



The
Historical Society
of
South Australia
Inc.



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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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FOUNDED IN 1974

Cover photograph In the mid 1890s mechanical typesetting - linotype - revolutionized the printing industry. The photograph reproduced here shows hand compositors at work in the offices of The Register shortly before this newspaper followed the lead set by the Melbourne newspapers. Mortlock Library photograph.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday, 2 June 1989, 8.00 p.m.

**** Venue: Mortlock Library, State Library ****
North Terrace

Ms Elizabeth Ho: Culture and Preservation: Challenges for the Mortlock Library of South Australiana

Members should note this lecture will be held in the Mortlock Library.

Elizabeth Ho is a long time member of this Society, formerly a member of Council and one of the august few who have had the privilege of editing this Newsletter. She is now Manager of the Mortlock Library of South Australiana, a library which in so many ways acts as the memory bank of the South Australian people.

The Mortlock was born out of a merger of the old South Australian collection and private society and business record groups from the Archives. It has enjoyed a higher public profile than its North Adelaide cousin, the Public Record Office, but like libraries everywhere faces new challenges in the 1990s.

The Society is grateful to Ms Ho for making the library available as the venue for this lecture. Those interested will have the chance to see more secrets when the Society tours the Mortlock on Sunday 18 June.

-oOo-

Friday, 7 July 1989, 8.00 p.m.

Venue: State Library Lecture Theatre, North Terrace
(corner Kintore Avenue and North Terrace)

Members Night

The Society has included a members' night in its annual programme on three previous occasions. The first such evening was a hit or miss affair; nobody knew what to expect and an anxious president enjoined all members of Council to turn up, preferably with one or two objects they could talk about if everyone else stayed mute.

We need not have worried. On the night there was a large and enthusiastic audience. Certainly there was no shortage of speakers - members were on their feet and only too willing to speak about this or that historical curio they had brought with them. Members night was repeated in 1985 and 1987, again with great success.

So come along for an enjoyable evening and - better still - bring something too. You may like to say a word or two about it.

In past years exhibits have included coffins, tombstones, pianos, agricultural machinery, bits of the Pichi Richi railway and a host of small and rather more portable items.

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***** FIELD TRIP *****

Sunday 18th June

The Mortlock Library of South Australiana

This is an opportunity for members to inspect this award winning library under the guidance of the Mortlock librarians. Members will be shown some of the library's magnificent collection of South Australian material and will be able to inspect areas of the building not normally accessible to the public.

Members will be guided through in small groups starting at

1.30 p.m. and 2.30 p.m.

As total numbers will be limited,

booking is essential

Telephone secretary Avis Huckle on 277-2953 to reserve your place.

Members should assemble at the main entrance of the State Library on North Terrace.

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SOCIETY NEWS

R.H.B. Kearns, Past President of the Society

I am indebted to Dick Kearns for contributing the article which is the main item in this issue. Along with Dick (and other members of this society) I was a member of the Historical Publications Committee and the Publications Advisory Sub-Committee, the two bodies which were chiefly responsible for allocating government moneys for historical publications in the Jubilee year.

Dick has been good enough to put it on the record, something

he did late last year with a similar article on the Society's Register facsimile project.

-oOo-

Back Issues of Journal Available

Members are reminded that some back issues of the Society's Journal are available at \$10 each, postage free for members.

Volumes 1, 4, and 9 are out of print, and only poorly cut and bound specimens of volume 14 remain.

Please place your order with the Secretary or at meetings, or call at the History Trust Offices in the Institute Building weekdays 9 - 5 for instant satisfaction.

Brian Samuels

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NEWS

SEMINAR ON JULIAN EDMUND TENNISON WOODS 1832 - 1889

Sunday, 6 August 1989, Naracoorte

Woods was a pioneer priest in the South-East from 1857 to 1866. This afternoon seminar, sponsored by Naracoorte Caves, will be held in the St Thomas Aquinas Parish Centre, 1 Gordon Street, Naracoorte, from 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Speakers: Margaret Press: 'Julian Woods. Who was he, really?'
Kevin Horsell: 'Bush Scientist, Bush Priest'
Roderick O'Brien: 'Mines and Missions: Woods in Asia'

For further information contact Michael Waters P.O. Box 113, Naracoorte, SA 5271. Telephone A.H. 623620.

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HISTORY TRUST ANNUAL REPORT 1987-88

The January issue ran extracts from the Trust's 1986-87 Report. The 1987-88 Report is now available and it makes interesting reading. The writer is Dr Peter Cahalan, Director of the History Trust.

HISTORY TRUST OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ANNUAL REPORT, 1987-88

The History Trust recorded a year of considerable consolidation. Outstanding attendance figures were an expression of the effective and dedicated work carried out in all divisions of the Trust.

Significant Achievements

Significant achievements during the year were:

- Substantial progress on construction of the Port Dock Station Railway Museum
- Increased attendances at Trust museums, reaching close to the 500 000 mark, with a further 39 700 people visiting the Historical Treasures Room in the Mortlock Library
- A major review of the Trust's Corporate Plan
- Increased revenue from \$733 000 in 1986-87 to \$960 000, with a consequent reduction in the Trust's Government subsidy per user from \$4.50 to \$3.90
- A high level of corporate sponsorship for Trust activities (including the Port Dock Station Railway Museum)
- The permanent closure of Schuberts Farm
- The opening of a long-term exhibition on Police history by the South Australian Police Historical Society in the former Mounted Police Barracks behind the South Australian Museum
- Completion of a major policy review of the Museums Accreditation and Grants Program
- Commencement of a Bicentennial-funded research project into the relationship between heritage and tourism (jointly with the School of Tourism and Hospitality of the Adelaide College of Technical and Further Education)
- Further outstanding success for the South Australian Maritime Museum volunteers program, with an estimated ten person-years of support provided by 170 volunteers

Other Features

Other features of the year were:

