
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SA PUBLICATIONS

Journal

The *Journal of the Historical Society of South Australia* has appeared annually since 1975, with the exception of 1978 and 1980 when there were two issues. Back issues of all numbers except 1, 4 and 9 are available at \$12.00 each (postage included). *Note however that stocks of some issues are running low.*

The contents of each journal are listed in the 'South Australian History in Journals' guidesheets included in Newsletters No's 77 (July 1988) and 79 (November 1988).

Newsletter

Back issues of more recent years' issues are available at \$1.00 each.

Guidesheets

These leaflets are made available gratis by the Society as a community service to promote history beyond its membership. They are issued as supplements to its Newsletters and additional copies are normally available in the Mortlock Library and the History Trust head office.

- No. 1 South Australian Local History 1. Guides, Indexes & Bibliographies (1978, out of print)
- No. 2 Good Reading in South Australian History (Revised edition 1987)
- No. 3 South Australian History in Journals—A Select List of Articles (1981)
- No. 4 Making History (1988)
- No. 5 South Australian History in Journals—2. A Select List of Articles (1988)

Occasional Paper

E.J. & J.R. Robbins *A Glossary of Local Government Areas in South Australia 1840-1985* (1987) \$3.00 + \$1.00 postage

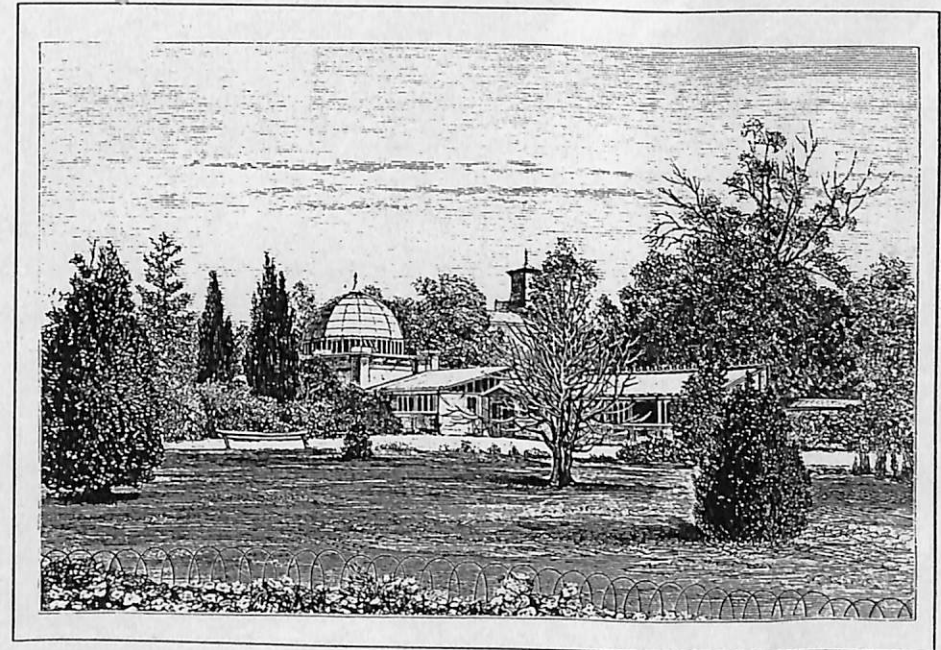
Joint Publications

S. Marsden & R. Nicol (eds) *The Politics of Heritage* (1990) [with the History Trust of S.A.] \$7.50 + \$1 postage. Available direct from the History Trust only.

various *South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register* A facsimile reproduction of volume 1, 18 June 1836 to 29 December 1838. (1988) [in association with the S.A. Government Printer] \$35 (limp) or \$75 (hard back). Available direct from the Government Printer and selected Adelaide bookshops.

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 history, especially 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, field trips 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 any of the above objects

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FOUNDED IN 1974

Cover Illustration:
The Botanical Gardens Adelaide—The Left Conservatory c1875

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Venue: State Library Lecture Theatre
(Corner Kintore Avenue and North Tce., Adelaide.)
Enter from Kintore Avenue.

Friday 7 February 1992 at 8 p.m.

Pauline Payne "This Fairy Palace" - the old Palm House at Adelaide Botanic Garden.

The old Palm House was imported from Bremen, Germany in 1877 by Dr. Richard Schomburgk, second Director of Adelaide Botanic Garden. It is a particularly fine example of glasshouse architecture and its sophisticated design and engineering techniques make it of national and international significance.

Corrosion of iron work has taken its toll and an appeal is being launched in 1992 for restoration of the Palm House. Pauline Payne's lecture will provide members and their friends with an appreciation of the significance of this much loved building and the role it played in the work of the Botanic Garden in the nineteenth century.

Pauline Payne, who has just completed a PhD thesis on Richard Schomburgk and Adelaide Botanic Garden, has a special interest in both plant introduction into Australia and the contribution of German science and technology to Australia.

Friday 6 March 1992 at 8 p.m.

Dr Harry Penny The Place of History in the Education of Humans.

Arithmetic is arithmetic whether in Australia or Alaska. Physics is physics, whether in Japan or Australia. But what on earth is history?

A chronological catalogue of Important Things done by Important People belonging to different sets of people? Accumulations of one-eyed and therefore often conflicting nationalistic folk-lore.

The term Social Science covers a growing number of academic disciplines or as some would say 'disciplines'.

Has history any claims at all to being a social science?
Has it any serious claim to be a universal ingredient in the education of humans?

Tour

Sunday 16 February 1992

Tour of Adelaide Botanic Garden and its Heritage Buildings

Guide: Pauline Payne.

Meet at 2.p.m. at the Main Gates on North Tce. The tour includes buildings as well as the gardens. Donation \$3.

From a letter to the *Advertiser* 30 December 1991.

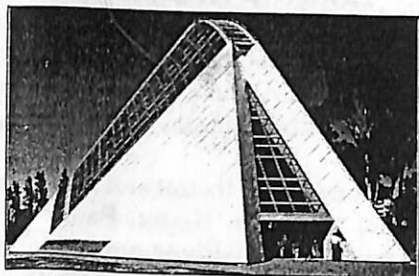
The most uniquely modern conservatory seen in 20 years

THERE has been such a fuss made about the new conservatory at the Botanic Garden of Adelaide I had to see it for myself recently. After all, some critics ask whether we need new conservatories in this day and age, especially something resembling a glass pastie?

What I entered proved to be the most uniquely modern conservatory I've seen on three continents over 20 years. It's one thing to erect something suitable to display tropical plants. It's quite another thing to design a building to house a section of old-world rainforest.

Matters of soil, growth habits and the biological control of pests and disease seem to have been corrected in Adelaide. Most conservatories are hodge-podges of vegetation from all over the world.

The Climatron, in my own city of St Louis, is only a "menagerie" of plantlife from Africa, South America, southern Asia, etc, containing ex-



Adelaide's "glass pastie" tropical conservatory.

pected novelties. Adelaide has re-created the lowland forest we expect to find in Papuaia through northern Australia.

Species on view reflect the basic components of a fast-vanishing flora, not fads expressing tastes for trees and vines. I noted that even tropical trees requiring cross-

pollination, like the elephant apple (*dillenia*), have produced some fruit within the conservatory (surely a sign of successful acclimatisation).

The only other close option for South Australians to see such an extensive piece of wet, tropical forest would be literally to go to Queensland. The educational value and

conservation aspects of your conservatory are enormous since the interior reflects real environmental planning, not a Tarzan movie.

Now that the Botanic Garden Adelaide has proved its merit with the new conservatory, let it renovate the original 1877 Palm House. It's the only surviving example of this style of German glasshouse left in Australia.

Similar fine old buildings have been given new life at other botanic gardens around the world. They tend to make the finest "jewel boxes"; that is, they are often used to display smaller, tropical plants or tender bulbs that viewers must see at close range to appreciate fully.

Consider the superior contrast this would make with the old complementing the new.

PETER BERNARDT,
Botanist,
Royal Botanic Garden,
Sydney,
Professor of Botany,
St Louis University.

DOCUMENTS

Big Contrast in Schooling 1838 compares with present time

Plaque Unveiled

On May 28, 1838, in two rooms in North Terrace, in the vicinity of the present site of Trinity Church, 57 children attended the State's first school.

Only one pupil was capable of reading; books and equipment were expensive and had to be obtained from England, and pupils attended school very irregularly, as they were often required to help in other work.

Today, while a plaque commemorating the site of the first school was being unveiled, more than 100,000 school children attended lessons throughout the State in comfortable class rooms and buildings, with modern equipment and books published in Australia, wireless receiving sets, film projectors, spacious playgrounds, and other attractions.

The metal plaque as a memorial to the first school was provided by the City Council, Royal Geographical Society, and the S.A. Teachers' Union.

Had Education At Heart

Although the Act of 1834, which established South Australia as a British province, made no provision for public education, promoters and pioneers of the new venture had education much at heart.

Even before the proclamation of the province, the South Australian School Society was founded in England. It was decided to establish three grades of school — infant schools for children under eight; elementary schools for children between eight and 12, "combining study with a small unoppressive portion of bodily labor"; and others for pupils between 12 and 16, affording instruction in agriculture and various trades as well as in the "higher branches of education."

Mr. J. B. Shepherdson, who "had studied the plans of schools where mental work is combined with labor," was appointed schoolmaster, but did not arrive until 1838. Soon afterwards the South Australian branch of the South Australian School Society was formed.

