members who were intrigued by the publicity given at our June meeting and want to know the difference between a common or garden pianola and a reproducing pianola can rush to read A.W.J.G. Ord-Hume's "Player Piano" (Allen & Unwin, London 1970).

## 3. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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### THE CONSTITUTIONAL MUSEUM OPENS ITS DOORS

After several years of planning the Constitutional Museum will open to the public on Friday, August 1. Its official opening will take place the day before, to coincide with the official opening of Parliament. Most members of the Historical Society will know something about the Museum but might take note of the following:

a) The Museum's main feature is "Bound for South Australia", an audio-visual tour through South Australian history lasting 100 minutes. Showings run continuously, and the programme can take a group of up to 40 people every half-hour. There is a charge: \$2 for adults, 90¢ for children under 18, students, pensioners and unemployed workers.

You will have to book for the show, just as you would if going to the theatre. Bookings should be made through the BASS system. Tickets not sold through BASS outlets will be available at the door just prior to the beginning of each programme. But you would be well-advised not to risk disappointment, as bookings are likely to be heavy in the first few months that the Museum is open. Many groups have already made bookings even before the start of the official booking season. Furthermore, it will be a great help to our staff, who are going to be kept very busy indeed, if you would make use of the BASS system and not try to buy tickets at the door.

b) Please do not get the idea that you will have to pay to get into the Museum as a whole. There is a charge only for "Bound for South Australia". The displays we are mounting will be free and will change regularly. So we hope you'll visit us often.

First major display: the history of the Old Legislative Council Building. This links the history of the building to the history of Parliament and the history of South Australia as a whole. It features a series of 8 beautifully-executed models of the building as it changed from 1843 to 1978.

"Speaker's Corner" (our smaller display area available to outside organisations):  
 "Breaker Morant: should his name be placed on the South African War Memorial?". August 1 to 17.  
 A display to mark the 140th anniversary of the Adelaide City Council. August 19 till mid-September.  
 Details of further Speaker's Corner displays will be released later.

I hope we'll see you at the Museum soon and that we can have the support of members of the Society in developing our displays on South Australian history.

Peter Cahalan, Director

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"BEEF MARCH" COMMEMORATION, AUGUST 23rd

In 1931 thousands of unemployed people, their families and friends marched from Port Adelaide to Adelaide protesting the withdrawal of beef from the rations.

This march is being commemorated by the Unemployed Workers Union, due to the present crisis of unemployment. The original route will be duplicated from Port Adelaide to Adelaide, starting at 8 a.m. on Saturday, 23rd August, 1980. Contact the Unemployed Workers Union for further details.

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STEAMRANGER TOURS

Bookings at all BASS outlets and South Australian Government Tourist Bureaux.

AUGUST	Sunday	10	Bridgewater
	Saturday	16	Strathalbyn/Santa Rosa Winery
	Saturday	30	Mid-North
	Sunday	31	Bridgewater - School Holidays
SEPTEMBER	Saturday	6	Bridgewater - School Holidays
	Sunday	7	Bridgewater - School Holidays
	Sunday	14	Bridgewater
	Saturday	20	Kaiser Stuhl Dinner
	Sunday	28	Mystery Trip
OCTOBER	Sunday	5	Victor Harbour
	Saturday	11	Gladstone
	Sunday	12	Bridgewater
	Saturday	18	Riverton and Clare/Burra
	Sunday	19	Winelander - Seppelts
NOVEMBER	Sunday	2	Festival of Steam
	Sunday	9	Twilighter
	Saturday	15	Progressive Dinner
DECEMBER	Wednesday	31	Auld Lang Syne (Diesel)

VICTOR HARBOR DAY TRIPS

ADELAIDE TO VICTOR HARBOR

Km from Adelaide	STATION		SUN, MON, THUR, SAT.	FRI.
	R.R. ADELAIDE	Dep.	a.m. 8.50	p.m. 5.45
46	Balhannah		10.12	6.54
53	Littlehampton		a	a
55	Mount Barker		10.27	7.11
64	Bugle Ranges		a	a
82	Strathalbyn		10.59	7.45
97	Finniss		a	8.00
100	Gilberts		a	a
107	Currency Creek		a	8.11
114	Goolwa		11.35	8.24
122	Middleton		11.44	8.33
126	Port Elliot		11.49	8.40
	130.47km stop (Adare)		b	b
132	VICTOR HARBOR	Arr.	12.00	8.48

RETURN

	STATION		FRI.	SUN. MON. SAT.
	VICTOR HARBOR	Dep.	a.m. 7.40	p.m. 5.00
	130.47km stop (Adare)		c	c
	Port Elliot		7.48	5.08
	Middleton		7.53	5.13
	Goolwa		8.02	5.23
	Currency Creek		8.12	a
	Gilberts		a	a
	Finniss		8.22	a
	Strathalbyn		8.36	5.58
	Bugle Ranges		a	a
	Mount Barker		9.14	6.36
	Littlehampton		a	a
	Balhannah		9.28	6.52
	R.R. ADELAIDE	Arr.	10.29	8.00

For full details, prices and bookings contact the Australian National Railways, Adelaide Railway Station. Phone 212 6699.

