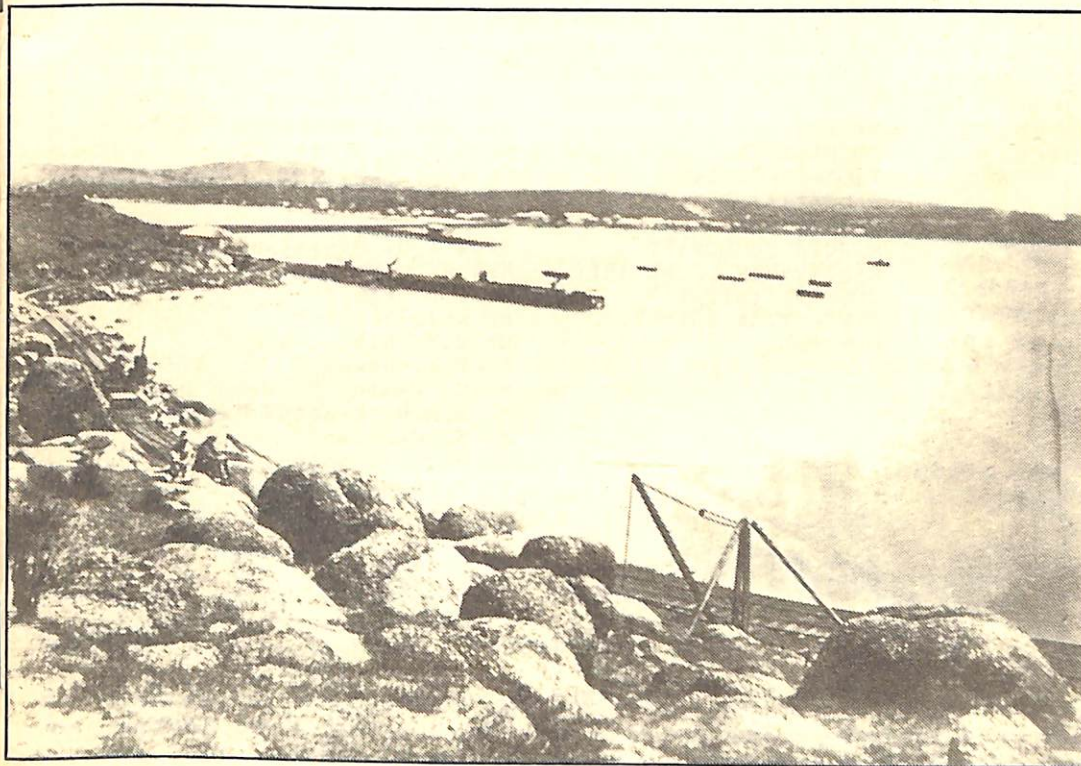




The  
Historical Society  
of  
South Australia  
Inc.



Newsletter No.79 November 1988



# THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

Institute Building, 122 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide 5000

## OBJECTS

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

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## COUNCIL

PATRON:	Sir Walter Crocker, K.B.E.
PRESIDENT:	Dr R.P.J. Nicol
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Dr A.J. Stimson
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AUDITOR:	Mr G. Ralph

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FOUNDED IN 1974

Cover photograph Port Victor (Victor Harbor) from Granite Island between 1880 and 1886. In the early 1880s this outport flourished as the outlet for Goolwa's river trade, New South Wales clips being exported direct to London for a few short years. See p.20 for a contemporary account of Victor as an ocean port. Mortlock Library photograph.

## SOCIETY NEWS

### Launch of South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register facsimile edition, 12 October 1988, and details of a special offer for members

The Register facsimile, once the Society's sesquicentennial and more recently its bicentennial project, was launched on Wednesday 12 October in the Mortlock Library. Its birth has been protracted (six years in all) and not always an easy one; Dick Kearns put that story on the record in an earlier Newsletter and it need not be repeated here.

But now the launch has come and gone and the Society has to its credit a volume of importance.

The facsimile covers the first 30 months of the South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register, South Australia's first newspaper. The first issue was produced in Great Britain on 18 June 1836; the last issue to be reproduced in this volume is dated 29 December 1838, so the reader is offered a detailed, almost microscopic look at the province in the foundation years. For historians, genealogists and the intelligent reader it will be of enormous use and interest, not least because of its comprehensive index.

Mr David Smith, Managing Editor of The Advertiser, launched the book and his address is reproduced below. Sir Walter Crocker, Patron of the Historical Society, responded, and Dick Kearns, a past president of the Society, gave a brief outline of the project's history. On behalf of the Society, Dr Robert Nicol, President, then presented Dick with a hard bound copy of the facsimile as a token of thanks for his work over six years.

The Register is available in bookstores but members and non-members too enjoy a substantial discount by ordering through the Historical Society. Costs are as follows:

	Hardbound leather	Limp cover
Retail price in shops	\$125.00	\$45.00
Price to Society members	\$100.00	\$36.00
Price to non-members	\$112.50	\$40.00

Members and non-members alike may purchase a copy from Brian Samuels in the History Trust offices during office hours. The Trust occupies rooms above the State Library Lecture Theatre where the Society holds its regular monthly meetings. Brian notes that if he is unavailable another member of the Trust's staff will be able to help you.



For postage and packaging add the following:

- \* SA postcodes to 5200, i.e. metropolitan \$4.00
- \* SA postcodes 5200 and beyond \$5.00
- \* Interstate \$6.00

IS A BETTER CHRISTMAS PRESENT ON OFFER ANYWHERE IN ADELAIDE?

-oOo-

Address by Mr David Smith, Managing Editor of The Advertiser  
at the launch on 12 October 1988

Ladies and Gentlemen

I guess for most people today, newspapers occupy a special, if quite often unthought of, place in our lives. We read them in the morning or afternoon to feel informed about the events that have happened in the past 24 hours - the 24 hours since the previous day's Advertiser woke you with a thump on the garden path.