At the time it was resolved that the objects of this society should be to establish and conduct infant British and labor schools in the province of South Australia, and to render them subservient to the promotion of true religion, of civilisation, and of the general welfare of the inhabitants of the province.

Financial Crisis

Mr. Shepherdson resigned in the next year, and his successor, William Oldham, struggled on, but was virtually "starved out" in 1843. In 1841 the colony encountered a devastating financial crisis and the society was unable to keep up its new buildings.

The Government took practically no part in the promotion in the first 10 years of the existence of the province. Governor Hindmarsh had too many other problems, Governor Gawler was interested, but had other difficulties, and Governor Grey had no public money available for education, although he was personally interested and stressed the importance of education to the Legislature.

In spite of many difficulties good work was done by the early schools, and various pioneer work clergymen, besides organising Sunday schools and night classes, gave up time to teaching.

There were 26 schools in South Australia in 1844 and 719 pupils attending them. It was in 1851 before an Act was passed appointing a Central Board of Education with powers to license teachers, fix salaries, and give grants for school buildings.

Ref: *The News* -4/12/1936 (p.11)

Sobriety Increasing

Work Among Young People

Miss Jean Andrews, secretary of the Victorian Band of Hope Union, who arrived by the Melbourne express yesterday, is keen in her work among the boys and girls, and believes that to be the crux of the situation in bringing about a temperate people. "The work of the Band of Hope," she said, "will be for the benefit of Australia generally. Some people think the method is a slow one, but it is laying a foundation for good citizenship."

Miss Andrews remarked that as far as Band of Hope work was concerned, Victoria was the pioneer. The first branch was formed in 1858, and the union was founded in 1861. Latterly the organisation had opened up in a new direction, which was not thought of in the early days - the introduction of beach work and playground meetings, as well as teaching the hygiene of food and drink. The response was wonderfully encouraging.

"The membership is growing all over Australia," said Miss Andrews. "In Victoria there are 9,000 members, all juveniles, and I think there are more in South Australia, taking those who belong to affiliated organisations into account."

Miss Andrews expressed the view that the drinking habit was not increasing. She had travelled extensively throughout Australasia, and

came to the conclusion the sobriety was growing. There was, however, a great deal of temptation in the way, but on the whole, drinking was rather moderate. At the same time, she realised that things were being made so attractive for the young people that there was a danger of the habit getting the better of them.

Effect of 6 O'clock Closing

"I think," she said, "the 6 o'clock closing of hotels is responsible for the better conditions prevailing. One does not see so much drunkenness. On the other hand, one sees more of it at social functions. Still, it is my firm conviction that there is less drinking today. I believe that the temperance work and the education of the past is bearing fruit."

Miss Andrews said that in Victoria much had been done through sport. They had football and cricket competitions for the boys and basket ball and volley ball for the girls. Two men were engaged in tutoring the boys and girls in the sports work. She was pleased to be Adelaide again after a lapse of some years, and had happy reconciliations of her last visit. She would be in Adelaide for three weeks, and would return to Melbourne in time for the Australian Band of Hope conference, at which delegates from all the States would take part, on September 21.

Ref: *The Advertiser* - 3.9.1929 (p.17)

Interested In Economics

Young Man of Today

Shows Knowledge in Debate

The national crisis in Australia has aroused in young men of today a deep interest in economics.

Where once they allowed their elders to have all the say they are now intelligently debating financial and allied subjects.

What is more, they know what they are talking about. Many of the younger generation who today fill our colleges, business houses, and offices are students of economics.

There was probably never a keener interest in debating than at present. Studies of current economic troubles have provoked in intellectual ferment among aspirants for platform honors.

Study, reflection, and preparation are required if public speaking is to be more than sounding brass and tinkling cymbal. He who aspires to guide his fellow-citizens out of their present difficulties needs something more than fluency, confidence, flow of words, and appropriate gestures.

Model Parliament

Much is being done in Adelaide to guide the would-be platform speaker safely along the path he must travel. Instruction and ample opportunities of proving his merit are given to the young man and those of more mature years.

Many of our Parliamentary representatives of future will come from these ranks, and their training now may give them greater powers of oratory and strengthen their flair for leadership.

Adelaide has three model parliaments—the South Australian and the St. Peters Model Parliaments and the Union Parliament.

Instructional Talks

Kensington; a number of people were injured, and a driver whose car overturned in Pulteney street, City, had a narrow escape.

After having been in a collision between two motor cars on the Meningie-Macclesfield road, 11 miles from Taillem Bend, on Saturday afternoon, John Phillips Barnett, 54, baker, of Bugle Range road, Macclesfield, died last night in St. Margaret's Private Hospital at Taillem Bend. He was admitted with a fractured skull. He was driving a touring car from Meningie to Macclesfield, with Jack Allen, 11, of Victor Harbour, as a passenger. When on a rise on the straight road, at a spot where the bitumen is 13 feet wide, the car came into a head-on collision with a closed car driven by Miss. Ellen Schaefer, of Freeling. The closed car was thrown on its side, and the tourer was, as described later by the police, "knocked to bits as if destroyed by an explosive."

Jack Allen received serious facial injuries, and was taken to the same hospital as Mr. Barnett. Mrs. Sarah Schaefer, of Freeling, her son, John Edward Henry Schaefer, Reginald Tymms, of Gawler, and Miss. Schaefer, received slight injuries. They were treated at the hospital and went on to friends at Narrung, whom they were on the way to visit when the accident happened.

Mr. Barnett has left a widow, six daughters, and four sons. Sgt. Kite, of Taillem Bend, prepared a report of the accident. An inquest is to be held.

Ref: *The Mail* - 13.6.1931 (p. 6)

Crash Into Tram Standard

Valma Frith Jones, 16, of Grant avenue, Toorak, received fatal head injuries when a motor car in which she was a passenger crashed into a tram standard in Kensington road, Kensington, about 1 a.m. yesterday. The car was driven by Cleve Maxwell Allert, 20, clerk, of Janet street, Evandale. The girl was dead on arrival at the Adelaide Hospital.

When a large closed car which he was driving overturned on Pulteney street, City, after a collision about 9.40 a.m. yesterday, Francis Keith Pyman, driver, of Albert street, Edwardstown, received a bruised elbow. The car, which is owned by Samuel Honeychurch, of Davenport terrace, Wayville, was travelling north along Hanson street. Alexander Eric Ogilvy, accompanied by Eric Lewis Lutz, both of Bute, was driving his touring car east along Wakefield street. Rain was falling at the time. In trying to avoid a collision Mr. Pyman applied his brakes and swerved the car, but the right front wheel of Ogilvy's car struck the left rear wheel of the closed car, which slipped on the wet road, and skidded along Pulteney street, capsizing and coming to rest on lying on its roof, almost at right-angles across the tram lines, and about 32 yards from Wakefield street. Both cars were damaged. Mr. Pyman was taken to the Adelaide Hospital, and was able to leave after treatment.

George Edward Baseby, 72, of Halbury avenue, Kingswood, and Mrs. Cora Baseby, 39, of Clifton street, Hawthorn, were treated at the Adelaide Hospital on Saturday after a collision at the intersection of Franklin and Morphett streets, City, at about 6.30 p.m., between a motor car driven by Edward Ernest Baseby, of Hawthorn, and one driven by Robert Turner Latimer, of High street, Grange. Mr. Baseby suffered abrasions and shock, and Mrs. Baseby shock. Mr. Baseby's car was badly damaged.

Car Strikes Light Pole

When a motor car in which they were riding collided with an electric light pole at the intersection of West terrace, Anzac Highway, and Goodwood road, city, on Saturday afternoon, Lila Bain, 18, and Mavis Bain, 15, both of Franklin street, city, received cuts and shock. They were treated by Dr. Southwood and went home. The car was being driven by Clifton Gordon Lantern, of Osmond terrace, Norwood.

A collision between a tram and a motor car occurred at 3.24 p.m. yesterday, at the intersection of North terrace and Frome road, city, a few yards from the Adelaide Hospital gates. Leslie Edgar Warren, of Collingwood avenue, Broadview, was driving west along North terrace. He turned to cross the road to go to the hospital, where his wife is a patient, and a tram travelling away from the city struck the left rear wheel of the car. The car was forced several yards from the tram line. The wheel that was struck, and the windscreen, were smashed. Mr. Warren received a slight cut on his head.

Arthur John Childs, 23, of William street, York, was admitted to the Adelaide Hospital late on Saturday night with concussion and a possible fracture of the skull. He was riding in a motor cycle sidecar when the outfit collided with a bicycle on Anzac Highway.

Ref: *The Advertiser* - 25.1.1937 (p. 19)

The
Liberal Leader

VOL. 3, No. 4.

ADELAIDE, 30th MARCH, 1921.

Published at Uppermost Post Office, Adelaide, for transmission by post as a newspaper.

The Premier's Message
To the Liberal Electors of South Australia

I wish to take this opportunity of making an earnest appeal to all Liberal Electors to do their duty in connection with the forthcoming elections. Never before in the history of South Australia has there been an election campaign upon which so much depended. The result of the polls on 9th April will decide the question as to whether or not we shall continue to enjoy responsible Government in this State. If the Liberals are returned to power we shall: but if by any chance the Labor Party should gain the ascendancy, responsible Government for the time being will be a thing of the past. The Governmental control will be in the hands of an irresponsible junta, whose dictates every man who stands as a candidate for Parliament in the Labor interests has pledged himself to obey. And so I do not hesitate to say that in the political struggle that is now being waged all that we Liberals hold dear is at stake, because take from us responsible Government, and what hope is there for economy, progress, or prosperity?

