

HISTORY COUNCIL OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

PO Box 6809 Halifax St
Adelaide SA 5000
www.historycouncilsa.org.au

Issue no. 16

President's Letter

June 2008

Dear Colleagues

Did you enjoy History Week? What an amazing array of talks, walks and openings there were. The strong public and media response underlines the continuing public interest in our history. As Zoe Pollock, Executive Officer of the History Council of NSW, suggested recently (*Sydney Morning Herald*, Monday 28 April) it seems that government support for history is waning while public interest in things historical is growing.

I visited the Adelaide Gaol during History Week for the archaeological talk by Dr Keryn Walshe (SA Museum) and was fascinated by the evidence of the shared cultural landscape of the Torrens River area between 1836 when settlement began and 1840 when construction of the gaol commenced. The archaeological revelations of both Aboriginal life and of settler artefacts in that area constitute an extraordinary gem for Adelaide. On the gaol site the visitor can see well preserved glimpses of that bygone era just a short walk from the Adelaide CBD. What a wonderful opportunity that material presents for the beginnings of a Museum of Adelaide. With some conservation and interpretation the gaol and its archaeology would be a great first stop for an 'open museum' visitor. Perhaps their next stop might be Light Square, followed by a cultural tour of the West End and its earlier sites of interest.

We are working hard on marking SA's 175th in 2011 and have recently written to all members of state cabinet to alert them to the coming anniversary and to ask what each portfolio might offer. Responses from Ministers Carmel Zollo and Jane Lomax-Smith have suggested positive steps we could take to involve their portfolios. We are following these up.

Port Adelaide precinct

Following a discussion by Ian Stephenson at the last HCSA Council meeting we wrote to Premier Mike Rann seeking the preservation of the last working boatyards at Port Adelaide. We argued that they offered a rare opportunity to preserve some of Port Adelaide's industrial fabric which had been operating continuously for almost 170 years. Ian Stephenson and I also met with the CEO of the Land Management Council to press this case. The National Trust has been particularly active in working towards the preservation of Port Adelaide heritage, a battle which continues.

Your newsletter

Recently we invited members to write to us. Below we publish some of the responses. We asked groups if they would like to give us a brief account of their organizations for this letter. In this letter we feature two very different groups – the Port Pirie District Family History Society and the Heritage Arms Society. Their accounts have, of necessity, been shortened.

Access to records

In letter 14 we noted that the Port Pirie District Family History Society was concerned at the cost of accessing older birth, death and marriage certificates. They suggested we join together

to lobby for a unified national policy re access as some states have records available readily on-line. We asked then if others felt strongly about this matter but have received no further responses. The Port Pirie District Family History Society has again asked us to act on this so as a first step we will contact the other state History Councils and ask them about the possibility of a joint action. The combined History Councils will meet during the Australian Historical Society conference in Melbourne in July and I plan to attend and to raise the matter.

Alison Mackinnon
President

The HCSA 2008 Public Lecture

We are pleased to announce that *Professor Henry Reynolds*, distinguished Australian historian, will present the fifth HCSA annual public lecture on *Tuesday July 29 at 6 p.m.* in the Hetzel Lecture Theatre, Institute Building, North Terrace. Please put this date in your diary. His topic will be *Wars and History Wars*.

News about and from our members

Port Pirie District Family History Group

The Port Pirie District Family History Group was established in 2000 to collect, preserve and maintain the family histories and the community history of our district. Our home is within the Port Pirie Regional Library. We are a group of volunteers who will gladly help others who have the same interests.

Settlement began here in 1873 and from this time we were part of the District of Clare. In 1935 we became part of the District of Pirie. The Port Pirie Regional Council area encompasses the smaller settlements of Crystal Brook, Keilli, Koolunga, Mundoora, Merriton, Napperby, Nelshaby, Redhill, Warnertown and Wandearah. All BDM certificates prior to 1935 were registered in the District of Clare.

We have a membership of approximately 35. For the past four years, we have taken part in South Australian History Week activities with Cemetery Walks, displays at our local shopping centre and themed displays at the Port Pirie Regional Library. This year's History Week events included a 'Law and Order' display at the Regional Library, and the topic for our Cemetery Walk on Wednesday 21 May was 'The Bold and The Brave – the Rise of Port Pirie', featuring many of the men and women who made Port Pirie what it is today.

In 2006 we were invited by St Mark's College, Port Pirie to develop a 6-week programme for the Grade 6-ers to learn about the significance of Remembrance Day. This culminated with a commemorative service in the War Veterans' Garden of Memory in the Port Pirie cemetery. We were delighted that the children won awards for their history projects. The students were asked to find relatives who died during World War I or II and research their service history. If the child did not have a relative, they were allocated one from records.

One of our projects over the past two years has been transcribing the headstones in the Port Pirie Cemetery (approximately 16 000 burials). We are presently engaged in checking this information with the original registers. It is our intention to publish a complete set of cemetery records in CD and book form, including photographs of each grave. We also hold cemetery records for the other towns in our district.