Of course we all listen to the radio news and watch it live as it happens on the television news. But by and large it is to newspapers that people - and particularly thinking people - turn to really feel they are informed. Radio and television news is actually supplementary news. For example, all the words spoken on an entire 30 minute TV news bulletin would fill less than half the front page of a newspaper like the Advertiser.

Of course, those of us who work in newspapers are used to the fish wrapper description. And I guess it is true to say that in today's world there's nothing as stale as yesterday's newspaper.

But this publication - a facsimile reproduction of the South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register from June 18, 1836 to December 29, 1838 is a record - perhaps therecord of our beginnings.

Can you imagine what this newspaper must have meant to our early settlers? It was their contact with each other, it was a place to air their joys and frustrations, their pride and their prejudices (not least of all the prejudices of George Stevenson, the first editor). It was their contact with Mother England. I wondered as I read this volume whether Stevenson would have even entertained the thought that 152 years later that his publication would be re-read in a city of one million.

The history of the early Australian press is littered with larrikins. Now I don't know if Stevenson could be called a true larrikin, but he certainly was a strong and forceful character. He certainly believed in speaking his mind,

The launch of the Register facsimile, 12 October 1988.  
From left to right: Mr David Smith, managing editor  
The Advertiser; Mr R.H.B. Kearns, Past President of the  
Society; and Sir Walter Crocker, Patron. Photograph  
courtesy of The Advertiser.

testimony to which is the fact that when he died in 1850 nine libel actions were standing against his name.

Of course you all know that the first issue was published in London and the second just days under a year later in Adelaide. I rather admire the boldness of the first owners' intentions ... "to print the first number in the capital of the civilised world and the second in a city of the wilderness".

And please listen again to the purpose of the newspaper... "to set our faces against all systems and degrees of jobbery, to expose humbug (isn't that a perfect word), to keep a sharp look-out after all the doings of every Jack in office, to protest all secret transactions of public business, in short to speak truth and shame the Devil." No flowery words there. Boy, were those colonials going to get a newspaper! And they did!

Stevenson of course had a pretty good inside running. In addition to being the editor of the only printed means of communication, he was at various times private secretary to Governor Hindmarsh, Clerk to the Council, a justice of the peace, coroner, interim protector of Aborigines, postmaster-general, harbormaster, collector of customs and magistrate. In short, he had the game sewn up ... If only the Advertiser had sources like that today!

Naturally, before long Stevenson was embroiled in all the squabbles of the infant colony. The paper took two years to reach its intended regular weekly issue but circulation rose from 300 in 1837 to 900 in 1840. This dramatic rise in circulation was no doubt due to the fact that, as I have said, the South Australian Gazette was never afraid to speak its mind.

Listen to this fine example of thundering from the issue of Saturday, May 19, 1838, headed "Mr. James Hurtle Fisher and the Press":

"Our readers will see from the trial we publish at great length that Mr. Hurtle Fisher has ventured into court in defence, as he proclaimed, of his public character, and that he has sneaked out of it without having dared to answer a single question put to him touching his doings as Resident Commissioner. It was a Birmingham jury, we think, who, in a case against a man for beating his wife, delivered their verdict in the following elegant terms: 'Brought in - done it - but served her right'. We believe, had the jury, who have just discharged their consciences by so original an opinion on the laws of evidence and libel, been left to expound their notions in their own phraseology, a verdict similar to that of their enlightened brethren would have been the result. ... the simple fact that out of the sapient 12 (on the jury) two of their

# SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GAZETTE AND COLONIAL REGISTER.

**ON SATURDAY AUGUST 12th,**

*Will be published,*

The Fifth number of the

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GAZETTE AND  
COLONIAL REGISTER.**

*Orders, Advertisements, and all Communications  
to the Editor, received only by R. THOMAS and  
Co., Printers.*

It is requested that Advertisements intended for  
the Fifth number may be sent to the Office not later  
than **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST the 9th.**

*Adelaide, 7th August, 1837.*

number at least could neither read nor write is sufficient to stamp the verdict as utterly worthless."

Now that's really saying what you mean. But what was the case about? It was James Hurtle Fisher, Resident Commissioner v Robert Thomas and George Stevenson, owners of the Gazette for alleged libel. The verdict: Guilty.

But Thomas and Stevenson were nothing if not businessmen and their little newspaper had plenty of advertisements too. These are just as revealing about conditions in the colony as the editorial.

How about Adelaide's first land developers. The advertisement is headed "To the Working Classes" and was published on December 8, 1838. It said in part:

"The proprietor of Country Section No. 51 (which was between Adelaide and Glenelg), 80 acres begs to offer it to the notice of the working classes of Adelaide. He intends to divide the said section into 80 allotments and to sell them at the low price of five pounds for each allotment ... to render the purchase easy the proprietor will receive five shillings per share each week."

Or one of our first housing entrepreneurs. On December 22, 1838 this advertisement appeared:

#### "Moveable Wooden Houses

John Crawford and Co., architects, builders and contractors, Rundle Street, have the satisfaction to announce the success of their experiment in constructing portable wooden houses complete, capable of being removed from their building yard to any part of North and South Adelaide, Port Adelaide, or the country in the surrounding plains. Emigrants must bear in mind that most of the imported incomplete wooden houses have cost in land carriage and erection alone a sum equal to their first cost in England independent of freight."

The Crawford house by the way cost sixty pounds.

So how did the South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register fare?

On June 2, 1838, Stevenson's enemies - and you can imagine that by then he had quite a few - launched the Southern Australian. It lived until 1852, the two editors hurling abuse at each other. Stevenson described the new paper as "sixpence worth of scum". Charles Mann, editor of the Southern Australian referred to Stevenson's "Billingsgate blackguardism".

In its early days the Register published all government

announcements but in June 1839, when Stevenson offended Governor Gawler, the Governor decreed that the Register and the Government Gazette should be published separately. Next year Gawler became even more angry and took all Government printing away from the Register and gave it to the Southern Australian.

I must say, as I read this, my mind went back less than five years to when Neville Wran as Labor Premier of NSW took all Government advertising away from the Sydney Morning Herald and to 1984 when National Party Premier Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen did the same while I was editing the Courier-Mail because those newspapers offended the Government. Governor Gawler has a lot to answer for!