- Museums Accreditation and Grants Program grants were made to twenty-one museums, with increased emphasis on display, conservation and registration of collections and less support than in the past for building works.
- Substantial planning was completed for the upgrading of the audio-visual program at Old Parliament House
- The number of special events held at most Trust museums increased greatly, with a particularly marked increase at the Migration Museum
- The Trust acquired some substantial donations of historical items via the Taxation Incentives for the Arts Scheme, especially for the Birdwood Mill and the South Australian Maritime Museum
- The Director of the Maritime Museum, Dr K. Fewster, was awarded an Esso Arts Administrators Scholarship which he took up at Mystic Seaport, Connecticut in May 1988
- Planning of a major fund-raising drive to establish a development fund for the Birdwood Mill was begun as a result of representations made to the Trust and its Minister by Mr J. A. Crawford, a leading member of the State's commercial motor vehicle industry
- A Migration Museum Advisory Committee and the Friends of the South Australian Maritime Museum were established

- Links with the State's tourism industry continued to grow stronger and the Trust began investigating the feasibility of co-operative entrepreneurial ventures in the area of cultural tourism
- Close co-operation continued with various key related agencies, notably the Mortlock Library of South Australiana, the State Conservation Centre and the State Heritage Branch
- Closer links were forged with academic historians and a drive was begun to service the more than 100 historical societies throughout the State

Areas of concern

Areas of concern included:

- **Storage.** The Trust's storage problems continued to mount although careful management allowed all museums to weather the year using a variety of expedients to store their collections.

However, it is of particular concern that the Trust does not have security of tenure at its principal store, the Koch Building adjacent to the South Australian Maritime Museum. The Trust has indicated to its Minister its intention of seeking his support for the building to be transferred to it. Secure tenure of the building would make it much easier for the Trust to plan the better long-term use of it and to secure funds for upgrading it.

- **Capital strategy.** In October the Trust, at the Minister's invitation, submitted a consolidated plan dealing with various capital issues before it. These related to the Maritime Museum, Schuberts Farm, Birdwood Mill, Old Parliament House and storage.

Of particular concern was the need to secure funding for the upgrading of the audio-visual program at Old Parliament House. At the end of the year under review the Trust was expecting a response on this issue and the capital strategy generally.

- **Commonwealth Museums Review.** Late in 1986 the Federal Government established a review of national museums policies and development with the intention of announcing the results of the inquiry early in 1987. The History Trust, like other museums around Australia, put substantial effort into responding to this review, especially as the former Federal Minister of Arts, Heritage and Environment had invited the South Australian Government to submit a proposal for Federal funding for the Birdwood Mill as the country's National Motor Museum.

There has still been no announcement by the Federal Government of the results of the review. The silence has been deafening and is indeed disappointing, not just to the staff of the Birdwood Mill who were deflected from pursuing other more immediate objectives to organise a submission to the review, but to all museums which co-operated in what was hoped would be a ground-breaking exercise.

The Trust believes strongly that the burden of caring for the nation's movable cultural heritage has fallen disproportionately on State Governments and the voluntary sector. There is an urgent need for the national Government to give overriding support for the existing museum system and to provide mechanisms and funding whereby the work of museums can be knitted together rationally.

In this context the Trust would like to record its sincere appreciation of the efforts of its Minister, the Hon. John Bannon, in pursuing energetically the cause of the Birdwood Mill as the National Motor Museum.

Corporate Planning

Some aspects of the Trust's Corporate Plan are worth explaining.

- *Outreach has been accentuated as a key activity.* The Trust aims to foster within the greater South Australian community a culture in which the State's past is known, appreciated and intelligently preserved.

The Trust's own historical programs are only a small part of the massive range of historical activities carried on by the people of South Australia. People write family and local histories, run museums and historical societies, write their memoirs, interview relatives, visit historic sites, restore their homes and preserve lovingly their photographs, papers and heirlooms of their family or group. The Trust wants to encourage all this activity and to raise standards of endeavour within the broad historical community, making good work even better by providing strategic advice and assistance.

- Related to the above, *the Trust's stress on co-operating with others has been reaffirmed*. The Mortlock Library of South Australia and the Trust have numerous common interests which will be pursued further. The Trust likewise has a fruitful relationship with the State Conservation Centre, encouraging public awareness of it and deriving an excellent standard of service from its staff. In particular, via the Museums Accreditation and Grants Program the Trust has funded the Centre to conduct conservation reviews of numerous local and specialist museums throughout the State. This has helped both the museums themselves and the Program Committee to determine sensible ways of greatly improving the conditions in which much of the State's movable cultural heritage is kept.

The State Heritage Branch of the Department of Environment and Planning and the Trust have continued a long tradition of close association necessary given that many museums are in heritage-listed buildings. There has also been greatly increased co-operation between the central office of the National Trust of South Australia and the History Trust.

Through this channelling of the complementary skills and knowledge of members of these agencies towards common goals, the State has gained a highly effective heritage network.

- *The Trust has refined its interpretive philosophy*. Instead of seeking simply to communicate information about the past, its exhibitions will increasingly be designed to introduce the public to the principles and methods used by historians in studying history.

Historical museum exhibitions usually consist of complex subject-matter distilled into simple points designed to be appreciated by the 'average' person. Simplification is a valid exercise, but it carries with it some dangers. Displays may become bland, representing a staff consensus, and obscure the fact that almost any interpretation of the past is subject to fierce criticism by other historians, influenced by their own values and by the kind of evidence available to them. In presenting a single point of view, exhibitions can imply that historians are infallible. Yet historians work from hypotheses and their views may change as new evidence or new ways of looking at the past emerge.

Conventional exhibitions may also encourage the view that history is the preserve of trained historians only. In fact, South Australian history is a subject still little tapped by academic historians, of whom there are only a small number in the State. However, two-thirds of all the non-Aboriginal South Australians who have ever lived are alive today. In other words, most of the actors in South Australian history since 1836 are still alive and much of the information about our past is held in their memories and their own records. Thus, the half million people who visited Trust museums in 1987-88 were capable of contributing substantially to historians' understanding of the State's history.

The practical implications of the Trust's stronger commitment to sound historiographical principles—historiography being the study of the theory and practice of history—are several. Exhibitions will encourage visitors to contribute information and to comment on the point of view of the exhibition. This tradition of allowing the visitor a voice is already strong within the History Trust. It runs community access galleries at three of its museums and in Speakers Corner of Old Parliament House visitors have always been asked to give their point of view on the exhibition of the day.

- *The Trust will produce more publications than in the past and will focus on popular works linked to its exhibitions and information services*. This forms part of the overall strategy of ensuring that the Trust provides services relevant to the general community rather than duplicating those better provided by, for example, historians in tertiary institutions.