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1986 PLANNING LEAPS AHEAD

The Premier today brought forward plans for a specially bred water buffalo to be swum out from Singapore as part of the State's sesquicentenary celebrations. The scheme was originally mooted to emphasize our growing ties with Asia, and has been

brought forward to 1983 following representations from the Waite Institute, where scientists want to cross the buffalo with a kangaroo.

Regular readers will recall our report on last year's succesful computer simulation of such a cross, which showed conclusively that a larger but slower kangaroo would do less damage to wheat crops. An official spokesman totally repudiated the suggestion that the buffalo will be used to introduce a peasant economy to the State.

#### 4. ARTICLES AND PUBLICATIONS

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##### THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY OF MITCHAM by Alexandra Marsden

The following article is taken from the recently printed "City of Mitcham Heritage Survey" by A. Marsden and L. Brasse. The report identifies sites and items which are of local and state heritage significance and includes descriptions and photographs. The report will be available soon from the Mitcham Council, 131 Belair Road, Torrens Park.

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The local government area of the City of Mitcham occupies an area of 71.5 square kilometres, extending from Cross Road in the north to the Sturt River in the south, and from Mount Barker Road on the east to South Road on the west.

It is an area of distinct physical features. The northern region is a gently sloping plain which extends from the relatively flat Unley area to the foothills in the south. Near Mitcham village the land rises steadily up into the Mount Lofty Ranges. Brownhill Creek and the Sturt River both originate in these hills, and move westward, across the plain, to the sea. Steep ridges and narrow valleys in the Ranges comprise the southern portion of the council area.

The land was originally covered with thick grass, massive gum trees and dense bush. Pastor William Finlayson, one of the earliest settlers at Brownhill Creek, wrote:

"Our land was thickly, I might say densely, timbered with peppermint or boxwood, and no part of the land could be cultivated without clearing. The roots spread far and were near the surface, and after the tree was cut or burnt down there was constant trouble in cutting up or digging out the roots, and oh! what numbers of ploughshares and coulter were broken."

The land was immediately recognized for its pastoral potential, with the South Australian Company establishing a sheep station at Brownhill Creek in 1837. Pastor Finlayson started work on this station in 1838 and recalled that:

"between us and town was neither hut nor fence so that the sheep could run and feed on the park lands."

At that time the Adelaide plains were the tribal area of the Kurna aborigines, some of whom lived around the Brownhill Creek area, named by them Wirraparinga.

"The banks of the creek at this place where it issued from the hills was a favourite camping and gathering ground with the natives, as many as one hundred and

fifty being there. They came begging to our tent, but only once were they uncivil ... We went among their wurlies talking as best we could without the least fear; we tried to give the poor creatures what help we could, and they seemed to appreciate our kindness."

Pastor Finlayson's sympathy with these people was well placed, for soon, by the 1850's, the Kaurna tribe had all but died out. There are few reminders of the aboriginal heritage in Mitcham: Mitcham Reserve, which was a former camping ground, with large old gum trees, and the massive, centuries old gum, "The Monarch of the Glen", a hollow, burned-out tree which had been used as shelter for generations of aborigines.

David McLaren, the second manager of the South Australian Company, soon perceived the advantages possessed by the Brownhill Creek as a situation for a village, and advertised accordingly:

#### "Delightful Sites for Villas

In compliance with applications from several parties who were desirous of securing sites for villas in the immediate neighbourhood of the town, but which should at the same time secure the advantages of a country residence, the manager of the South Australian Company begs to announce to those friends who applied for portions of section 248 on the Brownhill Creek, in the event of its being laid out in that manner, that it has been surveyed and mapped accordingly ...."

The village was laid out by William Giles, around an English-style village green, and named Mitcham after his home town in England. Sales were brisk, with acre allotments fetching up to \$40. The village layout was altered slightly, with a new street, Welbourne Street, soon making an appearance.

Mitcham grew relatively quickly, and by 1852 it comprised 56 homes, a hotel, 2 grocery shops and a butcher. There was a Union Chapel/school house on the green, where, the following year, public meetings were held that resulted in the formation of the Mitcham District Council - the first local governing body outside Adelaide in South Australia.

Isolated pockets of settlement were well established by the 1850's. The villages of Unley and Goodwood (formerly part of Mitcham Council) were important nodal points for settlers, developing first as agricultural and then as dormitory villages. Market gardens extended along Brownhill Creek valley, where the soil was fertile and water plentiful. Several houses were clustered around the Torrens Arms Hotel on Unley (now Belair) Road, and also along Mitcham (now Fullarton) Road. The Hills area was sparsely settled, with several farms in Coromandel Valley and Murray's Biscuit and Jam Factory starting a most successful business venture in 1856. The Government farm (now Belair Recreation Park) was used for growing hay and as a depot for government horses, and, by the end of the decade, was graced by the Governor's country residence. Belair was subdivided and the first store and schoolroom erected.