Not surprisingly in 1842 Thomas and Stevenson went broke. For the next eight years a series of newspapers started, amalgamated, fell by the wayside, changed names, but in 1850 the Register became a daily. In 1858, however, John H. Barrow, a pastor and later a prominent parliamentarian founded the South Australian Advertiser. The Register and the Advertiser fought fiercely over the issues of the day but in 1931 the Advertiser company bought the Register and incorporated it with its own title. And that is the newspaper that today I have the honour to be deeply involved with. It is a newspaper that I would hope would be seen as important and vital to our State today as Stevenson's South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register was 152 years ago.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I was honoured to be invited to be here today and it is with enormous pleasure that I launch this facsimile reproduction of the South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register - June 18, 1836 to December 29, 1838.

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#### Heritage Conference, 14 and 16 October 1988

The conference jointly organized with Old Parliament House and the History Trust proved to be a considerable success. It began with an address by the Minister for Tourism, Hon. Barbara Wiese, on the Friday night, and continued in a full day session on Sunday 16 October.

In her address the minister returned to a theme she had raised earlier in the year. Her argument is that conservation groups have too much power, so much power that they can effectively 'kill' rational development proposals in an effort to freeze Adelaide under a 'glass dome'. This idea drew little support on Sunday. Gerry Patitsas of Aurora Heritage Action argued that community groups involved in the conservation debate in fact have little chance against the economic clout of the developers, and that the developers win many more battles than they lose. In similar vein Barry Rowney (Architecture, University of Adelaide) said few

conservationists are opposed to development, as the minister suggested; in fact developers generally respect heritage concerns, at least to the extent of trying to discredit a building's heritage status before demolishing it. The issue, he said, is where to draw the line between conservation and development.

Where to draw the line is not always obvious. This was evident when a number of speakers touched upon the South Adelaide creche. Simply, did its remains warrant preservation or not? Jon Wommersley also referred to the practical dilemma his understaffed State Heritage unit often runs up against. Some debate then followed as to the proper role State Heritage ought to play in the on-going heritage/conservation debate.

Not all was doom and gloom. The architect Ian Hannaford said developers increasingly are interested in heritage; they know that in the long run it can pay to respect the heritage aspects of this or that site. He also suggested that the new Adelaide city plan would lead to an improvement in the 'subtlety, quality and appropriateness' of development to come.

Tony Stimson

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#### Report on the November Lecture

Pam Oborn and Ken Preiss delivered the lecture on Friday, 4 November. Their topic was the history of the Torrens Park estate near Mitcham, a project they have been working on for some years, and one which will come to a close in six months or so with the publication of a book which, Ken explained, looks like running to six hundred pages or so.

It proved to be a marvellous evening. The seventy or so people present were first given a potted history of the families which owned the estate until its purchase by the Presbyterian Church for a new school to be named Scotch College. The Barr Smith years in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries stand out, for it was under Robert Barr Smith that the house flourished as the centre of Adelaide society. Members will recall last year's Mitcham walk which ended with a tour of the elaborate theatre he built for his daughters.

Those present were also treated to an illustrated history of the house itself. And what a house! Ken Preiss and Pam Oborn explained how they crawled from basement to rafters in putting together the story of its construction over forty years or so. They explained too how in so doing they had to verse themselves in architectural history and the history of late nineteenth century interior design. Their book is yet

to appear but on the evidence of Friday's lecture it is certain to be well received.

Tony Stimson

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#### The Newsletter 1988

This is the sixth issue for 1988. I hope members have enjoyed reading it; I have enjoyed putting it together and scribbling this and that, often at great haste and at the last moment. Many people have helped out during the year. Bill Stacy, Pat Sumerling, Brian Samuels, Dick Kearns and others have fed me short articles, information and photographs, and my colleagues on the Society's Council performed the essential and decidedly unglamorous task of putting the final product into envelopes ready for posting.

My greatest debt is to Vivienne O'Neill whose skill with a word processor turns the scruffiest jottings into the professional production you read. The Newsletter is very much a joint production by the two of us.

This year has seen a few changes of format. The inside rear cover is now given over to a diary of historical events compiled by Susan Marsden, State Historian. I hope members find it useful. The September issue also ran a 'How to write History' liftout by Susan; I hope it will be the first of several.

Suggestions are always welcome. This is a Newsletter for members and I would encourage you to contribute to it and use it for exchanges of information and news.

Tony Stimson.

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#### NEWS

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#### GRANTS TO MUSEUMS

Each financial year the History Trust of South Australia disburses \$100 000 in grants to local and specialist museums throughout the State. Grants for 1987/88 were as follows. Museums must be provisionally accredited before they are eligible to receive grants. For further details contact the Trust's Museum Officer, Susan Tonkin, phone (08) 223 8813.