We have recorded all the stillborn deaths in our cemetery. In August 2007 we had a dedication service to commemorate a Memorial to the Stillborns. This has been accomplished with the assistance of Port Pirie Regional Council and its staff. We also hold collections on wedding photographs and details on streets, businesses, churches and much more.

Research and membership

We welcome enquiries by mail, addressed to the Research Team (fee is applicable). We will respond as soon as possible. Membership is \$10 per annum with a newsletter each quarter included. We meet at the library at 6 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month (except January). Everyone is most welcome.

Our Collection includes

List of Port Pirie servicemen who served in World War II, Port Pirie Cemetery Burial Registers 1877–1983, Port Pirie Cemetery Headstones Inscriptions, Pirie West School Enrolments 1877–1951, Hundred of Pirie East School Enrolments 1885–1970, Register of BHAS Employees, Port Pirie Pioneer Register (commenced 2003), Pirie Newspapers 1876–1980 (microfilm), *The Recorder* (hardcopy) 1980–, *The Recorder* Personal Notices 1956–65, *Register Personal Notices* (set of 3 books) 1836–70, Destitute Asylum Admissions Registers 1851–96, *Aldine History of South Australia* (microfiche), Register of Deserters (microfiche) 1852–1952, *South Australian Records Prior to 1841* (fiche), Naturalization for South Australia pre-1904 (microfiche), Kadina, Moonta & Wallaroo Almanac & Directories (Folder), Kadina, Moonta & Wallaroo pre-1867 Births & Deaths, Yorke Peninsula Family History Group Catalogue and much much more.

Contact: Julie van de Water, Secretary, Port Pirie District Family History Group, C/- Port Pirie Regional Library, 52 Ellen Street, Port Pirie SA 5540.



The Heritage Arms Society

The Heritage Arms Society Inc. (HAS) is dedicated to improving public recognition of the cultural significance of heritage arms, conserving heritage arms, and promoting the enjoyment and knowledge associated with the study of arms. Arms are an iconic part of our culture, as valuable as ‘old masters’ and ancient buildings – arms were bestowed with the highest level of art, technology, craftsmanship and ingenuity of their time. Inventors and artisans sought the ‘very perfection’ of arms in function, precision, and beauty.

South Australia is fortunate to have some significant historical sites in Forts Largs and Glanville, and a wealth of history in the German Ring Target shooting clubs, which is being researched by one of our members. The Hahndorf Rifle Club was founded in 1864. Another of our members is the author of *The Military Small Arms of South Australia 1839-1901*. South Australia was home to Allan McFarlane, who was the first Australian rifleman to compete at Wimbledon (1861). We also have the only explorer, John Horrocks, who was shot by the actions of a camel!

HAS's focus is 'arms and related accoutrements' of the pre-1910 era, particularly fine or historical pieces up to the present day, and pieces up to 1918 as long as the focus is not dominated by World War I. Items covered are firearms, edged weapons and other devices for military, sporting and recreational purposes. Related materials include books, documents, tools, uniforms, medals, ammunition, artworks etc. We present displays at cultural events like the Burra Antique and Collectables Fair, and represent arms historians in consultation with the government. A scholarly interest by members is encouraged, but enjoying ourselves is just as important to most members.

The South Australian Police have endorsed the society as a 'Recognised Firearms Club' under the *Firearms Act 1977*. HAS is a member of the Historic Arms Collectors Council of Australasia, and is thus represented at the national level on the Attorney-General's Sporting Shooters and Firearms Advisory Council. HAS currently has about 40 members. Meetings are held at 8:00 p.m. on the third Friday of each month at the Eastwood Community Centre, 95 Glen Osmond Road, Eastwood. Visits to places of interest, guest speakers, displays at community events and social occasions are arranged from time to time. Visitors are always welcome. A two-monthly newsletter, *Barrels and Blades*, contains articles of interest. To contact the HAS, phone Dennis Dale (8846 4068) or write to PO Box 552 Eastwood SA 5063.



Practical Genealogy for Family Historians: Flinders University Course

Flinders University has written again about the course in genealogy or family history which is available to the general public. It is offered as a series of modules or workshops, each of 6 hours. For further information contact: Associate Professor Peter Monteath, Director of Studies, Department of History, Flinders University (08 8201 5568, <peter.monteath@flinders.edu.au>). More detail can be found in our previous letter.



The History Trust of South Australia's 17th State History Conference will be held in Adelaide on 1–3 August 2008. The theme is *Changing Places: Changing Lives*. See the History Trust's website for the program.



The History Teachers Association of SA's annual conference focus is on *History and the Arts*. Please contact Andrew Buxton (see below) for further information. The conference is being held at the Hindmarsh Education Centre on Friday, 13 June.



Cultural Heritage & related Arts Newsletters of interest to History Council SA members

Diana Chessell reminds us that there are several newsletters and magazines related to cultural heritage and the arts that members may be interested to have e-mailed to them, FREE. A few also provide a print copy posted to you FREE or for a small subscription. They all contain interesting articles, and news of events useful to cultural heritage groups.