- *The Trust is restricting its collecting activities over the period of the Plan*. It has inherited large collections, largely undocumented, at various museums and its curatorial staff would be too hard-pressed to be able to overhaul the accessioning backlog on these collections while actively collecting elsewhere. Furthermore, storage is at a premium and is likely to remain so for some years to come, although hoped for improvement at the Trust's store at Port Adelaide will help the situation somewhat.

In lieu of collecting itself the Trust is encouraging Government agencies which own large portions of the State's historical collections to take better care of those collections. Loan agreements have also been struck between the Trust and various voluntary historical societies keen to preserve particular artefacts.

- Finally, *there is a much stronger emphasis in the Plan on the Trust's corporate identity*. The display programs of the four museums are being more closely linked. Marketing will more strongly emphasise the identity of the Trust as whole.

Longer range planning has already proved a powerful tool in ensuring that priorities are determined corporately and the resources allocated accordingly. This increased stress on a corporate approach is being pursued, in harmony with the Trust's long-standing commitment to decentralising resources and responsibilities to its divisions.

MORTLOCK LIBRARY: RECENT ACQUISITIONS

[The following excerpts have been taken from Mortlock Miscellany (December 1988), the Library's guide to recent acquisitions. Ed.]

BRADMAN RECORDINGS: SPEECHES, INTERVIEWS AND OTHER RECORDINGS OF SIR DONALD BRADMAN

OH29 Date of recordings: 1937-1988. Total length: 31 hours (approx.) Documentation: Generally none currently available, see item entries. (New items - comprising approximately 20 hours of material - have been added to this collection during the current months)

METHODIST CHURCH OF AUSTRALASIA, South Australian Conference

Additional records of the Methodist Church of Australasia, South Australian Conference, Modbury circuit, comprising Houghton Methodist Sunday School roll book and honour roll. 1914-1917. 5cm. Manuscript.

DUNCAN, Richard Alexander (1871 -)

Photostat copy of the diary kept by Richard Alexander Duncan while on overseas business trip to England, Scotland, USA and France for Duncan and Fraser of Adelaide. 1904. 2 cm. Photostatic copy.

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DOING HISTORY IN PUBLIC!

The First National Public History Conference in Australia

[The following report, written by Brian Crozier and Susan Marsden, is from the Association of Professional Historians Newsletter, April 1989. S. Marsden.]

The first national conference on public history in Australia, convened by the History Institute, Victoria and assisted by South Australia's APH on 18 and 19 March at the University of Melbourne, gave evidence both of solid advances in public history and some hesitation about the appropriate directions in which to move.

The guest of honour, Philip Cantelon of History Associates, Inc., Maryland, gave an overview of the rapid progress made in public history in the US, balancing the optimism expressed on a T-shirt he flourished emblazoned "Earn big money! become a historian" with advice about the difficulties to be overcome in establishing professional history in the market place.

There was also an announcement of a new association for professional historians established in Perth. This is the Professional Historians and Researchers Association (WA).

We heard a considerable amount about the new MA in Public History course established at Monash University, from both Chris McConville (who runs it) and Jill Barnard (one of its students).

Other areas of activity by professional historians whose growing strength was demonstrated by the range of speakers available included history in government (there are historical units in at least 5 Victorian Government departments now), history in museums, oral history, and history in the ABC (whose Social History Unit was established in 1985). South Australian speakers included Peter Donovan (opening address), Brian Crozier (the nature of history writing and its public), Susan Marsden (the problems and potential of historians working in government) and Brian Dickey (concluding session). All are professional historians as well as members of the Historical Society of South Australia.

Beside all this evidence of public history's consolidation, there was much discussion on questions such as: what is a public historian? what links should public historians have with the universities? is there a conflict between promoting professional history-writing and promoting a sense of history in the community? and, can training and research in history at the tertiary level be made to relate more effectively with the interest in history now being shown outside the academy? There was no real consensus on these

issues: no doubt in the end they will resolve themselves.

The idea of a national association was raised and rejected, but there was clear support for the continuation of activity already taking place between the organisations in the different States in liaison, sharing information and generation of further conferences.

Philip Cantelon also gave a public lecture on "History as a business in the USA" in Adelaide on 29 March. Meanwhile, the History Institute will attempt to publish the conference papers. The conference was also recorded by Daniel Connell of the ABC's Social History Unit for use in the "Talking History" programme, which was broadcast at the usual 1.30 pm timeslot on Saturday 8 April. Other recordings made at the conference and in Adelaide and the Barossa visited subsequently by Daniel Connell will be presented in future "Talking History" programmes. Stay tuned!

Brian Crozier and Susan Marsden

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AUSTRALIAN BICENTENNIAL PROJECT TO SURVEY AND CONDUCT SOME EXCAVATION ON HMS SIRIUS (1781 - 1790)

[Bill Jeffery of State Heritage Branch, Department of Environment and Planning, took part in the 1988 survey. His reflections are taken from Planning Newsletter No. 19, 8 December 1988. Ed.]

In October 1988, I participated in the Australian bicentennial project to survey and carry out a test excavation on the HMS Sirius wrecksite (first fleet flagship) located off Norfolk Island. Sponsored primarily by British Airways, the 1988 season was the final of four seasons and perhaps the most significant as it investigated the final resting place of the Sirius.

The final resting place was only discovered in 1987. It consisted of about 215 iron ballast 'pigs' lying on the flat reef bottom in approximately one and a half metres of water. The shallow depth of water, the continual surf breaking close by and normally rough seas prevented anyone from exploring the area until 1987 when the sea was 'reasonably' calm.

The leader of the expeditions, Graeme Henderson, Curator of Maritime Archaeology at the WA Maritime Museum, has put forward a provocative argument. He maintains that if the Sirius remains indicate a well built, equipped and maintained vessel, this would add support to the theory that New South Wales was more than just a convict dumping ground.

Other historians have taken the contrary view that the first fleet vessels, in particular the Sirius were poorly

made and maintained which indicated that the New South Wales colony was quickly conceived and implemented as a convict dumping ground.

One of the first tasks to be achieved in the 1988 season was to accurately map all the remaining 'pigs' (iron ballast blocks about one metre in length by twenty cms in width and twenty cms in depth and made of pig iron). The co-ordination of this task was my responsibility. A major result would have been a plan of the orientation of the 'pig' and therefore the likely orientation and condition of the underlying timber structure. This plan would help determine the best place to excavate in order to consider the hypothesis.