Brian Samuels

## MUSEUMS ACCREDITATION AND GRANTS PROGRAM

MUSEUM	PROJECT	GRANT
ARDROSSAN NATIONAL TRUST MUSEUM	Construction of storage area and purchase of conservation materials.	\$ 1,060
AXEL STENROSS MUSEUM Port Lincoln	Conservation Study.	1,500
BAROSSA VALLEY ARCHIVES & HISTORICAL TRUST Tanunda	Employment of a Registrar, construction of a storage area, protection of outdoor implements.	1,900
BORDERTOWN & DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM INC.	Construction of records storage area and museum office.	7,086
	Conservation study + Registration materials.	1,301
CITY OF UNLEY MUSEUM	Purchase of portable display equipment.	3,210
CLARE NATIONAL TRUST MUSEUM	Conservation Study.	1,700
FLINDERS UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM	Conservation Study.	800
JAMESTOWN NATIONAL TRUST	Conservation projects: electrician's report, fumigation, UV film, fire extinguishers, acid-free tissue.	665
KADINA NATIONAL TRUST	Upgrading of Matta House display + design for local history display.	7,080
KAPUNDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY	Completion of Hawke Foundry display, conservation study, security alarm.	3,245
KIMBA & GAWLER RANGES HISTORICAL SOCIETY	Upgrading of signage and site interpretation + registration of collection.	2,230
MAITLAND NATIONAL TRUST MUSEUM	Construction of storage area and purchase of conservation supplies.	1,060
MILE END/PORT DOCK RAILWAY MUSEUM	Sealing and enclosure of asbestos insulation on 10 locomotives.	17,250
	Display improvements in main gallery: design, construction, graphics, sound.	23,403
MILLICENT NATIONAL TRUST	Upgrading of signs and labels.	1,500
	Continuation of Registrar's employment.	3,000
MOONTA NATIONAL TRUST	Continuation of registration work.	4,000
NARACOORTE NATIONAL TRUST MUSEUM	Design costs for Stage Three of "The Sheep's Back".	5,500
PORT PIRIE NATIONAL TRUST	Conservation projects: UV film, photograph copying, shutters.	7,086
PORT VICTORIA NATIONAL TRUST	Re-assembly of museum display and purchase of conservation materials.	734
PROSPECT HILL MUSEUM	Construction of storage area and purchase of cabinets and conservation supplies.	2,800
STURT HOUSE, Grange	Conservation Study.	900
TEA TREE GULLY NATIONAL TRUST MUSEUM	Conservation Study.	900
TOTAL:		\$ 100,000

## SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HISTORY IN JOURNALS - 2

## - A Select List of Articles -

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF S.A. 122 Kintore Ave, Adelaide 5000. GUIDESHEET No.5

This guidesheet continues the listing of historical articles in the "Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society of Australia: South Australian Branch" and the complete list of articles in the "Journal of the Historical Society of South Australia", commenced in guidesheet number 3. That guidesheet covered volumes 59 (1957/58) - 79 (1978) and numbers 1 (1975) - 8 (1980) respectively. Titles are reproduced as they appear at the head of each article. Occasionally I have added a note in square brackets at the end. An asterisk indicates that a volume is out of print.

Copies of the 'Journal' may be obtained by writing to the above address. Copies of the 'Proceedings' are obtainable from the Royal Geographical Society, State Library Building, North Terrace, Adelaide 5000. Current prices per volume are \$10 and \$20 (vols 81-84), \$25 (vol. 85 onwards) respectively, plus postage.

An index to "South Australiana", the other major South Australian historical journal, can be found in volume 23 number 2 (September 1984). The journal ceased in 1985. Other articles can be found in the journals of local historical societies and by reference to the "Index to Journal Articles on Australian History", first compiled in 1976 by T Hogan et al and subsequently by V Crittenden et al.

JOURNAL OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA\* Number 9 (1981)

P A Howell	'More Varieties of Vice-Regal Life' pp 1-53.
J Tregenza	'Charles Reade, 1880 - 1933: town planning missionary' pp 54-79.
C Bridge	'R G Casey's contribution to Australian war policy, 1939 to 1942: some myths' pp 80-90.
R Clyne	'At war with the natives: from the Coorong to the Rufus, 1841' pp 91-110.
L F Crisp	'John Medway Day: A South Australian who in 1893 went east, not west' pp 111-117.
R R St C Chamberlain	'Rex v Edwards: comments' pp 118-120.
R Parsons	'In Search of South Australian Maritime History: A comment' pp 121-123.
J Young	'Reply' pp 123-126.

Number 10 (1982)

W A Sinclair	'Urban booms in nineteenth-century Australia: Adelaide and Melbourne' pp 3-14.
A D Hunt	'The Bible Christians in South Australia' pp 15-31.
J Cashen	'Masters and Servants in South Australia, 1837-1860' pp 32-43.
R Linn (ed)	'Scenes of Early South Australia: the letters of Joseph Keynes of Keyneton 1839-1843' pp 44-60.
M Saunders	'Opposition to the Vietnam War in South Australia, 1965-73' pp 61-71.

- C Dowd 'The Adelaide Kindergarten Teachers College, 1907-1974' pp 72-83.
- B Dickey 'Care for dependent children in South Australia in 1888' pp 84-91.
- J A Daly 'Adolph Leschen: the "Father of Gymnastics" in South Australia' pp 92-98.
- J Playford 'The myths of the Adelaide Club' pp 99-103.
- R Jennings 'Secretarianism as an election weapon: the Port Adelaide campaigns of 1927' pp 104-110.
- S Edgar 'Rex v Edwards: comments' pp 111-116.
- D Watts 'Rex v Edwards: comments' pp 117-121.

Number 11 (1983)

- P G Edwards 'Dr Walter Henderson - A South Australian in charge of an Australian Foreign Office, 1924-1930' pp 3-14.
- W Vamplew 'From Sport to Business: The First Seventy-Five Years of Horse-Racing in South Australia' pp 15-33.
- R Schumann '"Charity, Work, Loyalty": the Catholic Women's League in South Australia' pp 34-47.
- H Jones 'Lucy Spence Morice and Catherine Helen Spence: partners in South Australian social reform' pp 48-64.
- J Scarfe 'Edith Fergusson: churchwoman, philanthropist and Governor's lady' pp 65-91.
- D Hilliard 'Dissenters from dissent: the Unitarians in South Australia' pp 92-104.
- R R St C Chamberlain 'Rex v Edwards: comment' p 125.

Number 12 (1984)

- C McKeough & N Etherington 'Jubilee 50' pp 3-21.
- J Tregenza 'Two notable portraits of South Australian Aborigines' pp 22-31.
- various 'An Historical Occasion: the launching of "Sir Thomas Playford"' pp 32-43.
- D Kilner 'The Labor Party and the Industrialisation of South Australia, 1935-1938' pp 44-59.
- D Chaput 'The Burra Burra question: to ship or to smelt?' pp 60-75.
- V A Edgeloe 'Three early Adelaide graduates of distinction.' pp 76-89. [T H Beare 1859-1940, C C Farr, R L Robinson]
- S C Dawes 'Captain John Finnis. The expansion of the pastoral industry in South Australia.' pp 90-103.
- C Nance 'Making a better society? Immigration to South Australia 1836-1871' pp 104-122.
- M Boothby 'Memories of my bush life' pp 123-134.