I tell you, with a full sense of responsibility and a full knowledge of the financial position of the State, that at the present time a Labor Government could not raise sufficient money to meet the ordinary expenses of Government and to carry out the most urgent public works without excessive taxation. To carry out important public works it will be necessary forthwith to raise a loan on the London market. A Liberal Government will have no difficulty whatever in raising a loan which will give them all the money required. A Labor Government, however, with a programme of State Socialism, such as that outlined by the Leader of the Opposition, will

find it absolutely impossible to float a loan either locally or in London. The result, therefore, with Labor in power would necessarily be a curtailment of public works, resulting in widespread unemployment and distress. The experience of Queensland and New South Wales would be the experience of South Australia.



A. Neuman Powell.

The dangers to be feared from a Labor regime in these critical times are so great that I do most earnestly appeal to every true Liberal to do what he or she can to secure the return of Liberal candidates. We have the numbers to entitle us to power. But electors must vote, and must vote solidly, if the best results are to be obtained. I feel confident that we will win, and to you Liberal electors I say: "Be confident also, but be not over-confident." Against us is a strong party, divided within its ranks on many matters, but united in its determination to undermine and overthrow responsible Government. Let us beware lest through any fault of ours, through slackness, apathy, or over-confidence, the fight shall be lost, and the future of our State imperilled. We can win—Let us make up our minds that we will win. Personally, I have no doubts whatever as regards the issue, but, remember, I am trusting to the fraternal co-operation of my fellow Liberals in all parts of the State.

Liberalism means steady progress towards Idealism—not a blind dash over the Socialistic precipice.

Labour Rule means Farmers Ruin. The Liberals stand for Safety and Security.

Liberalism stands for sane Electoral Reform, not Government by Groups and Faddists.

ARTICLES

Oral History in the National Library of Australia
by Barry York

This article is reprinted with permission from 'National Library of Australia News' November 1991 when it appeared with the title 'A Better Understanding'.

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY is the repository for the biggest oral history collection in Australia—5,000 accessions representing 45,565 tapes at last count—and it is leading the way in the professional recording and preservation of oral history, folklore and social history recordings.

The Oral History Collection, which moved into a spacious new section of the Library's lower ground first floor in November 1989, has

... leading the way in the professional recording and preservation of oral history

come a long way since 1957 when a lone pioneer, by the name of Hazel de Berg, ventured out into the world of High Culture to record 'self portraits in words' by Australian artists, musicians, theatre identities and writers.

There is a growing demand for the Collection's materials, mainly from biographers, academic historians, broadcasters, schools, libraries, teachers, galleries, museums, film producers, actors and special interest groups. Several important books have drawn on the Collection, including Ross McMullin's recent history of the Labor Party, *The Light on the Hill*, and David Foster's *Self Portraits*, which was based on fifteen interviews with writers from the Hazel de Berg collection. *Self Portraits* is the first oral history publication funded by the Library's Morris West Trust Fund.

The Library has frequently supported independent researchers

through the provision of tapes and equipment, and repository facilities and preservation services. Projects so supported have included Blanche D'Alpuget's biography of Bob Hawke, Peter Read's biography of Charles Perkins, and *Which Seeds Shall Grow?* by Dr Naomi Turner, based on interviews with members of Roman Catholic Orders. Books in preparation include Helen O'Shea's history of the dairy farming community at South Ecklin, Victoria, and Stephen Guth's history of 'old Galong' in New South Wales.

The Oral History Collection evolved from the Library's Manuscripts Section and its collecting pattern is largely defined by the strengths in Manuscripts. Thus, priority is given to recording interviews with Australians who have attained national significance in Commonwealth politics, the federal bureaucracy, intellectual life and the performing arts. Some work has also been done in science and technology, business and labour, sports history and, through an on-going joint project with the New South Wales Labour Council, trade union history.

It really all started in 1951 when Harold White, later first National Librarian, met with the founder of Columbia University's Oral History Research Office, Allan Nevins. Harold White returned to Australia enthusiastic about oral history and lent his support to the efforts of Hazel de Berg, who collected more than 1,300 taped interviews until her death in 1984.

Among the de Berg tapes are rare interviews with three important figures who experienced their formative years in the nineteenth century: Jack Lang, Mary Gilmore and Will Ogilvie. 'The first thirty years of each of these individuals' lives were lived in the nineteenth

century', Mark Cranfield, the Library's Chief Oral History Officer told me, 'and their early childhood in the 1870s was to some extent captured... Through these recordings we have caught authentic nineteenth-century voices'.

In 1963, the Library's oral history work took another leap forward when John Meredith offered the collection of folk music which he had taped on field trips principally in the country districts of New South

Through these recordings we have caught authentic nineteenth-century voices

Wales during the 1950s. While de Berg was capturing the cultural elite, Meredith worked at the grassroots level, in pubs and homes, with old bush workers. Meredith, whose field collecting is still going strong today, was awarded the Order of Australia for his contribution to the preservation of Australia's bush folklore and music.

A third key figure in the early days, Mel Pratt, became involved in recording oral history for the Library after retiring from the Australian News and Information Bureau in 1970. His appointment represented a further commitment to a long-term collection strategy. At the time of his death in 1984, Mel Pratt had completed almost one hundred interviews with politicians, public servants and journalists.

It was not until 1984, however, that Oral History came into being as a separate part of the Library's organisational structure. Today, there is a full-time staff of five—Mark

Cranfield, Adrian Cunningham, Leonie Voorhoeve, Amelia Archidiacono and Penny Casey—plus two folklore/oral history consultants, Dr Edgar Waters and Gwenda Davey, who are currently compiling a guide to collectors in social history and folklore. The collection also enjoys the benefit of a cataloguer, Catherine Argus, from the Library's Special Materials' Cataloguing Unit.

Interviewing is conducted by a network of specialists and, while there are half a dozen generalist interviewers, the majority have expertise in one or two subject

The preservation of human voices telling their story in their own words ...

areas. Importantly, the Collection also relies on a team of contract transcribers, some of whom have worked for the Library for many years. They transcribe selected tapes in order to produce verbatim written records of interviews.

The preservation of tapes is an essential, though costly, part of the Collection's purpose. Interviews are conducted on open-reel tape, which

has a life expectancy of at least eighty years. Some earlier recordings, however, were completed on cassette tape, which starts to deteriorate after ten years. Those regarded as important are gradually being transferred onto open-reel tape but it is an expensive process at about \$150 per hour of transferred tape. Thousands of early tapes are awaiting transferral.

A key part in the preservation process is played by the Sound Preservation and Technical Services Unit, comprised of Kevin Bradley and Shelley Grant, which is located in the same area as the Oral History Section. Two new recording studios, designed by specialist electro-acoustical consultants, feature the latest technology and one studio has had digital recording equipment installed.

The Library's oral history materials are collected with preservation in mind; in other words, the tape recorder is not simply seen as a mechanical notebook geared to obtaining information. The preservation of human voices telling their story in their own words is seen as having great value. As Mark Cranfield puts



Penny Casey retrieving a cassette from the tape store for a reader
Photograph by Bob Miller, NLA Photographics

it, 'Oral history is often a way of entering the individual's informal world, the dimension between thought and formal expression. The kind of voice, language and vocabulary used can be informative ... Voices are idiosyncratic.' During the course of an interview it is common for the subject to speak increasingly in an informal manner and the pattern of speech itself says something about the individual's personality.

Not all the tapes held by the Oral History Section have been collected at the instigation of the Library. Many have been acquired from outside bodies seeking a repository for, and the preservation of, special collections. The Commonwealth Parliament's Oral History Project is a case in point. Instituted in 1984, interviews with 134 former federal parliamentarians have been completed to date. By arrangement with parliament, the Library's Oral History Collection holds the material which includes a 59-hour interview with the late Billy Snedden. The chief instigator of the project was the former Member for Wills, Gordon Bryant, who died earlier this year. The most substantial interview comprises 125 hours with Clyde Cameron.

Another noteworthy project, the Esso Performing Arts Collection,



Hazel de Berg interviewing architect Ken Wolley
Photograph by NLA Photographics

resulted in 22 interviews with dancers, musicians and actors who have been prominent in the Australian theatre since the 1930s. The interviews, conducted by Michelle Potter and others, include Valrene Tweedie, Geoffrey Ingram, Ros Bandt, Peter Sculthorpe, Ruth Cracknell and John Derum.

The Library also holds the New South Wales Bicentennial Oral History Collection, comprising two hundred interviews with men and women born prior to 1907 who lived in New South Wales between 1900 and 1930, and the 'Cultural Context of Unemployment—An Oral Record' collection which contains more than 500 interviews. The latter project, conducted in 1985 and 1986, is notable for its attention to marginalised groups such as Indo-Chinese refugees, women, rural dwellers, Aborigines and school leavers.

According to Mark Cranfield, oral history enables such groups—

who have been practically invisible to mainstream historians—to become more than mere names on an electoral roll or faces in a school photograph. It is important, he says, to give everyday Australians an opportunity to speak about their life experiences. 'In that way', he maintains, 'you give balance to the record. In addition to the Prime Ministers, Governors-General and

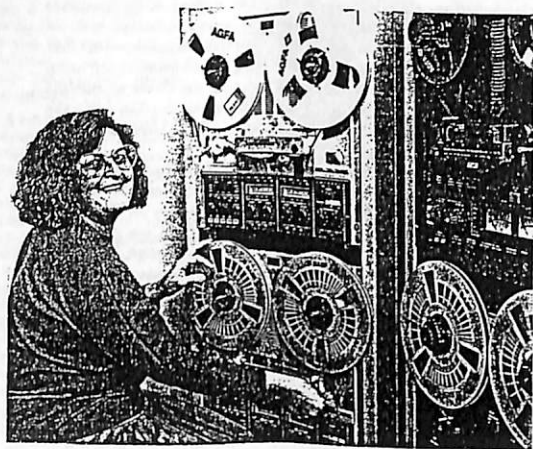
Oral history can move from the public to the private realm in a person's life

Archbishops, you get to the blacksmiths, the women running the corner store, the primary school teacher and the recently arrived settler.'