The greater portion of the Mitcham area was, however, natural bush or farming land, with isolated farmhouses or mansions of the wealthy scattered across the landscape. In the east, there was Arthur Hardy at Birksgate, which was described as a "mansion and 190 acres of pasturage and cultivated land", R.F. MacGeorge at Urrbrae and C.B. Newenham in his house called Springfield. Goodwood Road was almost wholly surrounded by farming land, with Thomas Overton's "Grange Farm" of 514 acres extending from Cross Road to Springbank Road (part of which is now Colonel Light Gardens). The village of Edwardstown was still generally undeveloped, and the most densely populated area on the western side was along South Road, where there were four hotels and St. Mary's Church, erected in 1847.

The land was used for small scale sheep, cattle and horse grazing, grain crops, market gardens and orchards. In the first twenty years, from 1840 to 1860, there were experimental plantings of all types of citrus, soft and stone fruits, vines, grains, olives and vegetables. This produce was sold in Unley and Adelaide. Cattle and sheep roamed through the foothills and the Ranges.

Quarrying started at a very early date, with numerous quarries worked at various times along Brown Hill and around Belair and Sleeps Hill. In 1841, the Adelaide Independent reported:

"We have been presented with a specimen of freestone obtained from a quarry recently opened near the Brownhill Creek; it is of most excellent quality, easily worked, and equal in appearance to the well-known Portland stone ..."

McElligott's quarry at the southern end of Fullarton Road supplied stone for St. Michaels Church at Mitcham and for the Institute. Huge blocks of stone were also excavated there for the Outer Harbour breakwater. Stone was taken from many sites along Brownhill Creek, usually by small family concerns. The other major quarries were those of Thomas Ayliffe, a road contractor who built sections of South Road, and several family quarries grouped at Sheoak Hill, at the eastern end of the Belair ridge. The latter site provided good quality freestone for many years, which was used to face a great number of the houses in Kingswood, Hawthorn and Unley.

There was little mining in the district, apart from the Wheal Grainger Mining Company which, in 1848, started working a silver and lead mine in the Brownhill Creek area.

By the 1860's, some of the major roads planned by Colonel Light had been surfaced and were in constant use. Fullarton Road was the main road from Adelaide to Mitcham and beyond, to Belair and Coromandel Valley. Unley Road was often an impassable bog, until its upgrading in 1855, when it was also directly connected with the city, and after which it gradually became the major thoroughfare to the southern area of Mitcham. South Road weaved uncertainly towards Reynella, until the route was finalized in 1850 and sealed with stone.

Settlement along these thoroughfares intensified, particularly around existing houses and proposed villages. With the increasing ease of access to the city, families of wealth and leisure also removed to the outer areas and erected fine country villas. Sir Walter Watson Hughes enlarged the formerly modest house at Torrens Park in the late 1860's, and ten years later, Sir Robert Barr Smith turned the place into a splendid mansion with a private theatre, which became one of the most magnificent and popular venues for the Adelaide social scene. "Wattlebury" at Lower Mitcham was an idiosyncratic two-storied residence, constructed in 1865 of bluestone from Tapley's Hill, for Henry Parker who was appointed the first Judge of South Australia. Peter Waite made his home at Urrbrae in 1877, rebuilding the house in 1891. "Clanfergeal" in present day Daw Park was erected in 1853, and enlarged in the late 1870's by George Ragless, who renamed the property "Battersea Park". His daughter's diary described it in glowing terms:

"... there are such trees with seats under them, such fruit trees, oranges, lemon, citron, pear, figs, cherries, apricots, etc. etc., a large vineyard away at the back, and then in front of the house a lovely flower garden, with roses (most splendid ones) and flowers of every description ... Then we have a Croquet Lawn and long seat in the shade of the Cypressess, and such a lovely avenue with two entrances ..."

Flamboyant and well-known characters also settled in the Mitcham area at this time: William Townsend, the smooth-talking and energetic member of Parliament from 1858 to 1876, resided at the elegant Pellatt Villa in Lower Mitcham, and in 1878

Alexander Tolmer, one time Commissioner of Police and relentless hunter of bushrangers, moved to a house just north of the Mitcham cemetery on Muggs Hill Road.

The colony of South Australia was developing steadily, and in the 1870's and early 1880's a great land boom took place, with much agricultural land around the small villages being subdivided. Many main roads were widened and metalled and the building of the Glenelg railway in 1873 stimulated interest in forming a tram service to the south of Adelaide. In 1879 the Adelaide, Unley and Mitcham Tramway Company began operations on its newly laid tracks with a steam tram, which The Register reported as appearing "to be well under control, and sufficiently serviceable ... It is to a great extent smokeless, and although not exempt from the comparative evil noise which seems inseparable from locomotives, does not create the great clatter."

Whilst this tramway venture was unsuccessful, the hills railway, built in 1882-3, was rightly called "one of the most important events in our history". The route went through Mitcham and new settlements sprung up on subdivisions around the stations on the line, particularly in the Hills area, as at Blackwood and Belair. Along with houses, schools, churches and shops were rapidly constructed, and many of the finest examples of these buildings date from this boom period. Families of builders operated in the different areas, such as John Weymouth the First who constructed some of the most substantial homes in Coromandel Valley and John Weymouth the Second who later built many of the larger homes in Blackwood and Belair.