Number 13 (1985)

- G L Fischer 'The South Australian Archives Department: its founders and contribution to South Australian historical studies 1920-1960' pp 5-29.
- C Finnimore 'The Pursuit of Taste. The early years of the South Australian Society of Arts' pp 30-44.
- R Thornton 'Practical Patriots: the work of the Cheer-up Society in South Australia 1914-1964' pp 45-56.

- A J Stimson 'River Town - Goolwa in the 1870s and 1880s' pp 57-78.
- J R Robbins 'The First Adelaide Corporation' pp 79-90.
- P Gifford 'Dr Handasyde Duncan' pp 91-99.
- V A Edgeloe 'Three More Early Graduates of Distinction' pp 100-110. [R D Kleeman, G E M Jauncey, F E Williams]
- P Sumerling 'The Darker Side of Motherhood: abortion and infanticide in South Australia 1870-1910' pp 111-127.
- R Jennings 'The Chowilla Tramway' pp 128-138.
- J Wanna 'The Motor Vehicle Industry in South Australia to 1945' pp 139-144.

Number 14 (1986)

- J Bannon 'The Alienation of the Adelaide Parklands' pp 5-18.
- J Jenkin 'The 1901 Royal Visit to Adelaide: An Account by William and Gwendoline Bragg' pp 19-34.
- R Schumann '"...In the Hands of the Lord": The Society of Jesus in Colonial South Australia.' pp 35-50.
- R Linn 'The Discovery and Settlement of the Fleurieu Peninsula and the Angas/Bremer Region 1802-1861' pp 51-66.
- M Barker 'A Migration of Wiltshire Agricultural Labourers to Australia in 1851' pp 67-82.
- B Stacy '"Good Roads are the Best Test of Civilization": South Australian Road Making 1836-1936' pp 83-106.
- G L Pretty 'Australian History at Roonka' pp 107-122.
- C Stevenson '"Boundless Salvation": The Rise of the Salvation Army in South Australia' pp 123-136.
- V A Edgeloe 'Four Nineteenth Century Graduates' pp 137-148. [W E Cooke, W G Duffield, W Kingsmill & F W Young]

Number 15 (1987)

- P A Howell 'The Quest for Truth in History' pp 5-15.
- J Raftery 'God's Gift or Demon Drink? Churches and Alcohol in South Australia between the Two World Wars' pp 16-41.
- D Hood 'Adelaide's First "Taste of Bolshevism": Returned Soldiers and the 1918 Peace Day Riots' pp 42-53.
- P L Fletcher 'An Adelaide Woman of Interest: Agnes Milne, Inspector of Factories, 1896-1906' pp 54-64.
- Y Nagata 'Japanese Internees at Loveday, 1941-1946' pp 65-81.
- H Jones 'A Postscript to the Life of Catherine Helen Spence' pp 82-92.
- G R Henning 'R G Dun & Co: The Adelaide Connection' pp 93-109.
- A Geddes & M Hammond 'Agnes Nesbit Benham: Sexual Reform and Socialism in Adelaide' pp 110-123.
- B Samuels 'South Australian Local Histories, 1836-1920' pp 124-129.
- K White 'Medical Professionalisation in Nineteenth Century South Australia' pp 130-142.
- J Wanna 'The History of Organisational Development in the South Australian Coachmakers' (Vehicle Builders' Union) pp 143-157.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA: SA BRANCH

Volume 81 (1980-81)

- C Harris 'Oases in the desert: the mound springs of northern South Australia' pp 26-39.

[Elizabeth Ho, Mortlock Librarian, has forwarded the following information. Ed.]

## Items worth noting:

- \* We are now producing a brief listing of recent acquisitions. Whilst not as comprehensive as South Australiana (discontinued 1986), it is nevertheless a useful guide. It will have a limited distribution, and is also available at the Reference Desk.
- \* We have introduced a preliminary inventory system for new archival material to assist access to the archival collection.
- \* Our recent recent acquisition of two 'state of the art' reader printers which makes life for readers and staff so much more pleasant!

We are taking a close look at automation and at this stage we are committed to:

- \* producing a computerized instructional aid for individual users requiring introductory information.
- \* introducing an 'on the spot' photocopying service for certain items from our preservation collection.
- \* acquiring a desk top publishing unit to produce more reader education material and;
- \* investigating with a view to implementing in 1989 a laser video disc conversion of our pictorial/photographic collection.

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## ST PETER'S CATHEDRAL

Readers may be interested in D.L. Johnson's article 'French and English Influences on the Architecture of St Peter's Cathedral, Adelaide', Architecture Australia, vol. 77, no. 4, June 1988 pp 70 - 76. D.L. Johnson is Senior Lecturer in Architectural History, Flinders University.

John Playford

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- T Stevenson 'Miasmas, morbidity and milieu: mortality in Victorian South Australia' pp 40-58.
- G W Symes & B J Ward 'Charles Todd and the Overland Telegraph' pp 59-73.
- B MacDonald 'The last Ghan' pp 74-78.
- S Dawes 'Towards identifying the first travellers overland from Adelaide to the north west bend of the River Murray' pp 79-85.
- K Peake-Jones 'The History of the Society' pp 86-88.
- \* Volume 82 (1982)
- P Donovan 'The Exploration Myth: Exploration in the Northern Territory until the Second World War' pp 34-47.
- K Peake-Jones 'The Other Mawson' pp 64-70.
- B MacDonald 'Restoration of John McDouall Stuart's Grave' pp 71-73.
- Volume 83 (1983)
- R Grandison 'The Relocation of Fifteen Sites Painted by S T Gill whilst accompanying the Horrocks' Expedition of 1846' pp 12-21.
- E Guy 'Between the Lines: A Glimpse of the Brock Family' pp 22-32.
- Volume 84 (1984)
- G Campbell-Kennedy 'The Historical Development of the Mapping Resource in South Australia' pp 1-10.
- C Nance 'Wakefield's Scheme and Land Ownership' pp 22-34.
- Volume 85 (1985)
- K Peake-Jones 'A History of the Society "in Cameo" presented prior to the Centenary Dinner at Beaumont House on March 16, 1985' pp 9-11.
- various 'Biographical Notes on Society Worthies of the past' pp 17-42 [Sir S Davenport, Baron F von Mueller, T Gill, A T Magarey, S Newland, Sir J L Bonython, Hon J Lewis, A A Simpson, Sir A G Price]
- K Peake-Jones 'The Elder Scientific Exploration Expedition, 1891: A Study of Incompatibles' pp 54-67.
- Volume 86 (1986)
- J Browett 'A Geographer's View of the South Australian Wine Industry' pp 1-8.
- P L Fletcher 'Thomas Gill - A Diligent Man.' Sketch of Thomas Gill, CMG, ISO, JR, 1849-1923 pp 9-23.
- E Stokes 'To the Inland Sea.' Charles Sturt's Expedition, 1844-45. pp 40-47.
- R M Schmid 'Old Motpena Outstation, 1929 and 1983' pp 48-50.