Good oral history, says Mark Cranfield, captures information that is unique and is to be found between the lines or behind the official version of events. 'It can put material on the

record that has been kept off the record... If oral history can get into the world of 'off-the-record' decision-making and communications, then it is able to make a real contribution', he said. Moreover, oral history can move from the public to the private realm in a person's life and it can even go beyond that, into the very personal domain. 'Oral history can operate at that level', according to Mark Cranfield, 'because it's built on empathy and trust, and the non-judgemental goal of seeking a better understanding ... When somebody says, "Look, I've never said this to anyone before", then you know you're likely to be getting deeply important information.'

BARRY YORK is a Research Fellow with the Centre for Immigration and Multi-cultural Studies at the Australian National University. He is an occasional interviewer for the Oral History Section of the National Library



Amelia Archidiacono making a preservation copy of an original oral history recording in the dubbing room
Photograph by Bob Miller, NLA Photographics

Heritage: Whose Responsibility Is It?

By Yerasimos (Gerry) Patitsas

Heritage is not a matter of saving this or that building. Heritage—to me—is a record of the culture of a society, a record that leads to an understanding, and evaluation of the worth of that society. That which gives a society an identity, and provides the framework on which the society can grow and progress, and includes the following:

- how we manage our natural environment
- how we interact with other cultures
- what support we give to the arts
- what priorities we put on our institutions of learning
- how we manage the environment in which we live and work
- how we run our politics (local government)
- what values we pass onto our children
- how we treat each other.

Not all heritage is positive, so it is necessary for a society to face its heritage, reject that which is negative and build on the positives.

The most negative aspect of this society is the heritage of the frontier. This is a mentality which ignores past mistakes, belittles past achievements and presents change, *any* change, particularly change for the new, as the sole purpose of the society. A slavish devotion to such change, is a fascist philosophy of perpetual self destruction. You cannot create an identity if you continue to destroy the reference framework.

You have to be selective, you have to aim for the best and you have to base your criteria on the essential purpose of a society, which is to foster conditions within which human beings can attain fulfilment, in a manner which is in tune with both their immediate *and* the greater environment. And that must apply to *all* aspects of the society *not* just to property development.

We have allowed ourselves, our culture, our environment to be constantly degraded and devalued by a minority whose interests are so narrow, that everything is subservient to their drive for the *fast* dollar.

So whose responsibility is it?

I think it starts with our education. An education system which:

- in general ignores our own history and our geographical place in the world,
- belittles the importance of our environment and does not encourage individuals to evaluate how that environment is being managed,
- produces professional people with such a narrow view of the world that their interests are confined within the narrow field of their profession and which in the case of architects and planners, deals in esoteric ideas and ignores the fundamental purpose of these professions, which is to serve the needs of people.

Then we have the media: a media that presents any change as being good; that does not analyse the full ramifications of proposed changes or discuss alternatives; is only interested in confrontations rather than presenting an alternative point of view; allows itself to be monopolised by the status quo, and, is not really interested in true progress.

A media which often works through misrepresentation. For example:

The beautification of the Torrens Valley has occurred because of the flood mitigation scheme, and the linear park idea, and not because of the often touted autobahn,

Next: politicians

All levels and all parties, they have placed themselves in a position of subservience to the interests of unbridled change; and change is synonymous with development.

Interestingly enough, the drive for change does not seem to have the same intensity when it comes to social issues such as the needs of the Aboriginal Australians or any other underprivileged group in our society. Our politicians have placed themselves in a position from which they cannot be arbiters or leaders.

Which leads us to governments

All governments of course are run by politicians, and of course they are driven by the need to be *seen* to be doing great things. The way to do that is to foster change—*any* change that is widely visible; which means that they pander to the perceptions of those with the power to *advertise* that perception. Too bad for those that can't afford the ads. It doesn't matter what happens 10 years down the track—it will be someone else's responsibility.

We have a local government system which does *not* allow full participation of all members of the community. Try being a single income person working 9-5 and serving on the Adelaide City Council.

Of course with governments we have government departments and semi-government bodies, and each is only interested in its own, limited area of responsibility. So, Australian National shifts the interstate passenger terminal away from the City, and the State Transport Authority puts busways in linear parks, and the Electricity Trust wants to decapitate every tree that even looks like being close to its power lines, and the Highways Department only cares about making cars go faster around corners.

To make matters worse, we have a Lord Mayor who has to go to Sydney to be awakened to the significance of our corner pubs and to lament their loss.

Talk about the cultural cringe.

Where on earth has he been the last 20 or so years? I thought he was on the Adelaide City Council.

So whose responsibility is it?

Now tourism has a major role to play, for its aims and imagery sort of represent the way we see ourselves.

In South Australia, we have fostered a Disneyland approach to tourism that fails to grasp the true potential of our natural and built environment.

For example:

- Dutch windmills in Hahndorf.
- Magic Mountain at Glenelg.
- pseudo-Elizabethan eating houses.
- a chair lift to take people to the top of a little hill which is already serviced by a road.*
- a proposal to deposit 2000–3000 people all together within a semi arid, very fragile environment noted for its tranquillity.
- a Grand Prix which is advertised as a street circuit, but seems to happen in a vacuum or in fairyland. Have you ever seen any advertising material that truly depicts the character of Adelaide?

Are these things truly us? Is this our true heritage?¹

An example of what other people think, are the words of Jackie Stewart (the famous racing car driver) who was in Adelaide for the first Grand Prix. During the telecast before the race, he toured the circuit giving his expert comments, but surprisingly and unsolicited he kept referring to the “old buildings” around the circuit.

We in Aurora Heritage Action wrote to him, and this is his reply:

One of the main attraction in my opinion to the many people from overseas who attended the Grand Prix in Australia was the very uniquely Australian character of the buildings around the circuit.

Some of the older buildings such as the Fruit Market and some of the Pubs and restored Australian style private homes were indeed impressive.

Historic architecture of this kind is a great asset and should certainly be revered and maintained for further generations.

There is more such evidence, yet one of those buildings has been recently demolished.

So, in our tourist industry, where are the images of our built environment, of stone buildings unique to South Australia? Where are the images of our artistic legacy? They are probably in storage, like the paintings. Where is the Aboriginal collection at the Museum? Why doesn't anybody know about it, and will it go to the new Aboriginal Cultural Centre? [Tandanya]

Now for a few words specifically about our built environment, and the philosophies responsible for its condition.

Whose responsibility is it?

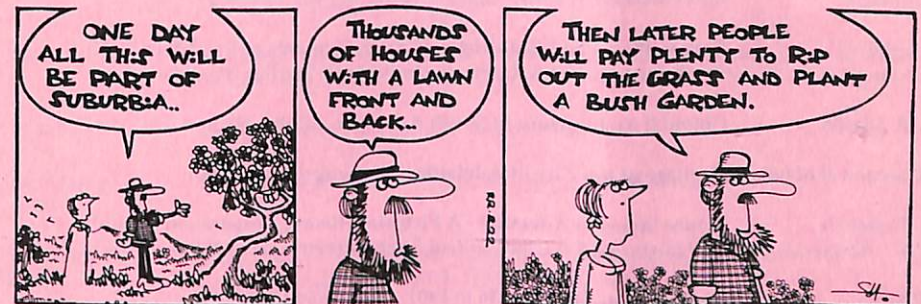
There are false and destructive philosophies which gain acceptance only by constant repetition and support by those whose interests they serve. Some of these are:

¹ Eds.: this planned Chairlift to Mount Lofty Summit has since been abandoned—mainly due to sustained public opposition.

MORE GOOD READING

in

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HISTORY



History is made every day!

MORE GOOD READING IN SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

This guidesheet is published by the Historical Society of South Australia as a community service. The listing is arranged by subject and is very selective as regards both subjects covered and books included. It complements another more general guide, **Good Reading in South Australian History** (Historical Society of South Australia, Guidesheet No. 2, revised edition December 1987). As that guide is arranged by author rather than by subject, for convenience some titles are repeated here. With a few exceptions this list is restricted to books published or reprinted in the last twenty years.

