

# HISTORY COUNCIL OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

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Issue no. 13

## *President's Letter*

16.8.2007

Dear Colleagues

We are fast approaching the 2007 AGM – to be held on 4 September. I hope to see many of you there to elect the new Council and Executive and to plan for the year ahead. At last year's AGM I signalled that one of our major priorities for this year would be to get South Australia's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of white settlement in 2011 on the map. We can claim to have made considerable progress on that score.

We invited 24 key stakeholders in government and other sectors to a forum at the Town Hall on 20 June hosted by the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor of Adelaide, Michael Harbison. After the forum the Lord Mayor hosted a Civic Reception for the History Council and a larger group of about 100 people, including many of our members, in the Queen Adelaide Room at the Town Hall. The aim of the exercise was to put the 175<sup>th</sup> firmly on the agenda so that preparations and funding can be well thought out and appropriate.

After the Lord Mayor's welcome and introduction three speakers began the proceedings at the forum. I will allude briefly to some of their remarks. Dr Peter Cahalan (SA Tourism) commented on the successes and lessons learned from the Jubilee 150 in 1986. In particular, he noted that 'commemorative events can break circuits'. Ms Margaret Anderson (Director, History Trust of SA) followed Dr Cahalan, pointing out that a generation of young Australians would miss out on historical celebrations of this type if we waited until SA's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary to note the event. The importance of history since 1986 could be gauged by debates over national identity and political developments. She reflected on the large attendance at recent History Week events in SA (and – we could add now – the resounding success of the recent State History Conference, *Country Connections*, at Tanunda).

Mr Greg Mackie (CEO, Arts SA) supported Peter Cahalan's remarks in noting that a point in time can be galvanizing, creating opportunities for projects which have lacked support to gain new momentum. Greg Mackie's comments were particularly helpful in terms of *strategies to gain government support*. He pointed out that an important policy 'hook' was essential, adding, as Peter had done, that the environment was a key factor today. He asked the group to consider through whose lens would such a set of celebrations be viewed – those of voters, historians, or the community?

The floor was then opened for discussion and a wide range of ideas/concerns was canvassed. Some are briefly listed here, not necessarily in the order that they arose:

- a strategic focus '*Towards 200*' could be more attractive than a focus on the 175<sup>th</sup>.
- Funds: securing funding support as soon as possible was seen as vital.
- Bi-partisan support was essential.

- An indigenous focus on all cultural institutions was put forward as essential.
- Issues to be placed high on the agenda include immigration, changing workplaces, environment and science, technology, history, and the development of mining.
- 2011 is the tenth anniversary of 11 September 2001. This could be a useful ‘hook’.
- Global cities/liveable cities/sustainable cities theme important. Parklands theme vital. Globalisation.
- Central importance of media and of new technology.
- Possible links with world heritage listing of Cornish mines and links with Burra, Wallaroo, Moonta – this could be part of regional ‘hook’.
- Some sporting events such as the Tour Down Under will have an international focus, or offer opportunities to promote SA widely.

Participants felt that a second meeting was essential to clarify goals. This is being arranged.

In my remarks at the Civic Reception I mentioned that there is a name for a 175 anniversary: a *terquasquicentennial* We have been making much of this wonderful word – practising its pronunciation (go to [www.historycouncilsa.org.au](http://www.historycouncilsa.org.au) for tips) and creating HCSA bookmarks for the State History Conference to promote it. We did eventually get ‘sesquicentenary’ to roll off the tongue, as the Lord Mayor pointed out, so we may yet master it.

Our State Strategic Plan offers some useful hooks for a commemoration: Objective 1 in the plan, **Growing Prosperity** aims to *Increase visitor expenditure in SA's tourism industry from \$3.7 billion in 2002 to \$6.3 billion by 2014*. Offering a series of innovative experiences is a key way to boost tourism. The SA Jubilee150 Board’s Annual report, 1986–87 noted: ‘The Jubilee brought to SA tens of thousands of visitors who under normal circumstances would probably not have visited the state last year.’ **Objective 4: Fostering Creativity and Innovation** has as a target *Cultural Engagement - Institutions: Increase the number of attendances at South Australia's cultural institutions by 20% by 2014*. What better way to increase attendance than through the opening of new cultural institutions such as a new Museum of South Australian History (maybe in the Adelaide hospital buildings). What better than a series of world class exhibitions and attractions focussing on our distinctive strengths? **Objective 5: Building Communities** aims to increase the percentage of South Australians who accept cultural diversity as a positive influence in the community. A major focus of the J175 might be the changing nature of the SA population with its increasing diversity.