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## ARTICLES

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### HISTORY AND THE BICENTENNIAL

[Dr Brian Dickey is Reader in History, Flinders University, President of the Association of Professional Historians, and a member of this Society. Ed.]

Australian history is in fine shape in our Bicentennial year. Historians have used the opportunity to reach a wider audience. They have developed significant overviews of Australian history. They have focussed attention, not on celebration, but on powerful and critical reappraisals of our past.

At the same time they are battling indifference in high places: you would never know how powerful have been their contributions to the national sense of identity if you only listened to John Dawkins, Minister for Employment, Education and Training in Canberra. More economists, less historians, then there will be less trouble, seems to be the slighting and dismissive message from Canberra. Historians feel slighted and unwanted, as if their critical performance is too threatening.

Meanwhile, all around Australia there is a history boom for ordinary people intent on understanding their past better. They are calling out for prophets even more loudly just because of the Bicentennial. Yet the federal government is in danger of denying them that need by its plans for university funding. An ironic outcome of the Bicentennial if ever there was one!

One might therefore even think that the Bicentennial has all been a waste of time. Our leaders have given the community bread and circuses, royals and fireworks, events by the sea and in the bush, great for the camera but short on meaning, reflection, significance, or permanence. Where has been the history in the Bicentennial?

True, some government funds did go specially to historical works, but far more could have been attempted. Even so, when on Australia Day Professor John Maloney came to the launching of his general history of Australia published by Penguin and helped by about \$100,000 from the Bicentennial Authority, angry Aborigines gave it another sort of beginning. Copies of his lovingly-prepared book were "launched" into Sydney Harbour. A wider range of historical projects commissioned during the Bicentennial might have avoided that controversial event by emphasising the plurality of meanings historians have on offer about our past.

Let's be clear: the very Bicentennial itself would not exist without the immense interest in history which exists in our community. We are a community whose identities are defined by reference to the past. People treasure their pasts. They grasp it through memories, through written records, through the monumental survivals of past times that lie about them in buildings and other survivals of built form.

Ordinary people in their thousands flock to libraries such as the Mortlock or the Mitchell, eager to find their family roots. Convict ancestors are in; so I suspect for many white Australians would be an Aboriginal forbear. History books pour off the presses, whether textbooks or monographs for scholars, or beautifully presented multi-volume sets for the family such as Australians: A Historical Library.

Some 15,000 sets of this remarkable publication have been sold, roughly \$7.5M in sales: we have no mean appetite for history if that is any guide. What is more, this set breaks new ground in three of its volumes with its focus on one year. Thus the reader is shown the subtleties of life in family and work situations, growing up and recreation and much more which the traditional narrative concentration on power could not convey. It is a refreshingly new approach to history writing. Debates about its success will continue for years.

I do not wish to draw up an overall balance sheet for the Bicentennial celebrations. That will be the task of others, including politicians with eyes fixed firmly on the next election. My specific interest is in the relationship between the Bicentennial and the production of history in Australia.

As yet, overseas judgements about history writing in the Bicentennial year have been few and favorable, but so far provided by Australians. Anyway, what "overseas" experts say about our work doesn't really concern me very much. What I want is a critical rather than a congratulatory quality to inform the rhetoric and the judgements which shape historical understanding of ourselves in the late twentieth century. The Bicentennial is one massive occasion when such self-reflective taking stock has been possible. I would assert that, on balance, the exercise has been effective.

Thus, for example, there can be no doubt that in the field of understanding the history of relations between blacks and whites a massive leap forward has been achieved. John Maloney was right to complain after his controversial launching that he had been misunderstood, for his work reflects this new concern to write with sympathy and understanding about the history of black-white relations. His work and that of many others has ensured that politicians and media commentators can no longer ignore past acts of murder, past oppression by whites of blacks in Australia. That story has become part of the public consciousness.

The very ambiguity of the Bicentennial - was it a celebration or an opportunity for community reassessment? - helped to create that new consciousness about Aborigines. But so has the dedicated and continuing enquiries of historians. Henry Reynolds has worked for a decade to depict and understand the story. His three books The Other Side of the Frontier, Frontier, and The Law of the Land have transformed the debate. The next time Aboriginal land claims are examined in a court of law, Reynolds' reading of the past will be profoundly relevant. Likewise, Christabel Mattingley and Ken Hampton have done the South Australian community an immense service in developing an Aboriginal account of their history. Survival In Our Own Land is one of the most moving and potentially transforming books it has ever been my privilege to be associated with.

The Bicentennial has not been the time for the publication of new accounts of the histories of every other forgotten or oppressed group in Australian society: that would be an unreasonable expectation. Still, The Australian People is an immense achievement in its million-plus words about the interactive ethnicities which make our nation. It was commissioned by the Bicentennial Authority at the cost of over \$1m. The carefully-researched work of the 250 contributors (mainly academic historians and social scientists) contains massive new findings and enormous good sense about many issues, such as "white Australia", the place of Aborigines, and the meaning of ethnicity, which have tortured our community this special year.