BIOGRAPHY (COLLECTED)

- H.T. Burgess (ed) **The Cyclopedia of South Australia** (2 vols 1907 & 1909, facsimile edition Austaprint 1978)
- R. Cockburn **Pastoral Pioneers of South Australia** (2 vols, 1925 & 1927, facsimile edition Lynton Publications 1977)
- S. Cockburn **The Patriarchs** (Ferguson Publications 1983)
- G.E. Loyau **Notable South Australians** (1885, facsimile edition Austaprint 1978)
- _____ **The Representative Men of South Australia** (1883, facsimile edition Austaprint 1978)
- Various **Australian Dictionary of Biography** (Melbourne University Press 1966 -)

BUILDINGS

- M. Burden **Lost Adelaide** (Oxford University Press 1983)
- J. Faull & G. Young **People, Places and Buildings** Rural Settlements in the Adelaide Hills South Australia (S.A. Centre for Settlement Studies Inc. 1986)
- E. & R. Jensen **Colonial Architecture in South Australia** (Rigby 1980)
- S. Marsden et al (eds) **Heritage of the City of Adelaide** (The Corporation 1990)
- J.N. Persse & D.M. Rose **House Styles in Adelaide - A Pictorial History** (Australian Institute of Valuers [SA Division] & Real Estate Institute of SA 1981)
- S. Pikusa **The Adelaide House 1836 to 1901** (Wakefield Press 1986)
- Various **The Heritage of South Australia and Northern Territory** (Macmillan 1985)
- J. Walker (ed) **South Australia's Heritage** (Government Printing Division 1986)
- M. Williams **The Making of the South Australian Landscape** (Academic Press 1974) pp. 445-464

CULTURE

- N. Benko **Art and Artists of South Australia** (Lidums family 1969)
- C. Bridge **A Trunk Full of Books** History of the State Library of South Australia and its Forerunners (Wakefield Press 1986)

- P. Depasquale **A Critical History of South Australian Literature 1836-1930** (Pioneer Books 1978)
- H.M. Hale **The First Hundred Years of the Museum 1856-1956** (S.A. Museum 1956)
- M. Horton & D. Thomas (eds) **Art Gallery of South Australia 1881-1981** (The Gallery 1981) These articles first appeared in a special number of **Art in Australia** vol. 19 no. 1 Spring 1981.
- N. Ioannou **Ceramics in South Australia** From folk to studio pottery (Wakefield Press 1986)

- A.D. Mc Credie (ed) **From Colonel Light into the Footlights** (Pagel Books 1988)
- K. Peake-Jones **The Branch without a Tree** The Centenary History of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia [S.A. Branch] Incorporated (The Society 1985)
- D. Whitelock **Festival!** The Story of the Adelaide Festival of Arts (The author 1980)
- S.C. Wilson **From Shadow into Light** South Australian Women Artists Since Colonisation (Delmont Pty Ltd 1988)

INDUSTRY

- A. Aeuckens et al **Vineyard of the Empire** Early Barossa Vignerons 1842-1939 (Adelaide Industrial Publishers 1988)
- I. Auhl & D. Marfleet **Australia's Earliest Mining Era** South Australia 1841-1851 (Rigby 1975)
- I. Auhl **The Story of the 'Monster Mine'** The Burra Burra Mine and its Townships 1845-1877 (Investigator Press 1986)
- G. Blainey **The Rush That Never Ended** A History of Australian Mining (3rd edition, Melbourne University Press 1978)
- S.A. Cheney **From Horse to Horsepower** (Rigby 1965)
- D. Coleman & J. Miles **A Richness of People** (S.A. Chamber of Manufactures 1969)
- D. Cumming & G.E. Moxham **They Built South Australia** Engineers, Technicians, Manufacturers, Contractors and their work (The authors 1986)
- N. Darwin **The History of Holden since 1917** (E.L. Ford Publications 1983)
- P. Donovan **An Industrial History of South Australia** (Department of Architecture, University of Adelaide 1979)
- J.F. Drexel **Mining in South Australia** A Pictorial History (S.A. Department of Mines & Energy 1982)
- L. Harrison **Flour Mills in South Australia** (Department of Architecture, University of Adelaide 1979)
- G.J.R. Linge **Industrial Awakening** A Geography of Australian Manufacturing 1788 to 1890 (Australian National University Press 1979)

- A. Moore **Brickmakers in South Australia 1836-1936** (Department of Architecture, University of Adelaide 1981)
- P.J. Payton **The Cornish Miner in Australia** (Dyllansow Truran 1984)
- _____ **Pictorial History of Australia's Little Cornwall** (Rigby 1978)
- O. Pryor **Australia's Little Cornwall** (Rigby 1962)
- J. Selby (ed) **South Australia's Mining Heritage** (Department of Mines & Energy 1987)
- H.G. Viney **A Century of Commerce in South Australia 1836-1936** (Adelaide Chamber of Commerce 1936)

PLANNING

- A. Hutchings & R. Bunker (eds) **With Conscious Purpose** A History of Town Planning in South Australia (Wakefield Press 1986)
- S. Marsden **Business, Charity and Sentiment** The South Australian Housing Trust 1936-1986 (Wakefield Press 1986)
- L. Sandercock **Cities for Sale** (Melbourne University Press 1975)
- South Australia. Town Planning Committee **Report on the Metropolitan Area of Adelaide** (SA Government 1962)
- H. Stretton **Ideas for Australian Cities** (3rd edition, Transit Australia 1989)

TRANSPORT

- R.I. Jennings **Some Historically Insoluble Railway Problems in South Australia** (Nesfield Press 1980)
- _____ **W.A. Webb** South Australian Railways Commissioner 1922-30 (Nesfield Press 1973)
- L.S. Kingsborough **The Horse Tramways of Adelaide and its suburbs 1875-1907** (Libraries Board of South Australia 1967)
- S. Nicol **Bullock Tracks and Bitumen** (Royal Automobile Association 1978)
- G. Painter **The River Trade** (Turton & Armstrong 1979)
- R.H. Parsons **Southern Passages** A Maritime History of South Australia (Wakefield Press 1986)
- J.C. Radcliffe & C.J.M. Steele **Adelaide Road Passenger Transport 1836-1958** (Libraries Board of South Australia 1974)
- C. Steele & R. Wheaton **Adelaide on the Move 1878-1978** (Australian Electric Traction Association 1978)

- heritage lists as a means of protecting our Heritage, as though items of significance exist and can survive in a vacuum, cut off from their environment. *All* buildings in places like Venice are important in their own right.
- facadism, re-enactments and dressups. This philosophy which has delivered us into the hands of marketing agents and the glossy sell. It's alright as long as it *looks* like we care.
- property development in all its guises—which puts the rights of the current and often very temporary owner or user of a piece of land above the long-term good of the community as a whole, and encourages the investment of vast sums in property at the expense of our industries, research and development and product marketing.

This philosophy perpetuates the myth that a strong economy needs to be dominated by a continuous cycle of building replacement, of ever increasing scale. Yet the Swiss manage to do very well out of very low, very old buildings. They must have found something better to do with their investment funds.

And they are *not* the only ones.

- "Somebody must pay"—The only reason our environment is at risk, is because we as a community through our elected representatives have decided to permit it. For example, our planning laws permit the increase of the scale of development on certain pieces of land, in some areas, from two storeys, to 30 storeys. The value of that piece of land is inflated enormously. The potential for, and the scale of profit making is also increased astronomically. Nobody has suggested that they should recompense the rest of us for the fact that we are not permitted by the community to make astronomical profits from our pieces of land. Yet those who take advantage of these opportunities, offered to them by the community, have never been required to make any form of direct contribution to that community.

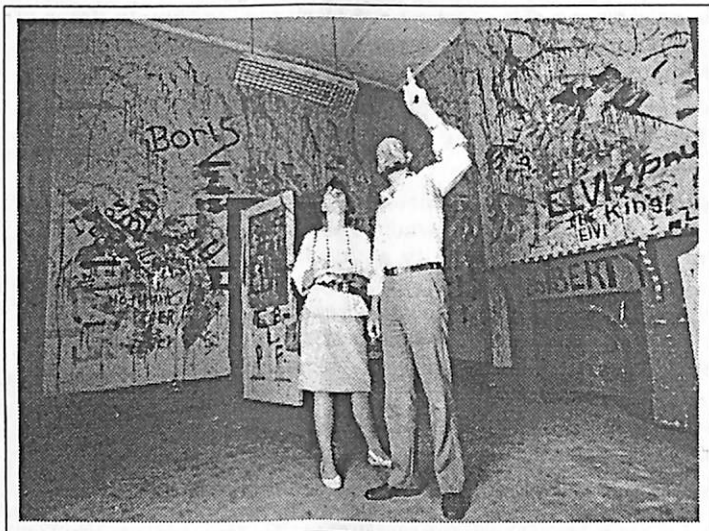
So when it comes to paying for the conservation of buildings or areas, which the community regards as important, why should significant contributions not be made by those who are profiting from opportunities given them by the same community?

We as a community give them the opportunities, we can take them away, or we can demand a cut in the profits. And we can tell them to put their buildings somewhere else too.

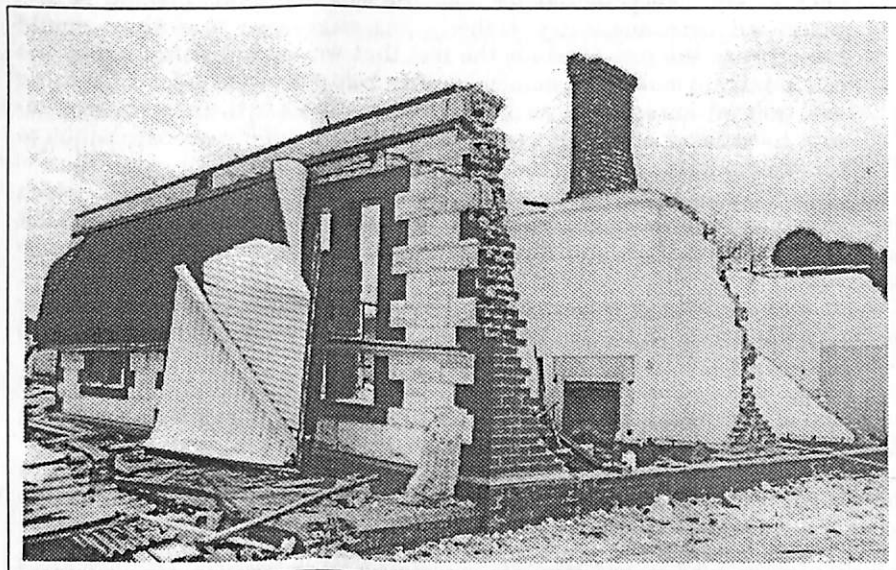
The planning system is the direct legal apparatus responsible for the preservation of our built heritage. In the City of Adelaide, demolition of existing structures is permitted immediately after planning approval is given. *No* guarantees are sought to ensure that the approved development will go ahead. So the system fosters the destruction of the fabric of the City and has left large areas of it wasted and barren.