Unfortunately the wind picked up to about forty knots creating (with the swell) unworkable conditions on the wrecksite for about seven days. The mainland press were also present, keen to film underwater but to no avail. There was plenty of work for the Sirius team members as the 600 odd artefacts recovered during the previous season needed drawing, documenting and conserving.

When the sea did subside to allow diving to continue, excavation was carried out within the ballast mound but in a different section as was planned because of the heavy work involved and the time constraints. Unfortunately excavation did not reveal any timber structure with fastenings as this section of ballast had been moved by the sea.

To give an indication of the force of the sea a half tonne concrete pyramid with a glass plaque near the Sirius was sunk a further 100 metres out to sea in about eight metres of water. During the 'big blow' it was moved approximately twenty metres.

The diving conditions were difficult. After a dive everyone felt they had just gone a few rounds with Jeff Fenech and some suffered motion sickness after the first few dives. Despite these difficulties it was a splendid expedition on a fascinating and colourful island. One of the positive factors for me was to be able to work with other maritime archaeologists, conservators, photographers etc from around Australia including Norfolk Island.

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SAVING NEWSREEL HISTORY

[The following is taken from National Film and Sound Archive Newsletter No. 10, January 1989. The Newsletter is available from the Archive at GPO Box 2002, Canberra, ACT 2601. Ed.]

Fifty years of the nation's newsreel history will be permanently preserved through an historic \$4 million gift to

the Australian people. The owners of Australian Movietone News (20th Century Fox) and Cinesound Review (the Greater Union Group) have given their entire newsreel stocks to the National Film and Sound Archive as well as providing \$4 million needed to preserve the material.

Mr Rupert Murdoch, owner of 20th Century Fox, and Mr Murray Forrest, representing the Greater Union Group, officially handed over the stock and preliminary funding to the Prime Minister, the Hon R J L Hawke, in Melbourne recently.

The funds, \$3 million of which is being given by News Corporation Ltd which owns 20th Century Fox, and up to \$1 million of which is being given in cash and kind by the Greater Union Group, will finance the Archive's **Operation Newsreel** project scheduled to start in July 1989.

This five-year project will involve restoring, copying and cataloguing up to 4000 Movietone, Cinesound and other newsreels, many of which are on deteriorating nitrate stock. When the project is completed, the newsreels will be permanently accessible to the public through the Archive. Among these will be **Cinesound Review No. 568 - Kokoda Front Line** - dramatic wartime footage shot by Damien Parer in Papua New Guinea and produced by Ken G Hall. The film won Australia's first American Academy Award - and the world's only Oscar to be awarded for a newsreel.

The announcement of **Operation Newsreel** is the culmination of two years of negotiation initiated by 20th Century Fox.

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RESEARCH NOTE

One of the great virtues of Geoff Manning's The Romance of Place Names of South Australia (the author, 1986) is that, in addition to suburb and town names, it includes a great many of the now defunct names applied to individual sections of land when they were subdivided for sale. Wherever possible Manning gives the date of subdivision. Hence local historians keen to chart the broad settlement pattern of their areas now have a research tool which enables them to do in minutes what would have taken hours. All that is required is a base map showing section numbers assigned by the Department of Lands surveyors. Of course, local knowledge is required to know which subdivisions were settled rapidly and which hung fire. (For example, Largs was subdivided in 1873 but was said to have only one resident 8 years later. Nevertheless the broad pattern of settlement can be usefully sketched using Manning's invaluable book.

Brian Samuels

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN JUBILEE 150 PUBLICATIONS ADVISORY
SUB-COMMITTEE

The celebrations of South Australia's Centenary in 1936 were colourful, albeit modest, undoubtedly due to the slow recovery of the country from the effects of the Great Depression. Most of the events - mainly of an ephemeral nature - took place during the last quarter of 1936, in both the city and country areas. There were street processions galore (Adelaide's Pageant of Progress on 22 December comprised over 200 entries); a superb Floral Pageant; a Pontifical High Mass involving 5 000 children congregated on the Wayville Oval; a Pageant of the Empire comprising 13 000 school-children; and, in the closing days of the centenary year, Adelaide was decorated with 1 000 flags and 4 600 yards of red, white and blue bunting. There was a Brisbane-to-Adelaide Air Race; a pilgrimage to Light's grave in Light Square; a re-enactment of the landing of Governor Hindmarsh on 28 December 1836; and the reading of the Proclamation at the 'Old Gum Tree' by Governor Sir Winston Dugan.

Tangible reminders of the State's 100th anniversary include The Centennial Hall 1836-1936 at Wayville, the HMS Buffalo monument at Glenelg, and Bonython Hall (a generous gift to the University of Adelaide by Sir Langdon Bonython).

In the field of literature the Adelaide Advertiser printed a special edition, 100 Pages for 100 Years; Sands & McDougall published a large illustrated work, South Australian Centenary Pictorial 1936; the South Australian Branch of the Royal Geographical Society published The Centenary History of South Australia 1936; and various business houses and Local Government Councils produced specialised historical brochures.

The South Australian Government did not publish an official history of the State's first hundred years of settlement and development. Mindful of this fact, action was taken in 1979 to ensure that a similar omission would not occur in the Sesquicentenary Celebrations in 1986.

At the initiative of The Historical Society of South Australia, a public meeting was held on 10 October 1979, under the chairmanship of the Society's President, Dr. P.A. Howell. Over twenty organisations were represented, including The National Trust of South Australia, the Royal Geographical Society, University of Adelaide, Flinders University and other tertiary institutions, Government Departments, and various interested societies and historians.

A Steering Committee was established and, at a meeting held on 16 November 1979, the South Australian Sesquicentenary Historical Publications Committee was formed. Members of the original Committee

were: Dr. P.A. Howell (Chairman), Prof. E.S. Richards, Dr. P. Cahalan, Dr. A.D. Hunt, Mrs. Helen Pearce, Ms. Stephanie Moss, Ms. Susan Marsden, Messrs J.L. Hoad, C. Nance, J. Carmichael, R.J.P. Nicol, R.H.B. Kearns, A.J. Stimson, I. Harmstorf, J. Love and M. Randell.

The principal aims of the Committee were defined as being:

"To promote and co-ordinate research and writing on the history of South Australia, with a view to producing a significant body of published work as a celebration and commemoration of the founding of the province."