There is much to be done. We would like to consider a series of forums in the lead-up to 2011 on a range of associated topics. For example, one might look at issues around the actual Proclamation Day in 1836 – was the colony proclaimed then? We need your help and your enthusiasm in the year ahead as we take these plans further

**Alison Mackinnon**

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## *News from archives*

### *Opening hours survey*

The questionnaire prepared by the HCSA heritage and archival issues working party about the limitation of archives opening hours has been widely circulated. To date we only have a small number of replies. If you have the survey sitting on your desk please forward it to us.



### *News about our members*

*The Collections Council* has launched a major proposal “collections care”, to provide support for heritage collections in regional Australia. They have also contributed to the development of new national standards for Australian museums and galleries and prepared an action plan for collaborative work on Australia’s digital heritage collections – ‘born digital’. See their website for a subscription to the free e-bulletin [www.collectionscouncil.com.au](http://www.collectionscouncil.com.au).

Planes and military vehicles continue to fascinate many of our members. *The West Beach Aviation Group Inc* (membership 28) recently celebrated its 45th anniversary. This milestone was celebrated with a special dinner which was attended by current and former members. The *Military Vehicle Preservation Society Inc*, & the *National Military Vehicle Museum*, along with the *Wartime Vehicle Conservation Group* entered thirty plus vehicles in the Reserve Forces Day Parade. Members turned out with their vehicles & museum vehicles, which were inspected and admired by the Governor General of Australia, an admiring public, and serving & past members of the Reserve & Regular Forces.

A virtual treasure trove of information is now available on the [Showcasing SA Heritage Places](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/heritage/showcasing.html) <<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/heritage/showcasing.html>> pages of the Heritage section of the DEH website. [Highlights of the SA Heritage Register](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/heritage/showcase_saregister.html) <[http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/heritage/showcase\\_saregister.html](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/heritage/showcase_saregister.html)> includes information about the latest entries in the Register and heritage places celebrating significant 2007 anniversaries. [Highlights of the SA Shipwrecks Database](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/heritage/showcase_sashipwrecks.html) <[http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/heritage/showcase\\_sashipwrecks.html](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/heritage/showcase_sashipwrecks.html)> are also revealed for significant 2007 shipwreck anniversaries.

Applications are invited for the 2007/2008 *Department for Environment and Heritage South Australian Built Heritage Research Fellowship* at the Architecture Museum, University of South Australia. Information : [christine.garnaut@unisa.edu.au](mailto:christine.garnaut@unisa.edu.au) or (08) 8302 0204.

The next in DEH's series of *Stirring the Possum* forums will look at the challenges of managing changes to heritage places. Kirsten Thompson, well-known Melbourne architect, will present the keynote address, while Megan Lloyd (Editor-in-Chief, Messenger Newspapers), George Kambitsis (Director, Kambitsis Group) and Mary Marsland (Chair, SA Heritage Council) will join Kirsten in a panel discussion led by Allan Holmes, DEH Chief Executive. Wednesday 29 August 2007, 6 - 7.30pm, Grainger Studio, 91 Hindley St. Entry is free and although bookings are not required, space is limited.

Please send us more news about members' activities! We will do our best to inform all member organisations of relevant events via e-mail and/or the HCSA website.

### ***The HCSA 2007 Public Lecture***

Professor Susan Magarey AM presented the 2007 HCSA public lecture on 24 July to wide acclaim. It was held at the Hetzel Lecture Theatre, Institute Building, on the topic 'Dame Roma Mitchell's Unmentionables: Sex, Politics and Religion', a topic drawn from Susan's biography of Dame Roma Flinders Mitchell AC, DBE, (1913–2000). The lecture was sponsored by the State Library of SA. In the lecture Susan revealed much of the good biographer's art – the ability to get behind the public façade and learn a little of what makes her subject tick. We learned about Dame Roma's background, her strong religious belief and practices, the ways in which her progressive politics co-existed with those beliefs and tantalizing stories of her private life.. But, as Margaret Anderson noted in her vote of thanks, Dame Roma still remains an enigma in many ways. We will have to read Susan's book.



### ***The History Council's website***

***Have you provided your organization's events?*** The website was launched at the 2006 HCSA public lecture. The address is <[www.historycouncilsa.org.au](http://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. We have appointed a web manager as an interim step while we establish this as a vital administrative position for the Council. We are very pleased that the Historical Society of SA will be joining us in this venture and Philip Knight is giving us some helpful advice. All members are asked to use the HCSA website to email their organizations' url and calendar of events to the secretary (including your permission for adding the links and events to the HCSA calendar). All members are also reminded to ensure that a link to the HCSA website is added to their organizations website.



