

HISTORY COUNCIL OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

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www.historycouncilsa.org.au

Issue no. 15

President's Letter

March 2008

Dear Colleagues

Welcome to 2008, a warm welcome from Festival town where the heat is on, in more ways than one and writers are thick on the ground.

Since I last wrote we've had a response from Minister Hill, the Minister assisting the Premier for the Arts, to our thoughts on a theme for South Australia's 175th anniversary. You'll remember that we suggested as an overarching theme *South Australia: Imagining Our Future*. Minister Hill replied that he had noted our suggestions in relation to a board and secretariat but that at present there were no funds to support them. He urged us to continue our discussions with Arts SA in relation to a future funding bid. This we are doing. He also suggested that we continue to stimulate interest beyond the Arts portfolio. This is disappointing news but not unexpected. We do feel that we have put the issue firmly on the agenda and that some important initiatives are in train. However, we must now redouble our efforts, seek further parliamentary support and look outside the political arena to other organisations and groups. So we need your help. We urge you to use your networks and influence to continue to discuss SA 175 in 2011 and to consider initiatives you might organise. Let us know if we can act together.

Port Adelaide precinct

In the last letter I wrote of our concern about the development at Port Adelaide and the fragility of historical preservation. Recently the HCSA Council discussed these matters in a session led by Ian Stephenson, CEO National Trust SA. Ian introduced the discussion with a slide show of some of the heritage preservation issues in Adelaide broadly and, specifically, at Port Adelaide. He emphasised the importance of preserving some of the working boat yards. The Council agreed to make a representation to the Premier on that issue. This is part of our major program for this year – to discuss issues of preservation and access across all areas.

Access to records

To reiterate the message from last letter: we are willing to take issues of access forward *with our member organisations*. If you provide us with the necessary detail we can *together* lobby for better access. After all, one of our major aims is to work with member organisations to advocate for important issues for history in SA.

Working parties

We are keen to re-energise our working parties and develop more as the need arises. For instance, the Heritage and Archives working party has much to consider, including the issue posed above. We need enthusiastic volunteers from our membership to convene that group and to bring their deliberations to the Council and the Executive. The small Executive cannot do it all!

Alison Mackinnon
President

The HCSA 2008 Public Lecture

We have not yet confirmed the speaker or date for the 2008 public lecture. Watch this space!

News about and from our members

Congratulations to Bill Edwards, or should we say ***Dr Bill Edwards***? Bill successfully completed his PhD in History at Flinders University in 2007 with a thesis titled 'Moravian Aboriginal Missions in Australia'. Bill's interest in the area arose from his 20 years as a missionary on Aboriginal communities for the Presbyterian and later the Uniting churches.

The History Trust of South Australia has now closed the call for papers for the 17th State History Conference to be held in Adelaide on 1–3 August 2008. The theme is *Changing Places: Changing Lives*. See the History Trust's website for details.

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. The HTASA is also always on the lookout for relevant historical materials to distribute to its members, either in hard copy or by e-mail.

Royal Geographical Society

The Royal Geographical Society of SA will extend its current exhibition to the end of History Week (Sunday 25 May). **TERRA COGNITA: 400 years of European exploration, travel and discovery** is an exhibition to celebrate the centenary of the opening of the York Gate Library in South Australia. The library was purchased by the RGSSA in London in 1905 and opened to the public in the newly built northern section of the Institute Building in 1908. Highlights of the exhibition include original George French Angas watercolours, published explorers' journals dating back to 1590, Australia's rarest book of bird illustrations and Joseph Banks' original diary of his Newfoundland voyage of 1766. Opening hours are 10 – 1pm Tuesday to Friday. For the rest of March and the last weekend of History Week they will also be open 1-4pm Saturday and Sunday. The RGSSA Library is in the Mortlock Wing of the State Library, second floor, southern end. A full-colour exhibition catalogue is available.

West Torrens Historical Society

A successful submission was received from Canberra to have the society's collection's significance explored by Peter Donovan during this year. The society also has an extensive Plaque Project under way. This will be launched during History Week. The society's Street Name Project is progressing well and the society's Suburb Project has been published.

Further to the President's note re access to records, the current State Records Council includes two members of the **Professional Historians Association (SA)** as well as the Director of the History Trust of SA. See the article in the latest newsletter (no. 45, March 2008) of the **Friends of SA's Archives**.

A history-making event for women?

‘A New Deal for Women: \$\$\$ for global gender equality – how can Australians lead?’

Jointly presented by UNIFEM Australia and **The Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre**, UniSA, Wednesday, 16 April 2008, 5.45 p.m., UniSA City West Campus, Hawke Building, level 5. Bradley Forum with Jane Sloane, Executive Director, International Women's Development Agency. For the first time in history, the United Nations Commission for the Status of Women (CSW) chose *Financing for Gender Equality* as the theme of its 52nd session in New York in February 2008. Jane Sloane, one of four NGO representatives in the Australian Government Delegation, will reflect on the implications in the wake of this landmark gathering.

Bookings: Hawke Centre <www.hawkecentre.unisa.edu.au> or RSVP 08 8302 0215

Practical Genealogy for Family Historians: Flinders University Course

Flinders University is again offering a 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. Students may take all four modules, or they may take only the modules of their choice. Those who successfully complete all four modules will be awarded a Certificate of Achievement by Flinders University.

Participants who complete the full course may also be credited six units toward the new Flinders University Graduate Certificate in Applied History and Heritage Studies (which requires a total of 18 units), or toward the Flinders University Graduate Diploma in Applied History and Heritage Studies (36 units). It will be taught by Graham Jaunay at the the State Library. All course materials will be made available to students. Limited places are available. For further information and enrolment forms contact: Associate Professor Peter Monteath, Director of Studies, Department of History, Flinders University (Tel. 08 8201 5568, E-mail <peter.monteath@flinders.edu.au>).



The History Council's website

Have you provided your organisation's events for the calendar on our website? The address is <www.historycouncilsa.org.au>. The website is member-driven, so it is an important means of communication between the Council and the broader historical community. 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.



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. Please let us know if you are interested. 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 two new e-bulletins. You might like to visit their website <<http://www.history.org.au>> to read it. There are very interesting and relevant discussions of the impact of 'the Google generation' on web searching and libraries (e.g., the rise of the e-book and electronic publishing), the UNESCO Memory of the World Program and a virtual museum of educational history.



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 We welcome our newest member *Art and Heritage Collections (University of Adelaide)*. 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:

- Executive – 1 April, 5.00–7.00 p.m., State Library of SA
- Executive – 4 March, 5.00–7.00 p.m., State Library of SA
- Council – June 3, 5.00–7.00 p.m., The Chapel, Migration Museum