It was decided that an approach be made to the State Government as soon as possible in order to -

1. Ensure that the Government was aware of the existence and objects of the Committee.
2. Impress upon the Government the need to sponsor publication of works relating to the history of South Australia - also to point out that the preparation of worthwhile historical books would require careful planning several years ahead of final publication.
3. Seek Government assistance by way of financial grants, and the provision of professional and other services.

A detailed submission was prepared and forwarded to the Premier's Department; permission also was sought for the Premier (Mr. David Tonkin) to receive a deputation to discuss the means whereby the Committee's suggestions could be incorporated within the overall plans to celebrate the State's Sesquicentenary.

Other decisions made at the inaugural meeting were: to support the New History of South Australia (3 volumes) proposed by Flinders University; to encourage school children to be aware of the State's history; to seek financial support from the community; and to sponsor approved projects nominated by organisations affiliated with the Committee. A Policy Planning and Finance Sub-Committee, and a Publications Co-ordinating Sub-Committee also were formed.

Repeated enquiries seeking a response to the Committee's submission to the Premier's Department initially met with unsatisfactory replies. But, in March 1980, the Committee was informed that the recently established South Australian Jubilee 150 Board would administer all Sesquicentenary activities, and that a number of submissions had been held in abeyance pending the setting up of Executive Committees to be responsible for a wide range of events. The Historical Publications Committee was assured that the points made in the submission would be

included in the discussions when the scope and nature of the celebrations were being determined.

The Jubilee 150 Board, with Mr. H.R. (Kym) Bonython as Chairman, eventually co-ordinated all proposed activities under seven categories, divided into twenty specific groups. The incoming Chairman of the Publications Committee (Mrs. Helen Pearce) contacted the Jubilee 150 Board to ascertain the position of History in the range of events. The enquiry brought instant results: "Conservation" became "History and Conservation" and, at the same time, Dr. P.A. Howell (then in England on study leave) was appointed to the Jubilee 150 Board as the History representative.

In March 1981, the South Australian Sesquicentenary Historical Publications Committee was absorbed into the Jubilee 150 system, and reconstituted as the Historical Publications Sub-Committee, with Dr. John Tregenza as Chairman. This Committee became involved in promoting the Atlas of South Australia, and the New History of South Australia.

In order to ascertain the degree of public interest in preparing historical works for publication, advertisements were placed and leaflets forwarded to various individuals and institutions inviting registrations of intent to write a history, and to provide an outline of the subject. The Sub-Committee was agreeably surprised at the total of 204 registrations received - including several manuscripts which were well advanced. A firm basis therefore had been established upon which a future program of publications assistance could proceed.

Full details of the proposed works were catalogued under more than 30 fields of research: Aborigines, Architecture & Planning, Arts, Bibliography, Biography, Children, Defence, Documents, Economic History, Education, Engineering, Ethnic, Exploration, Films & Audio Visual, Labour, Land Environment & Mapping, Law and the Police, Literature, Maritime, Mining, Oral History, Politics & Politicians, Regional and Local History, Religion & Churches, Reprints & Facsimiles, Science & Medicine, Social History, Social Welfare, Sport & Recreation, Transportation, Women, and Miscellaneous.

The first opportunity for practical support came from an urgent request for assistance from the South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society's committee for the publication of a 6-volume Biographical Index of South Australians 1836-1885. The Historical Publications Sub-Committee Chairman, Dr. John Tregenza, and Committee member, R.H.B. Kearns, met Mrs. Jill Statton (Project Co-ordinator) and Society members in October 1982, and discussed details of the request. As the most pressing need was the purchase of EDP equipment to complete the work

for publication by 1986, a recommendation to the Jubilee 150 Board was approved, and a grant of \$6 000 was made to cover the necessary costs.

The formation of Wakefield Press by the South Australian Government in April 1983 crystallised the role of the Historical Publications Sub-Committee as an effective positive force in assisting the publication of South Australian historical works.

Arising from a recommendation by the Historical Publications Sub-Committee, a Publications Assistance Fund was established by the Jubilee 150 Board. In June 1983, it was decided that the Historical Publications Sub-Committee would be reconstituted as the Publications Advisory Sub-Committee, to assist the Wakefield Press Board to administer appropriate grants to publishers of suitable works. Dr. John Tregenza retired from the Historical Publications Sub-Committee because of other commitments, and Mr. C. Nance also was unable to continue as a member of the new Committee.

The Chairman of the Jubilee 150 Board (Mr. Kym Bonython) in a letter to Dr. Tregenza paid a tribute to the diligent manner in which he and members of the Sub-Committee had carried out their duties. He also added that, under Dr. Tregenza's chairmanship, the Historical Publications Sub-Committee had paved the way for the inception of Wakefield Press earlier in the year.

The composition of the newly constituted Publications Advisory Sub-Committee as from the first meeting held on 2 September 1983 was: Dr. John Playford (Chairman), Mr. R.H.B. Kearns (Deputy Chairman), Mrs. Helen Pearce, Dr. A.D. Hunt, Dr. A.J. Stimson and Mr. Michael Page. Mr. Deane Manuel joined the Sub-Committee in February 1984. Others not previously mentioned who had served for brief terms either on the original or the succeeding Publications Committee were Dr. Carol Bacchi and Dr. B.K. Hyams. (In response to a request as to the qualifications of the new Sub-Committee, Dr. Tregenza was pleased to assure the Wakefield Press Board that all members had proven experience and expertise in the field of history.)

The system adopted by the Publications Advisory Sub-Committee to administer the Publications Assistance Fund was that:

1. All manuscripts were to be examined initially by the Wakefield Press Board.
2. Works not accepted for publication by Wakefield Press would be passed to the Sub-Committee for assessment as to suitability to receive a grant from the Fund.

3. A grant would be made only on the following conditions:- The author to be responsible for arranging for a publisher to publish and market the work; the grant to be made direct to the publisher (or author-publisher) on completion of the book, with the intention that the retail price would be correspondingly reduced; the book to be produced wholly in South Australia for sale by 1986 through recognised book retailers; the literary quality of each book to be of an acceptable standard, with an appeal to a wider group than specialists in the particular subject; the work must cover a significant aspect of South Australian history; in the event of a grant being made, an acknowledgment of the subsidy to be inserted in the book, i.e. "Produced with the assistance of the Jubilee 150 Board".

