

HISTORY COUNCIL OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

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President's Letter

25.4. 2006

Dear Colleagues

I'm writing on ANZAC day and find myself thinking again of the critical nature of history in our lives and for our national identity. Again it seems that young people are flocking to dawn services from small towns to Gallipoli. Yet, people say, the young often don't fully understand what they are commemorating. Historian Bruce Scates, speaking on ABC Radio National's *Perspective*, commented on the hunger to understand of the many backpackers at ANZAC cove. As I reflect on this I'm also thinking about the case we want to put, as an organization, for a stronger role for history in our schools, our universities and our community.

A small working party of the Council, assisted by researcher Dr Bridget Jolly, is putting together some basic information about the continuing decline of history teaching. We are preparing a draft policy document which we hope to present to you very soon for comment. After consultation we plan to also present the draft document as a talking point at our workshop at the State History conference *In History we Trust* on Sunday 28 May. I hope you have that date in your diary and plan to come to the HCSA discussion group at 9.30 on that morning. Two Council delegates, Simon Kelly and Ruth Carter, will be there to guide discussion and receive your feedback. We'd love to see you there (especially as we will unveil our website prior to the morning tea on the Saturday). The Fifteenth State History Conference program looks terrific and I'm sure many of you will be there presenting papers or discussing questions of interest. Others will be taking part in the fantastic range of History Week and Open Heritage activities throughout the State organized by the History Trust.

Post election thoughts

We welcome the appointment of the Hon. Dr Jane Lomax-Smith as Minister for the City of Adelaide (among other portfolios). Dr Lomax-Smith is a keen advocate of heritage issues and was one of several people presenting to the Productivity Commissions hearings in Adelaide in February on the conservation of Australia's historic heritage places. Her opposition to voluntary heritage listing matches that of our submission. We await with interest the final report from the Productivity Commission and hope it takes into account the vast opposition to voluntary listing.

Alison Mackinnon

News about our members

Professor Wilfred Prest, ARC Professorial Fellow at the University of Adelaide, has been elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Humanities. Already a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia, Wilf is a renowned scholar in eighteenth-century English political and social history and a legal historian of seventeenth century England.

Professor Susan Magarey, elected last year as a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia, launched a Faculty publication, *Living History*, a compilation of biographic of prominent, and less prominent people, articulating the link between the living of history and the delineation of history. Also, Susan has been appointed a member of the South Australian Premier's Council for Women and the Board of the History Trust of South Australia. Susan has also recently established two prizes:

- The Magarey Medal for Biography, in association with the Australian Historical Association and the Association for the Study of Australia Literature
- Catherine Mary Gilbert Prize for a short story/essay about the history of the City of Adelaide.

Professor Alison Mackinnon was elected as a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia last year. In March this year she was awarded the title of Emeritus Professor at the University of South Australia.

Please send us news about members' activities!

STOP PRESS: The third annual public lecture will be presented by Professor Eric Richards on Tuesday July 25th at the SLSA lecture theatre on 'British White Australia in Perspective'. Put this date in your diary now.

Keeping Census Records: our future history

From the Australasian Federation of Family History Organizations (per the Professional Historians Association [SA] Inc.) comes this important reminder

TELL 10 OF YOUR FRIENDS TO TELL 10 OF THEIR FRIENDS TO TICK 'YES' TO Q. 60 ON CENSUS NIGHT 8 AUGUST 2006.

The next Australian census will be conducted on the night of Tuesday 8 August 2006 and will cost in the order of 300 million dollars. It will contain 61 questions, of which all will be compulsory except the ones on religion and census retention. The retention question (Q60) reads: 'Does each person in this household agree to his/her name and address and other information on this form being kept by the National Archives of Australia and then made publicly available after 99 years?'

If this question is ignored, it will be treated as a NO.

The Census Information Legislation Amendment Bill (2005) was introduced into the House of Representatives of the Australian Parliament on 3 November 2005 and passed later that month unopposed. It was passed by the Australian Senate on 27 February 2006 and awaits Royal assent to become law.