In other Council areas any building not on the State Heritage Register can be demolished at *any* time. How is it possible to have a planning system that does not control the destruction of the built environment?

The planning system supposedly also protects items on the State Heritage Register.



Local historical groups fight to save buildings from demolition, such as the Barton Vale mansion in Enfield. At the same time the abandoned buildings may be damaged by vandals. (May 1988)



Old houses in inner suburbs such as Thebarton are still being destroyed as industries expand. This house was demolished to make way for a brewery carpark, despite local protests. (November 1987)

The process for the listing is something like this: research is done by the State Heritage Branch on an item. Judgements are made by the Branch, and only if regarded as worthy, it is presented to the Heritage Committee for inclusion on the Register. The Heritage Committee, after hearing any objections, makes a judgement and if it decides for inclusion, makes that recommendation to the Minister. If the Minister agrees, the item is listed.

This is a very thorough and exhaustive process. Yet when a development proposal is presented which affects that item, that item is re-evaluated. And it is re-evaluated by the Minister.

That is like saying that after a full season of footy, and *one* team has joined the illustrious list of Premiership sides by winning the Grand Final, the Minister of Sport should decide whether that team is worthy.

It doesn't end there either—its worth can come to be judged in a Court of Law. They either get there on merit or they don't, and once there they should be unassailable. It's just not on.

Now the Heritage Branch of the Department of Environment and Planning has THE responsibility, for administering the Heritage Act and the Register of Heritage Items, a very important role. Yet in the past five years something like 15 positions have been lost.

We all knew that post-Jubilee [1986 S.A. sesquicentenary], and post-Bicentenary, things were going to get worse, but not to this extent. The remaining professional staff are: 1 historian, 1 project officer, 2 architects. No one is doing research.

Things are so bad, that the Manager of the Branch, whose field of expertise is management, is forced to go out and give advice himself on matters of heritage. There are only two people to cope with the flood of planning applications affecting listed items, and both of those are architects. There is no team of associated experts to support them. The developer can devote vast expertise, architects, planners, historians, and even heritage experts. Not so the Branch. Small wonder, then, that some pretty strange advice is coming out.

The Manager himself is an important member of ICOMOS Australia, and has travelled the world in this capacity. The Burra Charter is the cornerstone of this international association. This document, amongst other things, makes clear definitions and recommendations. Yet the Heritage Branch has recommended the demolition of all except the facades of many buildings under their care.

Well might we ask, not whose responsibility is it but who is responsible?

Of course we should also look at the professional advisers, the experts: planners, historians, architects/designers and heritage experts.

These are people who have the learning and the experience to understand and to know, people who travel the world, who visit and marvel at places like Florence, or Toledo, or wherever and return to belittle and degrade. They are architects who expect their own creations to be marvelled at and respected, yet pour scorn on the achievements of their predecessors.

They are heritage experts who make cases for the destruction of irreplaceable cultural assets like the Penfolds Vineyard, and others who invest vast amounts of time and other people's money into cleaning buildings that don't need it, into returning buildings to a former appearance at some arbitrary stage of their

development; and yet do nothing about the broader context in which they work. They are those who use simplified and simplistic symbols of the past and do nothing to protect the origins of those symbols. It's time those people took a serious look at themselves, their motives and their actions, for they certainly are responsible.

And at the end of it all we have the administrators, who advise and make decisions on matters in which they have no qualifications, no expertise, and no commitment.

I could go on—we could go on—talking. I think that it is about time that we all did something, for heritage, our heritage is ours and we all are responsible for it. The problems are pretty fundamental but *not* insurmountable, and often very easy to overcome.

In conclusion let's look at something that I think encapsulates the problem. Something that represents a condensation of the forces that drive our society and its aspirations: The John Martins Christmas Pageant. Amongst the many floats is an exciting and dynamic representation of a Wells Fargo Coach. It could so easily be Cobb & Co.



The above article was taken from *The Politics of Heritage*.
Copies are still available from the History Trust,
but the second print run is selling fast so be quick.

IDEAS FOR AUSTRALIA PROGRAM, CONFERENCE, UNIVERSITY OF NSW, SYDNEY 16 NOVEMBER 1991

Understanding our own country through community history: historical evolution and development of community.

Susan Marsden (State Historian, Community History Unit,
History Trust of South Australia).¹

My very first work as a professional historian presented me with the puzzle we tackle today: what is community? How does one describe the historical development of a community when this is represented by some 4,300 hectares of suburb spread between inner city and port and housing nearly 80,000 people, "one community" only in that it is contained within one council's current boundaries? Like a Russian puzzle doll, Woodville represented a set of communities within communities: national, state, metropolitan, council and neighbourhood; rural, village and suburban; "colonial gentry", professional middle class and industrial working class; British, eastern and southern European.

Each community shaped and was shaped by others, each might contain another, although a historian could set them all out and survey them separately as distinct communities. My book, *A history of Woodville* (1977), might have been more appropriately named *Histories of Woodville*.

Most local historians conflate the histories of several communities within a defined geographical area, in Australia, most commonly a local government area. Some communities within that locality may be given prominence, others are ignored. Even in the most widely-admired local histories, the nineteenth century communities are given more careful treatment than those in the twentieth century, and rural more detailed attention than the suburban. Yet, despite publicity to the contrary, community has not disappeared merely because its more manageable manifestation - the supposedly self-contained, small town/rural district - has been superseded. I confronted this problem head-on in the *Woodville history* at a point in the narrative (around 1945) when many local historians give up on the idea of community altogether and retreat to broad generalisation.

¹ I should like to acknowledge the advice of my colleague, Brian Samuels, and his Honours history thesis, "Community" in the Port Adelaide district 1861-1901', University of Adelaide, 1972.

In Woodville, as in other semi-rural suburban communities, it was apparent from oral history that as late as the 1930s, people knew each other over wide areas. This was indeed a community based on family, friendship and locality. Usually, these communities were one and the same: this singular community (though it was never completely singular) was a function of relative isolation (given the dependence on public transport or bikes), a modest population, access to nearby employment, and a common Anglo-Australian culture. All changed dramatically with the onset of depression, war, industrialisation, immigration, and the affordable motor car. Families moved away but could be visited almost as easily by car; in the old neighbourhoods, the sheer increase in numbers of newcomers alone broke up the old networks and weakened the pre-war sense of locality. I wrote, 'The old physical community has almost disappeared. It has been replaced, of course. But by several [new] "communities", often physically overlapping, based not so much on locality as common interest, friendship or family'. (p. 238) And I then described, amongst others, the development of the new immigrant communities.

We can still address and help develop understanding of history at community level. "Community" still depends on personal contact, although this may extend beyond local and even State borders. "Community" draws on *everyday* contracts, ethnic and ideological, as well as neighbourhood, workplace and regional. Like Woodville writ large, Australia is a set of many communities within communities. Each is worthy of investigation and acknowledgment in its own right and yet each is encompassed within the country as a whole. As I learned on a Churchill Fellowship tour of North America earlier this year, if we foster *that* understanding of our community we build group and district self-esteem while developing all people's sense of connectedness and responsibility for the nation overall.

Community is where people feel they belong. This is reinforced by the development of a shared sense of history: in South Australia, with a population of only one and half million, there are more than 300 historical organisations. Increasingly, this connection between history and community identity is being deliberately reinforced by the creation of new historical societies - such as the Italian Historical Society of South Australia, which was launched this year - and by action to save key buildings or objects in a museum. This development of community history is gradually being given some help through agencies such as the Community History Program, at the University of NSW, and the Community History Unit, where I work, at the History Trust of South Australia.

We can help by assisting societies, museums and the many individuals who keep, research and interpret their past. We can help get more histories

published and better histories, and help make the information more widely known.

We should encourage a greater variety of history activities besides books, meetings and museums. As I found in the USA, history is presented in film, plays and everyday settings and it informs political debate, policymaking and "Main Street" revitalisation. *Federal* as well as State and local funding is provided for these activities, unlike in Australia.

Schools and universities, should be encouraged to draw on the skills and knowledge in their surrounding communities, and to return academic research to them. Australian historical understanding should be developed as an exchange between community and historians. Through community history we can help Australians to find "common ground".

Nominations for Council

Nominations are hereby called for the positions of President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, and eight council members. Nominations must be proposed by members and endorsed by the nominee to the effect that they are willing to stand. They must be forwarded to the Secretary by 13 February 1992.

DISCOVERING HISTORIC MOONTA

Discovering Historic Moonta is the latest in the excellent series of guide books produced by Greg Drew of the Department of Mines and Energy in association with relevant local bodies in the state's former mining centres. These well illustrated booklets are available through Stateprint and major bookshops and retail of \$5.95. The introductory section of the Moonta booklet is reproduced here with the author's permission.