1. History Trust of SA *History Matters* magazine, three times a year. Present edition and past copies of this community history magazine are available on line FREE <http://www.history.sa.gov.au/chu/programs/chu_magazine.htm>

Individual subscription \$20 p.a. Ph. 08 8203 9888

2. SA Museum

Go to the SAM website and follow Media then Newsletters to find current and past newsletters on line FREE – <http://www.samuseum.sa.gov.au/page/default.asp?site=1>.

3. Australia ICOMOS

ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) is primarily concerned with the philosophy, terminology, methodology and techniques of conservation. It is a non-government professional organisation formed in 1965. It is closely linked to UNESCO with national committees in some 100 countries with the headquarters in France. Members in these countries are formed into national committees and have the right to participate in the ICOMOS General Assemblies held every three years. If you would like to subscribe to the cultural heritage industry's leading news service, simply send an email to the Secretariat at austicomos@deakin.edu.au.

4. Helpmann News bulletin: online and print/posted copy available, both FREE

To enrol check this website <http://www.helpmann.sa.edu.au/newsletter/7May2008.html> or contact helpmann@tafe.sa.edu.au.

The History Council's website

We are currently working on our website to ensure that it is more member friendly. We are about to trial a discussion function which will enable you all to communicate with us more effectively. Have you provided your organisation's events for the calendar on our website? The address is <www.historycouncilsa.org.au>. Features include a readily updated 'What's On' calendar, and links to member organisations and other useful websites. All members are asked to use the HCSA website to email their organisations' url and calendar of events to the secretary or web manager (including your permission for adding the links and events to the HCSA calendar). You are also reminded to ensure that a link to the HCSA website is added to your organisation's website.

Also, please remember to advise us if you change your e-mail address or contact person!

Practicalities

We are still looking for a shared 'administrative secretary'. We would like to share an administrative assistant (or secretary) with one of our member organisations – perhaps on an hourly-paid basis. Perhaps you have someone in place who could spare a few hours for us! Indeed, there may be scope for several of our organisations to rationalise or their services – let us know if you are interested.

The Federation of Australian Historical Societies

FAHS has recently issued a new e-bulletin. You might like to visit their website <<http://www.history.org.au>> to read it. Among the items of interest in e-Bulletin 36 is the fact that archaeologists have confirmed Rio Tinto and Hancock Prospecting's discovery of 35 000year old Aboriginal tools at the Hope Downs iron ore joint venture in Western Australia's central Pilbara.



Please remember to recruit new members to the History Council

Your organisation needs to be a financial member of the HCSA in order to participate in HCSA activities. The membership/renewal form can be downloaded from our website <www.historycouncilsa.org.au>. Tax invoices can be provided on request from the Treasurer.

SUBSCRIPTION COSTS FOR 2007/2008 FINANCIAL YEAR	
Corporate membership	
\$250.00	Major organisations, including state organisations, government departments
\$150.00	Medium organisations, including regional organisations
\$100.00	Professional organisations
\$30.00	Small organisations such as voluntary and local bodies
Individual membership	
\$30.00	Individual
\$20.00	Individual concession (student/pensioner/unwaged)



Current Executive and Council members

Executive (6 members max.)

- President Alison Mackinnon, Hawke Research Institute, University of SA
<president@historycouncilsa.org.au>
- Vice President Wilfrid Prest*, University of Adelaide
<wilfrid.prest@adelaide.edu.au> (08) 8303 5883
- Secretary Annette Mills, State Library of South Australia
<secretary@historycouncilsa.org.au> (08) 8207 7347
- Treasurer Bernie O'Neil, Professional Historians Association
<bernard.oneil@adelaide.edu.au> (08) 8261 0077
- Members Christine Finnimore*, Migration Museum, History Trust of SA
<cfinnimore@history.sa.gov.au> (08) 8207 7697
Andrew Buxton*, History Teachers Association SA
htasa@chariot.net.au and abuxton@pac.edu.au (08) 8334 1200

Council (14 members max.)

- Kirsty Buchan Australian Society of Archivists (SA Branch)
- Peter Brinkworth Pioneers Association of South Australia
- Ruth Dickson State Records of South Australia
- Ian Stephenson National Trust, SA
- David Lemmings History Department, University of Adelaide
- Greg Slattery* Rocky River Historic and Arts Society
- Carol Fort History Department, Flinders University

David Cornish	Historical Society of SA
Martin Lambert	Engineers Australia
Myra Oster	Friends of the Lutheran Archives
Mark Pharoah*	South Australian Museum

* = Co-optees



Forthcoming Executive and Council meetings

Meetings of the History Council are held generally on the first Tuesday of the month:

- Council – June 3, 5.30–7.30 p.m., The Chapel, Migration Museum
- Executive – July 1, 5.00-7.00. State Library of SA
- Annual General Meeting September 2. The Chapel, Migration Museum