The Bill amends the Census and Statistics Act (1905) and the Archives Act (1983) relating to the retention of identified census information by the National Archives of Australia. The Bill ensures that name-identified information collected in all future Australian censuses will be preserved for future genealogical and other research. Retention only applies to information supplied by those households that provide explicit consent on the census form. Some 51 per

cent of Australians answered 'YES' to the retention of their forms in the 2001 census survey. This was in effect a national referendum of the Australian people and a majority voted that our history matters. We can do even better this year.

As with the 2001 survey, during the 99 year period, the name-identified information will not be released by the National Archives under any circumstances. The Australasian Federation of Family History Organizations (AFFHO) is working closely with the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the National Archives of Australia to assist in the national public education campaign prior to census night. Please support us by encouraging as many Australians as possible to answer YES in the census question concerning the retention of this vital record of Australian culture.

Unless you answer YES your census form will not be retained in the archives.

More details will soon be published on the AFFHO webpage of the campaign and how you can help.

Nick Vine Hall, Chairman, AFFHO Census Working Party <nick@vinehall.com.au>

Reminders

In History We Trust

15th State History Conference

27-28 May 2006

Union Building, University of Adelaide

Victoria Drive, Adelaide

A special conference to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the History Trust. The conference will reflect on history making in South Australia over recent decades. Be there for this anniversary event. Contribute to discussion on critical issues facing SA's history makers. The conference program and registration form is on the History Trust website or ring the History Trust of South Australia on 8203 9888 for your copy.

Enquiries to Jan Mudge on 8203 9877 or Kate Walsh on 8203 9878.

A balancing act: past - present - future

Adelaide Parklands Symposium

University of South Australia

Friday 10 November 2006

Basil Hetzel Building: Mutual Community Theatre H2-02, UniSA City East Campus

The Centre for Settlement Studies in the Louis Laybourne Smith School of Architecture and Design at the University of South Australia, the Hawke Centre at the University of South Australia, and the Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association are pleased to be co-presenting a symposium on the Adelaide Parklands in November 2006. The public symposium will open a three-day event that will also include Parklands tours on Saturday 11 November and a public lecture and forum on Sunday 12 November. Information about the event may be found on the Hawke Centre website at: www.hawkecentre.unisa.edu.au or contact: Dr Christine Garnaut <christine.garnaut@unisa.edu.au>, p: 8302 0204, f: 8302 0211

Current Executive and Council members

Executive (6 members)

President	Alison Mackinnon, Hawke Research Institute, University of SA < alison.mackinnon@unisa.edu.au > (08) 8302 4370
Vice President	Bernie O'Neil, Professional Historians Association < bernard.oneil@adelaide.edu.au > (08) 8261 0077
Secretary	Annette Mills, State Library of South Australia < mills.annette@slsa.sa.gov.au > (08) 8207 7347
Treasurer	Beth Robertson, Professional Historians Association < beemar@ozemail.com.au > (08) 8278 4045
Members	Nigel Ridgeway, Engineers Australia < Nigel.Ridgeway@weirwarman.com > (08) 8346 7731 Karen Agutter, Individual member < Karen.Agutter@flinders.edu.au > (08) 8201 5553

Council (14 members)

June Edwards	Australian Society of Archivists (SA Branch)
Samantha Farnsworth	State Records of South Australia
Enid Woodley	National Archives of Australia
Alan Graham	National Trust, SA
Kate Walsh	History Trust of South Australia
Simon Kelly	History Teachers Association of South Australia
Greg Slattery*	Rocky River Historic and Arts Society
Kay Merry*	History Department, Flinders University
Peter Adamson	Historical Society of SA
Robert Swarbrick*	Barossa Goldfields Historical Society
Kevin Kaeding*	Heritage Preservation Association
Ruth Carter*	Individual member

* = Co-optees

Forthcoming Executive and Council meetings

Meetings of the History Council are held in the State Library at 5.30 p.m., generally on the first Tuesday of the month (any changes to the dates, venues or times will be advised):

- Executive – 2 May
- Council – Tuesday 20 June **at the History Trust Boardroom** – Note change of date and venue.
- AGM – 24 October – date still to be confirmed

Please remember to recruit new members to the History Council.

And your organisation needs to be a financial member of the HCSA in order to participate in HCSA activities.