Around 1884-5 South Australia drifted into a long and difficult period of depression, during which time there were bank failures, droughts, land speculation and crashes, strikes, unemployment and poor prices for many primary products. Crop acreages in Mitcham had declined by 1880 and were slowly on the increase until hit by the droughts from 1885-1891. The numbers of cattle, sheep and dairy cows were also sharply reduced, and by 1900, orcharding, vineyards and market gardening had become the most important agricultural pursuits in the Mitcham council area. Land prices which had been rising rapidly in the 1870's and early 1880's crashed during the depression and the rate of urbanization was drastically curtailed, as was the population growth, until the early 1900's.

"Development throughout the district did not take a very rapid stride until 1913, when with better communications with the city, the district began to grow. During the past ten years there has been sixty land subdivisions, throwing open 25 miles of new roads".

Electricity began to be connected to homes in Mitcham from just before the First World War (1914-1918) and in the 1920's, when the Municipal Tramways Trust also electrified the tram routes through the area. The railway, too, continued to be a vital form of transport, particularly in the hills, and the increasing popularity of the motor car necessitated the widening and surfacing of existing roads and the creation of new ones.

Kingswood, previously owned by the South Australian Company, was subdivided in 1907, and further residential plots were developed around the railway stations at Hawthorn, Lower Mitcham and Clapham. The construction of the railway station at Eden Hills in 1911 also stimulated the rapid growth of an area that had hitherto been sparsely settled. The suburb of Torrens Park was created from 1917-19 when the trustees for the late Robert Barr Smith sold off all but 34 acres of the original 240 acre estate.

Settlement around public transport routes continued during the First World War, particularly as petrol for motor cars was severely rationed. After the War, however, settlement spread over large areas of farm land which had been relatively isolated from the major transport corridors. There was a building boom during the 1920's, during which time the garden suburb of Colonel Light Gardens provided homes

first for a fashionable few, and then, from 1924-27, 400 houses for returned soldiers and large working class families. Colonel Light Gardens was imitated, in name rather than layout, by new residential areas, such as Clarence Gardens, Cumberland Park and Westbourne Park. The land surrounding the quarries on Ayliffes Road was subdivided around 1925 and sold well, the area being called Pasadena, and there was also considerable new building in Lower Mitcham and Edwardstown East.

Total crop acreages continued to decline in the Mitcham area, but more and more orchards and vineyards were established, particularly after the practical experiments at the Blackwood Experimental Orchard, established by the Government in 1908, and the Waite Agricultural Research Institute at Urrbrae, where research was begun in 1913, and which was officially taken over and expanded by the University of Adelaide in 1924.

Secondary industries continued, in the main, to be relatively small family concerns, often relying on the local produce for raw materials. One such business was J.H. Fourer's olive processing plant in Clapham, established in 1890, and which was converted into a soft drink factory in the early 1900's. Charles Mallen's Waverley Brewery was a complex of imposing stone buildings erected in 1878 and which provided work for many labourers in the area. Quarrying and related industries were scattered across the hills landscape. At Eden Hills the Metropolitan Brick Company, started in connection with the construction of the railway tunnels in 1881-2, and the Wade and Trott Sea View Brick Works, established in 1880, operated most profitably in the building boom of the mid 1920's.

By 1928, however, South Australia had again suffered a succession of severe droughts causing a recession in an economy so dependent on its primary productivity. The world-wide depression which descended upon Australia the following year thus devastated the already weakened state. Overseas and interstate markets for copper, wool and agricultural products dried up and many mines, pastoral concerns and farms were closed or abandoned. Jobs ceased to exist, unemployment figures soared and wages plummeted. The basic wage was reduced by the government from \$1.43 per day to \$1.25 in 1930, and to \$1.05 per day in 1931. The basic wage for females was lower still, falling from \$3.95 per week to \$3.50 and then to a meagre \$3.15. In Mitcham many agricultural and manufacturing concerns reduced operations or went bankrupt, amongst them, the Waverley Brewery. The Commonwealth Census of 1933 revealed that in Colonel Light Gardens where the majority of residents were from large, working class families attempting to meet monthly instalments on their new homes, less than half of all household heads were in continuous employment.

The building boom of the 1920's ground to a halt. Many people were forced to erect primitive dwellings of their own, for example over much of the unoccupied land at Daw Park, which came to be known as "Tintown" because of the large number of flimsy galvanized iron structures that sprang up there during the lean Depression years. Land prices fell and Mitcham Council bought several blocks scattered throughout the suburbs for recreation areas. A new subdivision around Shepherds Hill Road was created and offered for sale in 1930 and 1931, with only two house allotments out of the 200 acre estate being taken up.

In 1935 South Australia's Auditor-General, J.W. Wainwright, compiled a series of reports which prompted the government to broaden the state's industrial base by encouraging secondary industry and thus freeing the economy, to some degree, from its dependence on the unpredictable primary sector. The new factories needed workers, and the workers needed housing. The South Australian Housing Trust was formed two years later, and in 1938, built twelve new houses in Edwardstown. Building activity increased slowly as the decade came to an end, particularly around Goodwood and South Roads.