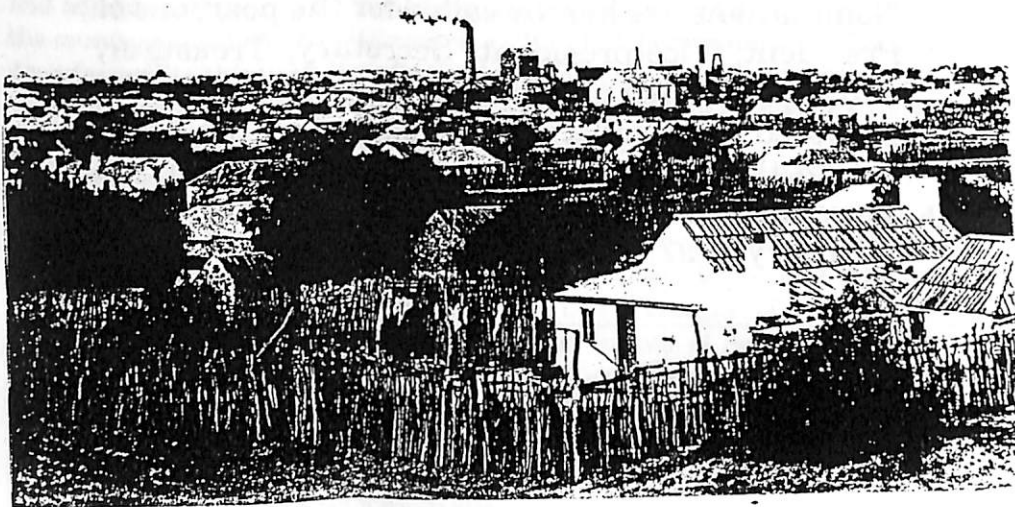
INTRODUCTION

The discovery of copper ore near Kadina in 1859 was followed by a second discovery in 1861 about 15 kilometres to the south. These discoveries led to the formation of the Moonta and Wallaroo mining companies which eventually amalgamated in 1890.

The Moonta Mine developed rapidly and, in 1863, the town of Moonta was established. The Corporation of Moonta was proclaimed in 1872 and, by 1875, the district had a population of about 12 000, making it the largest centre outside Adelaide.

The closure of the mine in 1923 led to a rapid decline in population, particularly in the mines area where many houses were left to ruin or were demolished. Moonta, however, survived as an agricultural and service centre. Since the 1970s, there has been a resurgence in trade due to the needs of the tourism industry.

The mine attracted a large population of Cornish miners and the Cornish influence was very strong. Today, Moonta has a rich Cornish heritage which has resulted in the area being named *Australia's Little Cornwall*.



Moonta Mine, c. 1900
In the foreground is the residential area of Moonta Mines with Hughes Enginehouse in the distance. Note the distinctive stake fences to keep out feral goats.

MOONTA MINE

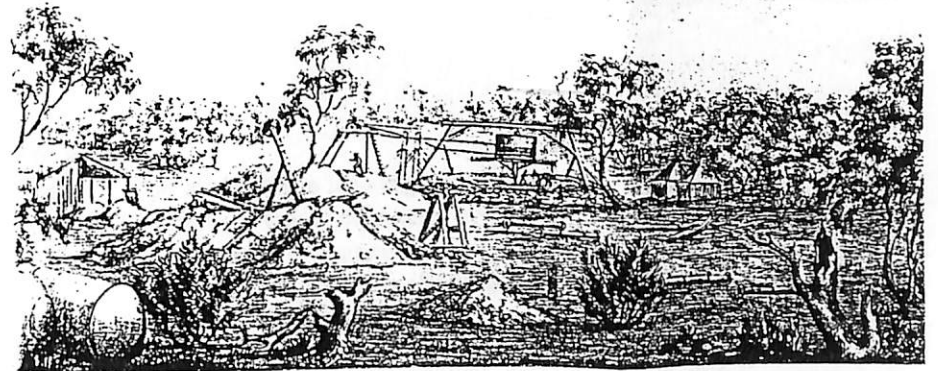
HISTORY

Discovery

In May 1861, a shepherd, Patrick Ryan, discovered traces of copper in earth burrowed out of a wombat hole on the pastoral lease of W.W. Hughes. The discovery was made in a patch of dense scrub known by aboriginals as *Moonta-Moontera*. Ryan confided his secret to the owner of the Port Wakefield Hotel who attempted to register a mining claim but did not have the exact location. As a result, a syndicate was formed to survey the site and secure the leases.

Simultaneously, Hughes heard of the discovery, surveyed the site and dispatched William Horn to Adelaide to register the survey plan ahead of the rival syndicate who had a 17 hour head start. The plan was received by Hughes' agent, John Taylor, the following morning. Taylor and the rival syndicate were present when the Lands Department office opened at ten o'clock but Taylor received first attention and was subsequently able to secure mining leases over the discovery area.

Hughes formed the Tipara Mining Association (later the Moonta Mining Co.) and began operations in late 1861 causing a rush of miners from the Burra and Wallaroo mines. The discovery also created a rush for leases in the vicinity and numerous companies were formed including Karkarilla (later Hamley), Yelta, Paramatta and Poona. However, none of these smaller mines proved as rich or successful as the Moonta Mine.



Elders Shaft, Moonta Mine by W. Wyatt, 1863. In the centre is a horse whim used for haulage. Hughes Enginehouse (Locality 43) was erected at this shaft in 1865.

1862 - 1900

The mine was rich from the outset, with nearly 5000 tons of ore worth £67 350 produced in the first year of operation, on which a dividend of £10 per share was paid on the 3200 shares. As a result, no further capital was required to finance the mining operations.

The mine was managed by Captain James Warmington and, later, by his brother William until the dismissal of the latter in 1864, when Captain H.R. Hancock was appointed chief captain, a position he held until his retirement in 1898. Under Hancock, the mine developed rapidly and, by 1865, about 1200 men and boys were employed. Hughes 60-inch pumping engine was erected at a new vertical shaft on Elders Lode in 1865 and operated until closure of the mine in 1923, the longest serving Cornish beam engine in Australia.

By 1870, more than 5000 people were dependent on the mine, which was producing annually more than 20 000 tons of dressed ore, averaging about 20% copper. Two additional Cornish engines had been erected along the line of the main lode, Prankerds winding engine and Richmans Engine, which was used principally to power crushing and dressing machinery.

A fourth beam engine, Hancocks, was erected near Bowers Lode in 1874 to power a crushing and concentrating plant. Captain Hancock was responsible for the development of ore treatment methods at Moonta, introducing the famous Hancock mechanical jig and improved buddles, which were erected at three treatment plants, Hancocks and Richmans, powered by beam engines, and Ryans, powered by a horizontal engine. Hancock also introduced wire rope and skips in place of chain and kibbles and, later, mechanical drills powered by compressed air.

By 1876, Moonta was the first mining company in Australia to pay £1 million in dividends. At that time, employment reached a peak of nearly 1700 men and boys, but depressed copper prices in the late 1870s brought widespread unemployment. Little development was carried out in the 1880s, when low copper prices resulted in the company's first losses.

When the Moonta and Wallaroo companies amalgamated in 1890, ore worth £5.6 million had been raised from the Moonta Mine.

1900 - Closure

After 1900, the lodes became unproductive at depth and work was confined to extraction of ore above the 300 fathom (549 metre) level. Hancocks Engine was dismantled and Prankerds winding engine was replaced by a modern horizontal steam winding engine at Taylors Shaft, where a new headframe and sorting plant were erected. In contrast, the Wallaroo Mine was developed and modernised with great urgency and surpassed Moonta as the larger ore producer.

In 1901, the cementation (leaching) process was established for the extraction of copper from the large tailings (waste) heaps which had accumulated at the three concentration plants.

After the First World War, activity and prosperity was further curtailed due to a sharp drop in copper prices and limited ore reserves. In 1923, the company went into voluntary liquidation after 2000 workers at Moonta and Wallaroo refused to accept a drastic cut in wages.