### ***State History Conference 2007***

*Country Connections*, the 16<sup>th</sup> State History Conference was run by the History Trust in the Barossa Valley, on the 3–5 August 2007. The conference focussed on the history of South Australia's country towns and communities, especially in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, from local, state, national and global perspectives. It was a resounding success. Congratulations to the History Trust



### ***Practicalities***

The HCSA is going modern – and technological. After the 2007 AGM all communications will be sent to members of the Council and the wider membership through email. We do appreciate that this may cause difficulties for one or two members who do not have e-mail. However, we believe that all members have access either to others in their organization who

do have e-mail and can pass all messages on, or to local libraries with e-mail facilities and assistance. Please let us know if you cannot access either of these sources. We are a very small organization with no formal secretariat and can no longer send communications in mixed mode. The exception to this will be AGM material, which requires you or your organisation to submit documentation.

While we do not have the funds to support a full or even a part-time secretariat, we would consider sharing an administrative assistant (or secretary) with one of our member organizations – perhaps on an hourly-paid model. 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 co-ordinate their services – let us know if you would like to discuss this notion at any stage.



***The Federation of Australian Historical Societies (Inc) (FAHS)***

For the last few years one of our executive members has served as a delegate to FAHS, first Nigel Ridgway, then Diana Chessell. However, we now find that the demands on the time of our own executive preclude continuing such a relationship. It is with regret that we have written to the FAHS advising that we will no longer provide a delegate to their executive, but that we will retain an association with them through a link on our website alerting our members to key issues when they arise through FAHS channels. You might like to visit the website <http://www.history.org.au> to read their material for yourselves. Items of note include their annual report, States and Territories reports , and the FAHS awards.

**Diana Chessell and Alison Mackinnon**



**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. Several organizations have recently joined. We welcome our newest members, the *Adelaide Catholic Archives* and the *Disability Information and Resource Centre*. DIRC has recently launched a website about the history of disability in South Australia ([history.dircsa.org.au](http://history.dircsa.org.au)).

The membership/renewal form can be downloaded at any time from our website at <[www.historycouncilsa.org.au](http://www.historycouncilsa.org.au)>. Tax invoices can be provided on request from the Treasurer.

<b>SUBSCRIPTION COSTS FOR 2006/2007 FINANCIAL YEAR</b>	
<b>Corporate membership</b>	
\$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
<b>Individual membership</b>	
\$30.00	Individual
\$20.00	Individual concession (student/pensioner/unwaged)

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## ***Current Executive and Council members***

### ***Executive (6 members max.)***

President	Alison Mackinnon, Hawke Research Institute, University of SA, <president@historycouncilsa.org.au> (08) 8302 4370
Vice President	Bernie O'Neil, Professional Historians Association < <a href="mailto:vice-president@historycouncilsa.org.au">vice-president@historycouncilsa.org.au</a> > (08) 8261 0077
Secretary	Annette Mills, State Library of South Australia <secretary@historycouncilsa.org.au> (08) 8207 7347
Treasurer	Beth Robertson, Oral History Association < <a href="mailto:beemar@ozemail.com.au">beemar@ozemail.com.au</a> > (08) 8278 4045
Members	Christine Finnimore*, Migration Museum, History Trust of South Australia, < <a href="mailto:cfinnimore@history.sa.gov.au">cfinnimore@history.sa.gov.au</a> > (08) 8207 7697 Diana Chessell*, Individual member, <diana.chessell@unisa.edu.au> 0415 052 174

### ***Council (14 members max.)***

Kirsty Buchan	Australian Society of Archivists (SA Branch)
Peter Brinkworth	Pioneers Association of South Australia
Samantha Farnsworth	State Records of South Australia
Enid Woodley	National Archives of Australia
Hugh Magarey	National Trust, SA
Wilfred Prest*	History, University of Adelaide
Andrew Buxton*	History Teachers Association of South Australia
Greg Slattery*	Rocky River Historic and Arts Society
Carol Fort	History, Flinders University
Peter Adamson	Historical Society of SA
Robert Swarbrick*	Barossa Goldfields Historical Society
Kevin Kaeding*	Heritage Preservation Association
Martin Lambert	Engineers Australia
Vacancy	

\* = Co-optees

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## ***Forthcoming Executive and Council meetings***

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

- AGM September 4, 5.30 – 7.00. Ira Raymond Room, Barr Smith Library.
- Executive – Tuesday October 2, 4.30–6.30.
- Council – Tuesday 4 December, 5.30 – 7.30, venue tbc.