The Second World War (1939-1945) provided jobs for the falling number of

unemployed and stimulated agriculture throughout the Mitcham area, especially orcharding and market gardening. Domestic building again slackened, but many of the remaining areas of undeveloped land were subdivided, as around Blackwood, and, by 1947, Mitcham had passed the population limit required for its designation as a city. From that date, the rate of change in land use, appearance and character accelerated, as over the whole Adelaide area. Mitcham's population doubled from 1945 to 1966, as did the number of occupied houses. From the late 1940's on, Springfield, which had failed to develop under a private company, became a prestigious location for individual home-building, foreshadowing the breaking up of the last large estates of the district. Parts of the formerly unsuccessful subdivision along Shepherds Hill Road were renamed Bellevue Heights, re-offered for sale in 1955, and "went like hot cakes", with three further successful subdivisions through the 1960's. Belair, Blackwood and Eden Hills expanded rapidly and new housing estates were developed around the few scattered farmhouses at Hawthorndene and Glenalta. Improved public transport services and water and power supplies helped open up the hitherto under-developed hills area, and the motor car multiplied the rate of urbanization in all areas. Secondary industries claimed parts of the western suburbs of Edwardstown and St. Marys and straggled unattractively along South Road.

The innovative Town Planning and Development Act of 1920 had been repealed in 1929 and, as the only zoning control for the next forty years was under the successive Building Acts, little control was exercised over the siting and environmental impact of new structures. In 1953, all building restrictions were removed, and the northern section of Mitcham rapidly became part of Adelaide's urban sprawl, with houses mushrooming in the foothills and along the hills' face zone. Most of the few remaining market gardens and orchards disappeared: the almond plantations at Edwardstown, the peach and pear orchards at Hawthorndene and the vineyards and olive groves at Panorama. Stately mansions and substantial farm houses lost their surrounding acres and were marooned amongst a host of "Californian bungalows" and "Spanish Mission" style houses. Many were demolished, with Birksgate, the home of the Elders' and the Barr Smiths', pulled down to make way for a superior housing estate at Urrbrae in the early 1970's.

In 1967 the State Planning and Development Act was passed and has since influenced all metropolitan planning, all but eliminating haphazard and shoddy development. Historical and environmental considerations have, however, taken even longer to be recognized and acted upon. The passing of the Australian Heritage Commission Act in 1975 and the South Australian Heritage Act in 1978 expressed a growing awareness by the public and officialdom of the significance of those structures and natural areas from the past, and the realization that determined policies of preservation and conservation were imperative.

In Mitcham, much has disappeared. Its character is now urban rather than rural, with secondary service industries rather than agricultural and pastoral properties. Yet defining characteristics have remained as well: the wealthy eastern suburbs, Belair National Park and Brownhill Creek Reserve, the English style village of Mitcham, the old settlement on the ridge at Belair, the hills railway and the numerous quarries. Some 18 historic precincts have been identified in this report. Some are under immediate threat from age, traffic or commercial or residential development, others are not. But all precincts, together with those individual buildings, items and landscapes registered as well, must be preserved, cared for and enjoyed if the Council area of Mitcham is to be recognizably itself in the future.

R. Jennings: "Some Historically Insoluble Railway Problems in South Australia".  
Nesfield Press, North Plympton 1980. 49pp. \$5.95

Members who were entertained by Dr Jennings at our May 1979 meeting - and who present wasn't - can now read a slightly expanded version of his address, published with characteristic vigour by the author himself. It is a handsome, well-illustrated booklet, a most valuable supplement to the author's earlier book on W.A. Webb, and refreshing in its blunt expression of opinion and fact ("Hare was a dill in his own right").

Many historians are loath to draw lessons for the present from their research. Dr Jennings does it very well, and the booklet should be compulsory reading for all politicians and public servants, not just those associated with railways. Indeed, anyone interested in our history should devour it. It is worth every one of the 595 cents.

The cover features locomotive 526 steaming gloriously out of the Sleeps Hill tunnel. The author's name appears just underneath. If the A.N.R. still believes in naming its locos I hope the cover proves suggestive.

Brian Samuels

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EPITAPH - BURRA (S.A.)

At first Welsh words seemed strange here  
where this parched heartland of my country sprawls  
in tussock-tossing wind and clear  
Tom Roberts colours. Underneath a line  
of swaying, grey, complaining pines  
shed needles stain the cracks that years  
have etched across the headstone by the wall.

Strange - until I saw the names  
that read like Rhondda-Valley roll calls. Rows  
of lichened names edge growth-choked lanes  
faint now, but when those people lived that stone  
and epitaph meant something. Home  
had echoes there. Perhaps they came  
to place it here - a century ago.

Perhaps they talked awhile. The air  
was surely Celtic then between these trees  
and Cornish walls. They knew that where  
we die is unimportant if we lie  
beneath our language and beside  
our friends. They left him resting there -  
as close to home as most of us will be.