An application form for a grant from the Fund was prepared and forwarded to those who earlier had signified their intention to publish a historical work. Information to be provided included the name and address of the publisher, name and address of author, description of subject matter, estimated printing cost and retail price, size of print run, and expected date of publication.

Applicants also were required to submit at least twenty percent (20%) of the manuscript, together with a supporting statement from an expert on the subject, who may have read all or part of the manuscript. The closing date for applications was set at 30 June 1984, but later extended to 31 August 1984, to accommodate authors whose manuscripts were still under consideration by Wakefield Press.

The original draft proposals for the formation of the Publications Assistance Fund, and the procedure to administer the Fund, were drawn up by Sub-Committee member Dr. Arnold Hunt and, apart from minor amendments were accepted by the Sub-Committee and the Wakefield Press Board.

Initially, \$120 000 was allocated to the Publications Assistance Fund, but subsequently was reduced to \$80 000 because of additional funding required by Wakefield Press.

Mr. G.J. Mulvaney, Executive Director of the Jubilee 150 Board, frequently attended Sub-Committee meetings from August 1983 until it was disbanded in 1986. Mr. Nicholas Walker, Wakefield Press Publisher, also attended meetings from time to time.

In the succeeding months there was a steady flow of completed works and manuscripts into the Jubilee 150 system. Some were adopted as Wakefield Press publications, and the remainder referred to the Publications Advisory Sub-Committee. Wakefield Press also assumed responsibility for publishing various 'thematic' and other works already

in preparation in anticipation of some form of Government support, including the facsimile volume of The South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register, to which reference was made in Newsletters No. 76, May 1988, and No. 79, November 1988. It was decided that each work referred by Wakefield Press would be read independently by two Sub-Committee members, and a recommendation made as to whether a subsidy would be granted. In cases of doubt, a third reader (preferably someone with a specialised knowledge of the subject) would be asked to provide an opinion. In practice, the latter did not become necessary because the literary quality and the nature of the works soon became apparent.

It was also agreed that family histories would not be considered, with the exception of works related to the establishment of an industry, or of particular historical interest.

Of the 204 original Registrations of Intent, approximately 100 either did not respond, or advised the Sub-Committee they were not pursuing the matter - perhaps due to a loss of interest in the project, the inability to find a publisher, or 'it seemed a good idea at the time'.

Eventually, after an examination of more than 90 manuscripts (or parts thereof), 32 were accepted as having met the necessary criteria.

Assessments then were made as to the extent of respective subsidies to be paid to the publishers. Individual grants were set at a maximum of \$5 000 and a minimum of \$500, and the successful applicants were notified of the value of their financial assistance.

The final total was reduced from 32 to 25 because of the death of one author, and the withdrawal of six entries because the books could not be completed and published by 1986.

The question may well be asked: why were two-thirds of the manuscripts rejected? The reasons were many. Some were so poorly written that extensive editing and re-writing would have been necessary to render them acceptable; others dealt with subjects of little general appeal; while a few were somewhat tattered about the edges, obviously having been the subject of numerous publishers' rejection slips in the past (one manuscript apparently had been unsuccessfully hawked around for almost twenty years).

Apart from a formal notification that their works had been regarded as unsuitable to qualify for a grant from the Fund, the Sub-Committee decided from the outset that there would be no debate or correspondence with unsuccessful authors.

The Historical Society of South Australia is justifiably pleased with the outcome of the meeting initiated by the Society and held on 10 October 1979. Mainly because of that meeting, there evolved a chain of events resulting in the publication of approximately 100 books of historical interest - published either by Wakefield Press, the South Australian Government Printing Division, or from subsidies made available from the Publications Assistance Fund. The Jubilee 150 Publications Advisory Sub-Committee appreciated the efficient and friendly assistance received from members of State Government Departments, acting in turn as Executive Officer, namely, Mrs. Hillary Oldfield, Ms. Beverley Hunt and Mr. G.M. Evans.

The final meeting of the Publications Advisory Sub-Committee was held on 19 December 1986.

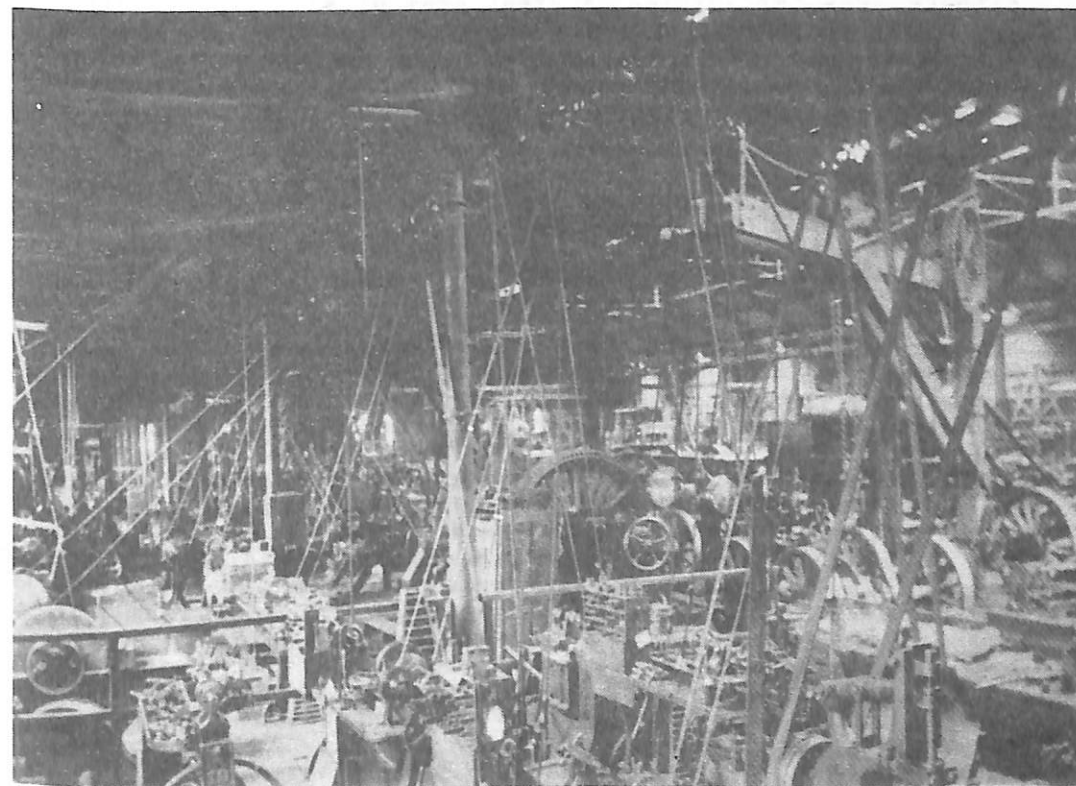
Books Published With The Aid Of Grants From The Publications Assistance Fund