In addition, there can be no doubt that it has been historians who over the past fifteen years have transformed the community's understanding of

women's history in Australia: To ask what has been the character of women's history in Australia has been immensely liberating. So has the same question about the history of the family, and the history of childhood. New fields of historical understanding have been opening up before our eyes. The enrichment of meaning this has brought has been a gain for us all.

There are other ways in which the community is being well served by its historians and is so better able to make its own history. Here in Adelaide not only does the Mortlock Library look good. It is an outstanding repository of evidence with which people can make their own history. The Jubilee 150 efforts to collect new materials have paid off handsomely. Many more people in our community are aware of the significance of their family records. Much has been secured for the future by this massive accession to the records about our past, though of course we must keep the effort going.

Then there is the History Trust, that amazing cultural octopus housed in the Institute Building, whose museums have transformed our access to and grasp of our history. Old Parliament House, Birdwood, Maritime, Migration, Port Railway - the list is too long for the Trust and its officials to manage readily. But the output has been world-class. Whether it has been that wonderful ketch which surely rocks in the breeze as it sits in its concrete bed, or the reconstituted Assembly chamber at the OPH, or vivid materials about the peopling of South Australia, the History Trust has brought great riches of meaning to the people of this state.

As the History Trust has shown, history is not just in books. It can be in things or in buildings. The Heritage Branch of the State department of Environment and Planning knows this too. It struggles to aid the community to identify its resources in buildings which are evidence about the past, usually with insufficient resources.

The term "heritage" is a difficult one for us all, whether linked with ideas about future architecture or to the destructive power of bulldozers. Debate will continue, in the press, in the courts, at meetings such as the one convened by the Historical Society and the History Trust in October this year on "The Politics of Heritage". The variety of values which inform our understandings of the past, and therefore the evidence about it we value enough to want to keep, need to be brought out in the open and debated. They need to be declared by participants in heritage confrontations. The government will have to get used to this and facilitate the outcomes of that continuing debate, for example by giving better support to the Heritage Branch.

People need meaning. They need to be encouraged to make their own meanings about the past, however limited they might be. In addition, professional historians can present carefully-argued and more comprehensive interpretations of the past. They have been among the most significant contributors to the debates about the myths which Australians live by. Manning Clark and Geoff Blainey might not evoke overwhelming acceptance among their professional colleagues, but their ideas have become widely known and frequently used - although whether I would aspire to have a musical built around my ideas about Australia's history is another matter!

Historians can train others too, not only in content, but also in procedures and in concepts with which to enter the past. It might be a foreign country, as David Lowenthal recently asserted so eloquently. But, as he and all professional historians know, it is a country that can be entered if some relevant passports are collected on the way.

Thus, history is not about lists or even just chronicles of events. We are concerned about relationships between people in society over time - about power, race and gender for instance. We seek cause and meaning. We look for evidence with alert and critical minds, challenging bias in the sources and in ourselves, though not denying the relevance and power of such bias. Indeed, history without bias, without a standpoint of interpretation, is impossible. Only worse is the undeclared, unrecognised bias, especially of those comfortably swimming with the stream of accepted opinion. That is why the silence about the fate of Aborigines lasted for so long.

Other techniques the historians offer include an emphasis on getting context right so that we read the past sympathetically and not anachronistically, forcing it into a shape provided by the present which it cannot bear. As historians debate contested meanings about the past they can seek resolution by careful attention to evidence and to clear exposition of the values being employed to choose the evidence, as well as a sensible humility and an awareness that error and change can make our history terribly out of date tomorrow.

Moreover, these are qualities that the young (and the not so young) can be helped to develop by the study of history, so preparing them for life's work: not only as in past times as prime ministers of England, but also now as managers, communicators, advertisers, politicians, journalists, welfare workers and many more activities where social wisdom is the central and essential component of the activity. For that reason history is a vital component of the teaching of our universities and colleges and should not be squeezed out by the new rationalism with its focus on techniques in economics, accounting or computing science.

Brian Dickey.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT OF TEMPORARY CLOSURE

We wish to advise that the Mortlock Library of South Australiana will be closed to the public from Monday, 16th January, 1989 re-opening on Monday, 13th February, 1989.

During this time, a major physical re-organization of the collection will be undertaken, and a partial stocktake completed. We will be unable to accept personal, telephone or letter enquiries over this period.

We are confident that this closure will result in service and collection management benefits, and regret any short-term inconvenience which may be created.

Elizabeth Ho

Mortlock Librarian

On behalf of all staff.

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GOOLWA, VICTOR HARBOR AND THE MURRAY MOUTH IN 1883 - II

[The September Newsletter reprinted extracts from Cornelius Proud's The Murray and Darling Trade in 1883 (Adelaide, 1883). Proud was a journalist who visited the two ports near the Murray Mouth when the river trade was booming in the early 1880s. Here he looks at Goolwa's twin town, Port Victor (now Victor Harbor), and the reasons why the two southern river ports were being overhauled by Morgan. Ed.]

There can be no doubt that Port Victor is going ahead at a most satisfactory rate. The construction of the breakwater has had a very marked effect, and if it were extended another 1,000 feet Port Victor, as a harbour, would be very convenient both for incoming and outgoing ships. For the present it is not a matter of very great moment that many of the ships which load wool there are sent round from Melbourne for that purpose. Its advantages as a port are being recognised, and the securing of this is an important step in the struggle for the Murray and Darling trade.

Notwithstanding the many advantages claimed for the shipment of wool at Port Adelaide via Morgan, several of the Port Victor shippers claim to have shipped more wool month for month than the agents at the former port. Of course Port Adelaide has the advantages, especially in the selection of ships, which Port Victor does not yet enjoy, but this growth of business ought to appear in an account of the trade and prospects of the more recently formed ports. The wants of Port Victor may be reduced to two - an extension of the breakwater and the use of steam on the line between it and Goolwa. At present goods are generally landed at Port Victor and sent to Middleton during the first day and taken on to Goolwa the next. This means two days wasted in travelling about ten or eleven miles.