Frank McMahon - April 1977

SELECTIONS FROM THE MONTHLY LIST OF PUBLICATIONS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIAN  
INTEREST RECEIVED IN THE STATE LIBRARY DIVISION - April 1980

BASTIAN, Arthur. Reflections of the first 50 years of Booleroo Centre High School 1930-1980. (Booleroo, Booleroo Centre High School Jubilee Committee, 1980). 5, (2)p. 21cm. Processed.

CHAPMAN, Graeme. One lord, one faith, one baptism: a history of churches of Christ in Australia. (Glen Iris, Vic.), Vital Pubs, (1979). 190p. 18cm. Considerable portion of book concerns S.A. ISBN 0 909116 15 6

DIX, Donald C. Murray Bridge, South Australia, 1924-1974: a royal jubilee. (Murray Bridge, Murray Bridge and District Historical Society, 1974). 15p. ill. 28cm.-Souvenir publication compiled by Murray Bridge and Murray Bridge and District Historical Society to mark town's first 50 years as municipality. Available from: District Council of Murray Bridge, 5 Bridge Street, Murray Bridge 5253.

DYSTER, Tom. Pump in the roadway and early days in the Adelaide Hills. (By) Tom Dyster; (ill. by Phil Nolan). Hawthorndene, Investigator Pr., 1980. 160p. endp. maps, ill. 22cm. ISBN 0 85864 030 9.

HURST, John. Hawke: the definitive biography. (Lond.), A. & R., (1979). 262p. 22cm. Cloth ed. ISBN 0 207 14050 2.

KINDER, Sylvia. Her story of the Adelaide Women's Liberation Movement 1969-1974. (Adel., the Author, 1980). 180p. bibliog., 21cm. Processed. Available from: Ms S. Kinder, 9A Nelson Street, Fullarton, 5063.

LUCINDALE AREA SCHOOL. Lucindale Area School centenary 1880-1980. (Lucindale, the School, 1980). 4 (7)p. 21cm. Processed.

MARLES, D.M., comp. A pictorial history of West Torrens. (Adel., Lutheran Pub. House, Ptr, 1980). 87p. ill. 24cm. ISBN 0 9594714 05. Available from Mrs D.M. Marles, c/- West Torrens Public Library, Brooker Terrace, Hilton, 5033.

MOUNT GAMBIER PRIMARY SCHOOL. M.G. Primary School, Reidy Park 25th anniversary, 1955-1980. (Mt Gambier, the School, 1980.) 4p. 21cm. Processed.

NATIONAL TRUST OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA. Silver Jubilee; walk with us on Sunday, 20th April, 1980 and relive history. (Adel., the Trust, 1980?) fold paper, 21cm. Includes loose-leaf sheet entitled: Silver Jubilee Historic Walk Hahndorf to Beaumont, Sunday, 20th April 1980; information sheet.

THE STAGE. Adel., L. Henn & Co. 1883-1884. 22v. advts, 32cm. d. Most issues undated. Pub. nightly for the Theatre Royal.

STREMPEL, A.A. A survey of south polar exploration 1773 to 1937. (Adel? 1937). 19 leaves, 26cm. Typescript.

URBAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING GROUP. Robe conservation study. (Hackney, U.E.P.G., 1979). 2v. ill. 30cm. Spiral binding. Fold map in pkt.

## 5. NOTICES

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### AUSTRALIA'S HISTORY IN FOLKSONG AND FOLKLORE

"While the Billy Boils", a very interesting series devised by Warren Fahey, was broadcast on ABC FM in May and June. It is being repeated in 16 half-hour

programmes commencing on Friday, 4th July on 5CL at 9.00 p.m. Cassette tapes of the series will be available from the ABC later this year.

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MUSEUM ENQUIRY

Mr Bob Edward's planning for the redevelopment of the South Australian Museum and investigation of support for regional museums is proceeding well. His brief has been extended to include the needs of the State Library and the Art Gallery to the year 2000 and his final report is therefore not due until September. Several Society members are serving on the working party advising on the State Historical Centre proposed in Mr Edward's First Interim Report.

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N. YEATE'S "STONE ON STONE"

200pp. (At the discount price of \$8.00 plus \$3.15 freight to Society members. Leave your name with the Secretary.)

"Stone on Stone" is a true story about one family, spanning five generations.

It starts with the arrival from England in Jan. 1839 of John and Martha Yeates with their five children in a 434 ton barque in the Colony of South Australia.

When John dies of dysentery within a few months of his arrival Martha supports the children, aged 7 to 16, by establishing a school for "young ladies and young gentlemen under nine." Martha's two daughters soon marry and the three boys eventually make careers on the land.

The three Yeates brothers spend 12 years from 1851 on sheep runs on the South Flinders Ranges, South Australia, before moving to North Queensland. Travelling to Port Jackson by sailing ship, they purchase stock and equipment, then make a remarkable overland trek which lasts a year and takes them 1700 miles north, to the Einasleigh River in the watershed of the Gulf of Carpentaria.

The youngest brother Sidney (the author's grandfather) stays 16 years in the north. Then, with his wife and large family, plus the remnants of his sheep flock, he sets out to the "new El Dorado," - S.W. Queensland. Travelling by bullock wagon, the 700 mile journey to Boondoon, a 550 sq. ml. lease near Adavale, takes three months. But they find no El Dorado when they arrive on 2 February 1881 "in the midst of an awful drought." Despite hardships Sidney and his family remain on Boondoon until 1894 when he retires.