Title	Author	Amount \$
The Story of the Monster Mine - the Burra Burra Mine and its Townships 1845-1877	Ian Auhl	5000
This Side of Heaven - A History of Methodism in South Australia	A.D. Hunt	5000
Drought or Deluge - Man in the Cooper's Creek Region	H.M. Tolcher	5000
150 Years of Stained and Painted Glass	Peter and June Donovan	5000
Eugene Von Guerard's South Australia	Alison Carroll, John Tregenza (Art Gallery)	5000
S.T. Gill - The South Australian Years 1839-52	R. Appleyard, B. Fargher, R. Radford (Art Gallery)	5000
From our Broken Toil - South Australian Catholics 1836-1906	Margaret M.Press	5000
Adelaide By Children	Sandy Pugsley	4000
They Built South Australia	D.A. Cuming & G.C.Moxham	3000
Kavel's People: From Prussia to South Australia	David Schubert	2500
People Places & Buildings: Rural Settlement in the Adelaide Hills	J. Faulk and G. Young	2500
When We Were Kids	Mrs. D. J. Roberts	2000
The Wallaroo Mine - A Pictorial History	H.K. Bailey	2000
Some Scots Were Here - A History of the Presbyterian Church in South Australia	Rev. R.J. Scrimgeour	2000
The Diaries of John McConnell Black 1875-1886	ed. Marjorie Andrew and Shirley Clissold	2000
Biographical Register of South Australian Parliament 1857-1957	J. Playford, H. Coxon and R. Reid	2000

Roundshot to Rapier: Artillery in South Australia 1840-1984	David N. Brook	2000
Between the City and the Sea: A History of West Torrens	Peter Donovan	2000
The Adelaide Hunt: A History of the Adelaide Hunt Club 1840-1986	John A. Daly	2000
From Omnibus to O-Bahn: The Tramways and Buses of Adelaide's N.E. Suburbs	Christopher Steele	1000
Walking to Bethongabel (Modern Poetry)	Robert Clark	1000
Mining Medicine & Wine Making: A History of the Angove Family	G.C. Bishop	1000
The Clelands of Beaumont	Mrs. E.H. Simpson	1000
David Badger: Preacher Pioneer Patriarch	Donald Badger	500
Hotels & Publicans in South Australia	J.L. (Bob) Hoad	500

Total Grants made by the Publications Assistance Fund \$68000

R.H.B.KEARNS



The Railways Department workshops in 1889. Mortlock Library photograph.

DOCUMENT

HARCUS ON SOUTH AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURE 1876

[In 1876 the South Australian Government published South Australia: Its History, Resources, and Productions. The author was William Marcus JP.

Writing 40 years after European settlement, and at a time when the wheat frontier was pushing northwards at a remarkable rate, Marcus could afford to take an indulgent view of the state of South Australian agriculture. The land he said, was 'covered with industrious and prosperous farmers'. The setbacks of the early 1880s were still to come. Ed.]

'When the first colonists arrived, the country was parched up, the ground hard and apparently unworkable. For some time the early settlers were content to sit down with the conviction that agriculture on such a soil, and with such a climate, was impossible. A great deal of suffering resulted from this false inference. The most important of all the necessaries of life had to be imported at a ruinous cost from Tasmania; flour was actually sold in Adelaide at £100 per ton.

Some daring colonists, however, thought they would honestly try whether wheat could not be produced on the Adelaide plains. The land was tilled, the seed deposited, and the result anxiously looked for. Happily, wheat-growing became a success from the beginning. Writing, as I do now, when the result of the last harvest enabled us to export something like 180,000 tons of breadstuffs, after supplying our own wants, it seems almost absurd to think that the early fathers and founders of the Colony should even have entertained a doubt as to the productiveness of the soil and climate.

For a long time, agriculture was confined within a radius of say twenty miles of Adelaide, and persons "who ought to know" gravely asserted that beyond that radius agriculture was impossible. These persons, however, proved to be false prophets. During the last harvest, country 150 miles and more to the north of the metropolis has, without the cultivation necessary in England, produced splendid wheat, averaging from fifteen to eighteen bushels to the acres. And along the whole distance from Adelaide to these northern areas, the land is covered with industrious and prosperous farmers. ...

A moderate estimate of £10 per ton, gives £1,800,000 sterling as the result of the [last] harvest, after supplying

all local wants. This fact shows how important the agricultural interest is to the Colony generally. To this it must be added that South Australian wheat and flour are the finest produced in the world. This is seen by the fact that in London it brings the very highest price, and in the other Colonies it is bought to mix with their own cereal produce.

The cost of cultivating wheat in South Australia is very small compared with that of other countries. Anything like scientific farming is rarely, if ever, attempted in the Colony. The old saying, "Tickle the land with a hoe and it laughs with a harvest," is almost literally true here. Virgin soil is ploughed up three or four inches deep, and often, without even fallowing it, the seed is thrown in, and, should the season be moderately favourable, a fair crop rewards the small labour of the husbandman.

* * * * *

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Annely Aeuckens, Geoffrey Bishop, George Bell,
Kate McDougall, Gordon Young

Vineyard of the Empire:
Early Barossa Vignerons 1842 - 1939

Published by Australian Industrial Publishers, Adelaide 1988

Popular conceptions of the Barossa Valley have been strongly influenced by a number of colourful stereotypes, not the least of which is the enduring image of German peasants fleeing to Australia in the face of intolerable religious persecution. These intrepid and hardy souls then took to cultivating the soil of an unknown and unfriendly landscape which, in the course of time, brought forth abundant fruit, particularly from the vine. This stereotype not only disguises the other reasons, mainly political and economic, why Germans left their homeland, but also gives a false impression of the history of agricultural settlement in the district...