During the first three months of the present year about 21,000 bales of wool were sent over the Goolwa line, so that the total for the year will probably be very much higher than that of last year. For the season of 1882-83 about 31,750 bales were shipped from Port Adelaide and Port Victor, the destinations and quantities being approximately as follows:- To London direct via Port Adelaide, Darling wools, 2,000 bales; to Melbourne, Darling wools, 9,300; to London direct, from Port Victor, Lake and Lower Murray wools, 4,700 bales; Darling wools 15,750. It is impossible to follow all the wool received, as portions of it get into the hands of local fellmongers, and are often not shipped for some time; but the figures given above show from another point of view the rapid

The Granite Island breakwater in the course of construction, 1881. When completed a year later it was 1,000 feet long, one third of the length recommended by engineers to secure the expansion of the Port Victor anchorage. Mortlock Library photograph.



growth during the past two or three years of our trade with the Murray and Darling.

Although Goolwa and Port Victor possess many natural advantages as port of shipment in connection with the river trade, there are not wanting those who contend that these are more than counterbalanced by the natural drawbacks. One objection is that Goolwa requires more than 200 miles more steaming than, say Morgan, thereby involving additional freight. At first sight, when the cargo is on the steamer, and has been brought from a considerable distance, the less than two days' extra steaming represents a difference more apparent than real. When the cargo is only brought a short distance, or when there are other reasons why the steamer should not be delayed, the distance assumes a more substantial nature.

As a matter of fact produce from the upper rivers is taken to Goolwa for precisely the same freight as to Morgan. An examination of a large file of bills of lading for last season's trade showed that with few exceptions they were for "Morgan or Goolwa". A few years ago, before Morgan was known as a shipping port, it was a usual practice to make the bills of lading out for "Blanchetown or Goolwa".

It is also objected that the danger attending the crossing of the lake is so very real that the Insurance Companies put on 5 shillings per cent for wool consigned to Goolwa over that imposed on wool shipped to Morgan. So far as the difficulties of navigating the lake are concerned, it is quite true that during the continuance of strong south-westerly gales the water is rough, and that occasionally the lower tier of wool bales has been damped by the splashing, but of danger there is none worthy of consideration. Any captain ought to be able to foretell a change in the weather for a longer period than it takes to cross the lake; and that the danger from this source has been considerably magnified by adverse interests may be gathered from the fact that the chief Melbourne insurance offices impose no extra charge for the passage of the lake. Some of the Adelaide offices do profess to make a distinction, but this has been attributed to the influence of Adelaide merchants interested in securing the shipment of wool from Port Adelaide. However, the danger in crossing the lake, if it exists at all, would probably be reduced to a minimum by allowing a greater freeboard than usual.

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## NEW PUBLICATIONS

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### Historic Walk booklet for the City

It is traditional for the Adelaide City Council not to publicize its historical publications very well. Historic Walk. Lower North Adelaide is the first of a projected series of booklets on various aspects of the City's built heritage. Published in 1986, it is available from the Department of City Planning for \$4.50.

Brian Samuels

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### Essays on the 1890s

A wide-ranging volume of essays published by Old Parliament House for the 1983 Come Out Festival is now available at the bargain price of \$3.95 (formerly \$12.00). Over forty essays by experts in their fields occupy 367 pages printed off-set in an A4 loose-leaf format. C.C. Kingston, the Jewish community, education, religion, costume, the 1893 crash, and defence are some of the many topics covered. Available from Old Parliament House, North Terrace, Adelaide, phone (08) 212 6066. Postage and handling \$3.00 extra.

Brian Samuels.

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Elizabeth Kwan

### Living in South Australia

2 volumes, S.A. Government Printer, Netley, 1987

Elizabeth Kwan's history for schools was years in the making and reflects an enormous effort on her part, notwithstanding the support she enjoyed from many people, support which is generously acknowledged in the preface. As a (very) minor contributor it isn't my place to review Living in South Australia, but it would be equally remiss not to bring it to the attention of Society members, all the more so as the Government Printer has been tardy in recognizing that it may have an appeal wider than the 'schools only' market originally envisaged. The two volumes were launched in November 1987 but only recently have they been released in bookshops.

Volume 1 covers the years to 1914 and volume 2 the years since then. They are not available separately. As of

October, Living in South Australia was available from: Imprints, Standard Book, Angus and Robertson, St. Georges Books, David Jones, Education Centre (Flinders Street), Adelaide University Union Bookshop, and Mostly Books (Mitcham).

Elizabeth Kwan is Senior Lecturer in History and Australian Studies, SACAE Magill campus.

Tony Stimson



The Launch of Living in South Australia, November 1987.  
From left to right: Elizabeth Kwan, John Steinle and  
Senator Crowley.

## DIARY OF EVENTS

Sunday, 4 December 1988, 1-5 p.m. Fort Glanville open to the public. Cost \$2.00 and 50c children.

Tuesday, 6 December 1988, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Local History Collections Conference, Meeting Room 1, Level 3, Public Libraries Branch, 8 Milner Street Hindmarsh. Speakers: Margaret Ragless, Susan Tonkin, Peter Crush, Margaret Southcott, Jim Faull, Gillian Pearson, Brian Dickey, Brian Samuels. Contact: Ros Paterson, Local History Project Officer, 348 2361. Copies of papers will be available after the conference.

Saturday, 10 December 1988, 12 noon. Official opening of the Port Dock Station, Port Adelaide. Guests include the Premier and Commonwealth ministers. Museum open from 1 p.m.

13 December 1988 to 29 January 1989 at S.A. Museum, 'First Impression - the British Discovery of Australia'. A large travelling exhibition from the British Museum which includes paintings and other objects from Cook's time. Brought to Australia as part of the official bicentennial arts programme.

Wednesday, 14 December 1988, 8.00 p.m. Kensington and Norwood Historical Society: 'Christmas Social'. Talk by hon. historian Dan Manning. Norwood Community Hall, George Street.