Moving through further generations of the family the author tells his own story: how his deep boy-hood love of the land and especially the pastoral industry was directed into professional agricultural science rather than practical farming. Was this a soft option, a betrayal of the spirit of his pioneering forebears? ... or was it common sense for the fifth son of an impecunious family in the 1930's?

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MASTER'S DEGREE IN CONSERVATION, UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

The degree of Master of Science (Architecture)(Conservation) is offered by the Faculty of Architecture to graduates of an appropriate first degree.

The course is primarily a research degree, with some lectures included; and the option of undertaking part of the course at the Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies at the University of York.

Enquiries should be directed to:  
Ilsa Hansen, Graduate Assistant, Faculty of Architecture, University of Sydney.  
Tel. 692 3248.

## 6. NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE

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Since May, 1980, the following Newsletters and Journals have been received:

- a) Royal Australian Historical Society Newsletter No. 188, April 1980.
- b) Royal Australian Historical Society Newsletter No. 189, May 1980.
- c) Royal Australian Historical Society Newsletter No. 190, June-July, 1980.
- d) Royal Australian Historical Society Journal Vol. 66, Part 1, June 1980.
- e) Canberra and District Historical Society Newsletter, No.215, June-July, 1980.
- f) Royal Western Australian Historical Society Newsletter, Vol.19, Nos. 4 & 5, May and June, 1980.
- g) Royal Geographical Society of Australasia (S.A. Branch) Inc. Newsletter Vol.16, Nos. 3 and 4, April, May, 1980.
- h) Portonian, Vol.8, No.2, June, 1980.
- i) Mile End Railway Museum Newsletter, No. 21, June 1980.
- j) Torrens Valley Historical Journal No.11, May 1980.
- k) South Australian Horse Driving Society Newsletter, May and June, 1980.
- l) Pichi Richi Patter Vol.7, No.4, Winter 1980.
- m) The South Australian Genealogist, Vol.7, No.2, April 1980.
- n) The Local Museum, Vol.1 No.4, April 1980.
- o) Australia 1888 Bulletin No.4, May 1980.

## 7. NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

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- a) "Prehistoric Aboriginal Occupation of the Blacktown Area" by J. Kohen.
- "The Ancient Craft of Cooperage" by A. Kevin Bindon.
- c) "Presidential Address" by Prof. K.J. Cable.
- d) "Nazi Stratagems and their Effects on Germans in Australia up to 1945" by G. Kinne. This article refers particularly to South Australia.
- h) "Port Adelaide and the 1976 Census" by B. Samuels.
- j) "When Birdwood had a Railway" by Rex Amber.
- "Mount Torrens Cemetery Transcriptions" by Mrs L. Coad and Mrs Grigg.
- m) "An alphabetical list of passengers arriving at Port Adelaide from South Australian Coastal and Intercolonial Ports between 1837-1845 cont" by Mary Hodge. This lists the "B" surnames, with ship, date, and reference.
- "Records of Genealogical Interest at the Commonwealth Archives".
- "Lord Louis Mountbatten" by D.E. Hulse.
- n) "Portraits of Steam" by Roman Ruehle. Railway history in the north of S.A.
- "The History of the Adelaide G.P.O. and Clock Tower" by the Planning Branch, Australia Post, Adelaide. This article includes photographs and detailed measurements of the clock and tower.
- o) "Family Structure in Colonial Australia" by P. Grimshaw and G. Willett.
- "Political Liberalism and the Oppression of Women" by M. James.
- "Family, Kin and Neighbours: The Newcastle Coalmining District 1860-1900" by E. McEwen.

Introduction: To study the literature written in Australia before 1850 is mainly to study poetry - though "poetry" is too grand a title for most of the jingles, impromptus and other "poetic effusions" offered to the public. From almost the first issues of the Sydney Gazette in 1803 George Howe was publishing original verse and most later newspapers and magazines featured a "Poet's Corner". Consequently much more poetry achieved this sort of ephemeral publication than is the case now.

Love was, perhaps naturally, the most popular theme, followed by what one might call "death" poems, whether laments for actual persons or just for the general transience of life. Next in frequency were humorous poems, often satirizing some aspect of the local scene. These are now generally the most appealing of the early verses, and the most historically useful, though as poetry they are usually just as unoriginal and banal as the other varieties.

As one might expect, increase in population meant that more original poetry was published in Australian magazines and newspapers in the 1830's than in the 1820's and more still in the 1840's.

Again as one might expect on population figures, significantly less poetry appeared in other Australian centres than Sydney between 1836 and 1840.