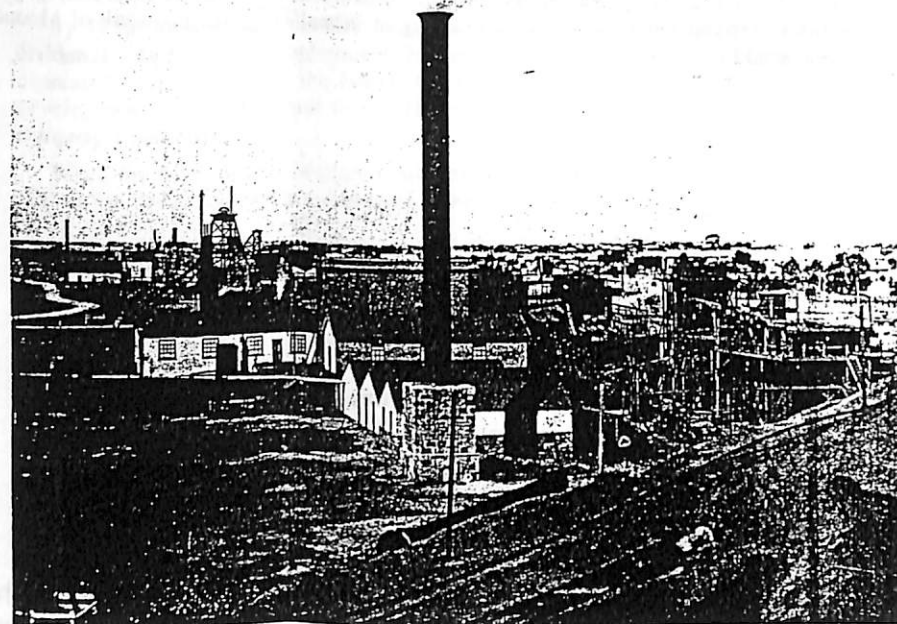
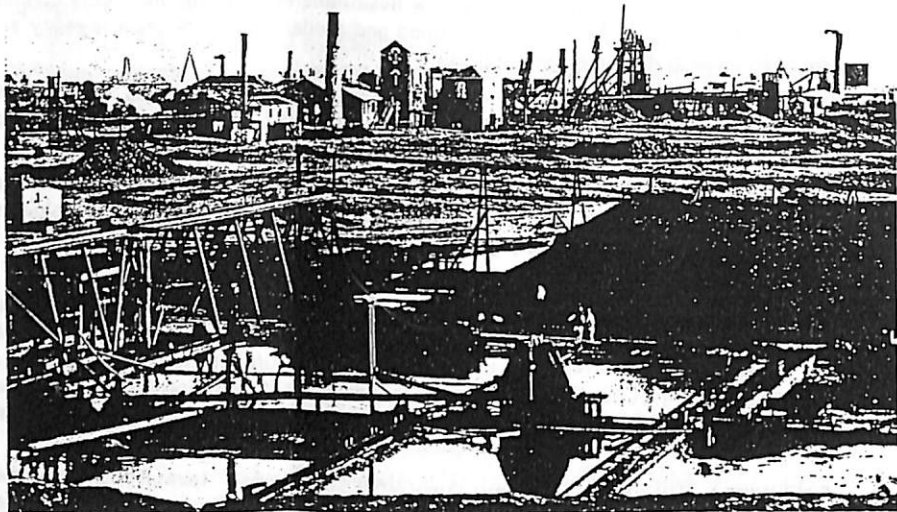
Small scale mining and prospecting continued until the late 1930s; some high grade ore pillars were mined at shallow depths. Leaching of tailings dumps continued until 1943. In the 1930s, the Commonwealth and State governments subsidised mining at Moonta and a new headframe was erected at Smith Shaft. A flotation mill was installed in 1933 and operations continued until 1938. Although a financial loss, the scheme employed up to 70 men during the depression years.

Exploratory drilling by the South Australian Government from 1909 until 1949 discovered further mineralisation, and, since 1960, exploration companies have located many zones of copper mineralisation, several of which have proved economic in recent years. A small orebody near the Poona Mine was mined by open cut and underground methods between 1989 and 1991 and mining at Wheal Hughes, just north of Moonta, commenced in 1990.

Over page

Top: Moonta Mine looking south from Richmans Tailings Heap, 1898. In the foreground are settling pits for slimes from Richmans concentration plant. In the background are from left to right, Prankerds Enginehouse, Taylors Shaft and Hughes Enginehouse.

Bottom: Moonta Mine looking south along the main lode, c. 1915. In the foreground is Richmans Enginehouse and concentration plant.



ACQUISITIONS OF INTEREST

MORTLOCK LIBRARY

FOR THEIR SAKE: THE JONAS FAMILY IN AUSTRALIA 1855-1991.

For their sake: the Jonas family in Australia 1855-1991. Burnside: Yvonne Balfour, 1991. 60p. ill. 30cm. ISBN 0 646 05007 9. b size pam.

THE HISTORY OF THE SOUTH GAWLER FOOTBALL CLUB 1889-1989.

Heinrich, David. The history of the South Gawler Football Club 1889-1989. By David Heinrich [and] Garry Hurst. Gawler: South Gawler Football Club, [1990?]. 134p. ill. 31cm. ISBN 0 7316 9033 8. c size book.

HOPES FULFILLED: A HISTORY OF THE FIEGERT FAMILY IN AUSTRALIA.

Hopes fulfilled: a history of the Fiegert family in Australia. Comp. by Jean M. Klingberg. [Murray Bridge]: Fiegert Reunion C'ttee, 1991. 376p. ill., 25cm. ISBN 0 646 04261 0. a size book.

PIONEERS AND CHANGE 1900-1990.

Farrow, H.M. Pioneers and change 1900-1990. Penola: the Author, 1991. 93p. ill. 21cm. ISBN 0 646 05584 4. a size book.

PRINCIPLES AND PRAGMATISM: A HISTORY OF GIRTON, KING'S COLLEGE AND PEMBROKE SCHOOL.

Davis, J.R. Principles and pragmatism: a history of Girton, King's College and Pembroke School. Kensington Pk: Pembroke School Cncl, 1991. 438p. ill., 25cm. ISBN 0 9590276 2 9. a size book.

TALES OF EARLY CANUNDA SETTLERS IN THE LOWER SOUTH EAST OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA 1840-1950.

Tales of early Canunda settlers in the lower South East of South Australia 1840-1950. Comp. by Rosemary McCourt. Ed. by Heather Carthew. Millicent: S.E. Family History Group Bk C'ttee, 1991. 128p. ill. 21cm. ISBN 0 646 05767 7. a size book.

TEROWIE WORKSHOP

Exploring the history of South Australian country towns

Compiled and edited by

A.F. Denholm, Susan Marsden and Kerrie Round

Department of History, University of Adelaide

Community History Unit, History Trust of South Australia

While there are a large number of local and regional histories of rural towns as well as town biographies, very little is understood of the whole process of urbanization in the countryside. Tony Denholm and Susan Marsden felt that attempts should be made to find common patterns in the topographical, economic, social and political histories of South Australian country towns. They considered that a workshop to bring local historians and geographers together to exchange information would advance knowledge of the subject and raise general issues from the specific examples. The workshop was held during the weekend of 15-17 September 1989 at the northern town of Terowie.

The following papers are included in this volume:

- A.F. Denholm *Setting the Scene*
Eric Richards *Paths of Settlement in Colonial South Australia*
Susan Marsden *The Role of Government in the Formation of Country Towns in South Australia*
Peter Donovan *The Influence of Transport on the Development of South Australian Country Towns*
Leith MacGillivray *Whisky, Wool and Wheat - a Brief Examination of Four Towns of the Lower South East of South Australia, 1840-1880*
Pamela Kerr *The Role of Provincial Centres: Health Services in Mount Gambier and Port Augusta in the Nineteenth Century*
Alan Jones *Farmers and Their Towns*
Greg Drew *Early Copper Mining in South Australia and Its Effects on Town Development*
Annely Aeuckens *The German Towns - The Role of Industry and Commerce*
Elizabeth Milburn *The Elite of Clare in the Nineteenth Century*
John C. Tolley *Goolwa*
Jim Faull *The Far West - a Microcosm of South Australia's Town Development*
R.J. Anderson *The Unique Problem of Writing a History of Port Augusta*
R.M. Gibbs *The Trouble with Being a Local Historian*

These papers provide a fascinating overview of the formation of South Australia's country towns. The volume will be of value to senior high school students and tertiary students who are interested in urban history as well as everyone who has ever wondered about changes in the rural landscape.

Terowie Workshop can be obtained from the

History Trust of South Australia,
122 Kintore Avenue,
(corner of Kintore Avenue and North Terrace)
Adelaide

Price \$12.50 (Add \$2.50 per copy postage and packaging)

COMMUNITY HISTORY CALENDAR

On-Going Events

- 1st weekend of each month Saturday & Sunday 10.00-3.30** Adelaide Gaol: Guided tours available Port Road, Adelaide. Further information Ph. 216 7741.
- 1st Thursday of the month 7.30** Aurora Heritage Action Inc. Meetings, Metropolitan Hotel, Grote Street
- Weekdays 11.00-2.00** Australia Post Postal Museum, Ground floor, 2 Franklin Street.
- 3rd Sunday of each month 2.00-4.00** Glen Osmond Mines Tours: tours are conducted by members of the Burnside Historical Society. Bookings on 366 4200 (ask for Angela).
- Last Wednesday of the month** State Conservation Centre of SA. Clinic Day for advice on preservation, restoration and repair of historical and artistic works. Ph. (08) 223 1766
- Every Sunday 2.00-4.30** Historic Cummins: The Cummins Society conducts Open Days with guided tours. Sheoak Ave., Novar Gardens.
- To August** Art Gallery of SA. South Australia Decorative Arts. Contemporary South Australian decorative arts have been collected by the Gallery since 1884 when a silver presentation casket made by Henry Steiner was donated. Both historical and contemporary works have been acquired since then, for display and reference, in order to develop a comprehensive collection of decorative arts produced in this state. South Australia furniture, ceramics, metalwork and jewellery will be featured. Historical works from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as well as recently-made works will be on display until August/September 1992.
- To March 1992** MM. 'Work it out: A cultural journey through time for children'. National Trust of South Australia. Burra Burra Branch: Market Square Museum. Adult \$1.00, Child \$0.50, Family \$2.50
- Saturdays 2.00-4.00** National Trust of SA. Moonta Branch Museum.
- Sundays 12.00-2.30**
- Wed/Sat/Sun 1.30-4.00** National Trust of SA. Victor Harbor Branch. The Old Customs and Station Master's House.
- Sundays 11.00-4.00** South Australian Cricket Association Inc. Adelaide Oval Tours. Conducted tours from the South Gate. Approx. 2hr duration.
- Thursdays 10.00** Yorke Peninsula Family History Group's library is housed within the N.Y.P. Public Library and is available to members during library opening hours. Volunteers are available Tuesday afternoons to assist the public or members. Fees apply to non-members.
- Tuesdays 2.00-4.00**