It is assumed by many that the social and cultural heritage of these settlers was alone responsible for the birth and development of the wine industry in the Barossa Valley. This assumption, however, ignores the complex social and economic environment that existed in the Valley from a relatively early period. Not only were there a variety of social groupings with markedly different lifestyles, from large English pastoralists to small-scale farmers of mainly Germanic origins, but all were to some extent involved in the growth of viticulture. As the

industry became progressively more important from the late nineteenth century, so it assumed a larger role in the economic and social life of the Valley and influenced relationships between the various groups.

It was not therefore a static picture of social tranquillity and harmony and, although the Valley's society retained an underlying sense of stability, considerable change and development did take place. This is particularly true of the first four decades of this century when much of the basis of the present industry was laid down. If in the beginning, transplanted cultural forms assisted the establishment of a viticultural region, it was other factors which helped to create a wine industry.

The most significant of these was Australia's membership of the British Empire, which came increasingly to rely on its various Colonies for both raw and processed materials, including various foodstuffs. This reliance was further reinforced by agitation on the part of Empire countries for a guaranteed British market in order to assist their own economic development. It was the Empire that provided the key element in the industry's growth, an element which linked the far-flung Barossa Valley to the commercial metropolis of London and a vast market of British consumers.

Such a commercial vision did not arise overnight, and for the first thirty or so years of the Barossa Valley's European history, winemaking was not an industry in its own right but a secondary rural activity. It was an activity which reflected the attempt in the early years of settlement by most residents to create a way of life based on current European models and experience. This was as true for the small number of landed families that occupied the top of the Valley's social hierarchy as it was for the small-scale British and German farmers who were determined to follow a yeoman life-style in Australia. To a considerable extent, particularly in cultural terms, this was successful, although some modification was necessary because of local conditions. What was different about the Valley (and in other areas such as the Adelaide Hills) was that in a period when travel was slow and communities were relatively isolated, different social and ethnic groups could co-exist without much competition and tension. There was sufficient land and a small enough population for social groups to establish their own cultural framework and economic livelihood. Nevertheless, difficulties did occur, and inevitably adaptation did take place.

One of the differences that emerged from the progenitor cultures related to the pursuit of winemaking. In Great Britain for instance, vinegrowing had ceased to exist on any large scale, and for centuries the European countries of France, Portugal and Spain had supplied virtually all


its domestic requirements...

Yet from the first two decades of South Australia's colonization, English settlers who aspired to the position of country gentlemen were quite openly intrigued by the idea of viticulture as a serious agricultural activity ... From early times in the colony's history, there was experimentation and a preoccupation with introducing exotic crops to South Australia which, it was hoped, would form the bases of new industries ...

These paragraphs are from Annelly Aeuckens' Introduction to Vineyard of the Empire (pp 1-2). They suggest the sound research which has gone into the making of the book. The writers are well-chosen and cover in their several fields of expertise the history of European settlement in the Barossa and of viticulture and wine-making there, and in SA overall; biographies of early vigneron and a survey of the winery buildings. These are some of the numerous illustrations from the book.

The research was conducted by the South Australian Centre for Settlement Studies and the book was published under the auspices of the Barons of Barossa. Vineyard of the Empire is available as a paperback (\$29.95) or leather bound edition (\$100) on order from bookshops or from Australian Industrial Publishers Pty Ltd, P.O. Box 8, Cowandilla, SA 5033.

with Compliments



CHATEAU TANUNDA,
Jan. 1st, 1901.

Dear Sir,—

Herewith please find price-list of Grapes for the coming Vintage, and we would be obliged if you would kindly let us have your estimate before the 23rd inst. of the quantity of each sort you will be able to deliver to us.

Yours faithfully,
The Adelaide Wine Company Ltd.,
J. GURR, Manager.

Chateau Tanunda, 1. Jan. 1901.

Wechster Herr!

Hiermit erlauben wir uns, Ihnen die Preisliste der Weintrauben für die kommende Weinernte zuzuführen, und würden wir Ihnen dankbar sein, wenn Sie uns vor dem 23. d. Mts. Ihre Schätzung der Quantitäten von jeder Sorte, die Sie uns liefern können, zukommen lassen würden.

Ihr ergebenen
The Adelaide Wine Company, Ltd.,
J. Gurr, Manager.

Bilingual grape purchase letter.

Adelaide Wine Co., 1 January 1901.

DIARY OF EVENTS

Prepared by Julie Nicholls for Susan Marsden, State Historian for the History Trust of South Australia.

Wednesday, 17 May, 7.30 pm. Port Adelaide Historical Society 'Bring and Tell' Members and friends bring along items of historical interest and talk about them. Uniting Church Hall Commercial Road.

Wednesday, 24 May, 7.45 pm. SA Genealogy & Heraldry Society. Robert Clyne, police historian, will speak. Library 201 Unley Road. All welcome.

Thursday, 1 June, 8.00 pm. Brighton H.S. 'Brighton Identities': members night. Council Chambers, Jetty Road.

Thursday, 6 June, 8.00 pm. Mitcham H.S. Maggie Ragless: 'Families of Lower Mitcham'. Mitcham Library.

10 - 12 June, Maritime Museum, Port Adelaide. Display 'Miniature Marvels'. Queen's Birthday long weekend, special display of model boats. Experts explain how one puts a ship in a bottle. 117 Lipson Street.

Wednesday, 14 June, 8.00 pm. Kensington and Norwood H.S. Dr Geoffrey Bishop: 'The Settlement of the East Torrens District' Community Hall, George Street, Norwood.

Monday, 19 June, 8.00 pm. Burnside H.S. Colin Harris: 'History of National Parks in SA' Community Centre (behind library), corner Greenhill and Portrush Roads.

Wednesday, 21 June, 8.00 pm. Port Adelaide H.S. Peter Campaign: 'Point Malcolm Lifesavers' Uniting Church Hall, Commercial Road.

Thursday, 6 July, 8.00 pm. Brighton H.S. Dr Dean Jaensch: 'Development of Political Parties in SA' Council Chambers, Jetty Road, Brighton

Wednesday, 12 July, 7.30 pm. Cummins Society AGM, followed by Dr Brian Morley: "Historical Gardening"

July and August. Old Parliament House: 'Human Rights/Droits de l'Homme' Exhibition of international posters commemorating the French Revolution of 1789.