Little original verse appeared in the newspapers established in South and Western Australia during the 1830's. The South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register, founded in England in 1836, initially deliberately refused to publish original poetry, the editor telling a correspondent on 6 July 1839: "We so abominate the "original poetry" of newspapers that we make it a principle on no consideration to print the rhymes with which we are occasionally favored." This principle was transgressed only once prior to 1840, for an amusing parody of Gray's Elegy bemoaning Osmond Gilles' retirement as Colonial Treasurer. The Southern Australian, first issued on 2 June 1838, had published six poems by the end of 1840, all humorous local satires, including four "South Australian Melodies" by "Timothy Short", otherwise Nathaniel Hailes, who remained a prominent versifier throughout the 1840's. Most early Western Australian verse, nearly all published in the Swan River Guardian, was of a similar satirical and local nature.

In the 1840's there was a marked increase throughout Australia in the number of poems on local topics, a significant proportion of which were humorous or satirical, the equivalent of the modern paper's daily cartoon. Poems of this type were, of course, being written in Australia from the earliest days of settlement but were never taken seriously enough, even by their authors, to be included in collections of verse published in book form. Of the many distortions that have resulted from studying early Australian poetry only in terms of the few volumes which appeared at a time when book publication depended on money rather than merit, that caused by the lack of humorous and satirical verse is the worst. Hopefully, this bibliography will not only begin to correct these distortions but, for the poems' insights into contemporary attitudes to life in Australia, prove useful to historians as well.

As so few of the authors of this early poetry can now be identified, items are arranged chronologically rather than by authors' names, a practice which also gives a clearer idea of the amount of verse printed in various years. On numerous occasions, too, more than one poem appeared on a particular topic, so a chronological arrangement avoids otherwise necessary cross-references. The title of the poem, or first line if untitled, has been listed first, followed by author, date and place of composition where given, date of publication and page reference. Wherever possible, pseudonymous authors have been identified and later reprints of poems noted. Unless otherwise indicated, the poetic quality of the verses is to be taken as conventionally mediocre.

Newspapers and magazines are listed chronologically in the order of their appearance, within present state boundaries.

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GAZETTE AND COLONIAL REGISTER First issue, 18 June 1836.

1836-1838: None

1839 "A Pathetic Lament. Written in Gilles Arcade. By One of the Gray School." 5 October [5]. Parody of Gray's "Elegy Written in a Country Church Yard". On Osmond Gilles' retirement as Colonial Treasurer.

1840 None

THE SOUTHERN AUSTRALIAN First Issue, 2 June 1838

1838 None

1839 "South Australian Melodies. No.1", Timothy Short. 8 May, [3]. By Nathaniel Hailes. A parody of Moore's "She is far from the land where her young hero sleeps ...".

"South Australian Melodies. No.II. To Mildew. Autumn (South Australian) of 1839", Timothy Short. 22 May, 3. Parody of Cowper's "My Mary".

"South Australian Melodies. No. III. Timothy Short's Lament". 5 June, 3. Has been charged with libel because of his previous verses.

"South Australian Melodies. No. V. Timothy's Petition to His Highness". 31 July, 3. Satirical - asks that his son may have one of the new offices now being created in South Australia.

1840 "The Adelaide 'Tambourgi'. A war song after Byron", Anon. 19 March, 72. Humorous comments on local soldiers. Reprinted in the Hobart Town Courier, 17 April, 3.

"A Soliloquy, (not Hamlet's)"; "One More Melody". 7 May, 114. Further comic poems on the local militia - the first a parody of the usual "To be or not to be". Prefaced by this dedication: "The Army. To the Commandant, the Officers, Non commissioned Officers, and Privates of our Colonial Army. The following pieces are most respectfully INSCRIBED by one who aspires to render to the force his services as DRUMMER."

THE EGOIST From 14 May to 4 June 1839: None.

THE ADELAIDE GUARDIAN From 7 September to 16 October 1839.

"A Challenge to Chess. To ...". 21 September, [4]. Love poem, with quite clever use of chess imagery.

THE ADELAIDE CHRONICLE AND SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ADVERTISER First issue, 10 Dec. 1839.

1839 None

1840 "To a young Widower", O.K.R. 14 January, [4].

"Lines Written at Sea", O. 25 February, 4.

"Stanzas on the loss of a man overboard, off Singapore", O. 3 March, 4.

"Song of the Exile", O. 17 March, 4.

"The Thundercloud", T.S. 3 June, 4.

"The Old Ash-Tree. Addressed to a Brother in India", R. 12 August, 4.

"The Adelaide Echo", Griffin. 2 September, 3. Quite a clever piece of commentary on local affairs. Reprinted in the South Australian Register, 5 September 1840, 4.

"To a River", A Young Lady. 2 September, 4.

Published by the 1838 Volume Collective of the Australian Bicentennial History "The Push from the Bush".

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S T O P P R E S S

"SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL RESOURCES - THE SCOPE FOR A STATE HISTORY CENTRE"

This is the title of a talk by Society member and Curator of the Historical Section of the Art Gallery, Dr John Tregenza, to be delivered at a meeting of the S.A. Branch of the Museums Association of Australia. Dr Tregenza has been an able advocate for a State History Centre in the context of the recommendations made in the interim Edwards Report on the S.A. Museum, and the concept is a very exciting one. The meeting will be on Wednesday 27th August at 7.45 p.m. in the supper room next to the State Library Lecture Theatre. All welcome.