

History Council General Committee meeting 6 December 2021

President's Report 2021

I am very honoured to have been elected President of the History Council in October 2021. I am in awe of the amount of activity undertaken by the council under Skye Krichauff's leadership, and only hope that I can keep up the tradition of advocacy and collaboration that she has so ably passed on to me.

Skye presented her presidential report to the AGM on 20 October, detailing the Council's activities to that time. That report was included in the Council's newsletter of 26 October, so I won't go over that material again, but will report on our activities since that time.

Advocacy

With the help of several members of the committee, we drafted an open letter to the Premier objecting to the rezoning of the Adelaide city parklands, and it was sent out on 26 October. It was sent not only to the Premier, but to the official Planning Submission address and to Vickie Chapman, as the Minister responsible, to the Leader of the Opposition and shadow ministers for related areas, and to the leaders of all the minor parties. We also sent a media release to the Advertiser and InDaily.

National Archives relocation of SA Archives

I attended a meeting of the National Archives Consultative Forum on 17 November 2021, along with several other members of the committee. The meeting was attended by Steven Fox, Louise Doyle, and Celia Blake from the NAA, who spoke about the plans from the Canberra point of view. We urged the importance of ensuring access to and, vitally, detailed indexing of the files which will be transferred to Canberra. Nick Gleghorn, the Director of the SA State Office, explained the procedure which would be followed. I appreciated the opportunity to ask detailed questions about the process.

Events

The Regional Lecture at the Bridgeport Hotel, Murray Bridge on 1 December attracted a crowd of 30-40 listeners, including several locals. Philip Payton's entertaining and informative talk about a selection of the Governors of South Australia and their spouses was very well received, and Wakefield Press did a brisk trade in copies of his book *Vice-Regal*. Several of us stayed afterwards for a convivial dinner, where we got to meet several local history enthusiasts who were encouraged to join the Council, either on their own behalf or as representatives of their societies.

SBS Documentary

We were approached by the producer of the SBS documentary *Who do you think you are* for suggestions as to historians who could be asked to contribute to one of their programs involving an SA family connection. We provided a list of suggestions, and Skye was interviewed for the program.

Fellowship

Applications for the HCSA Fellowship in association with the State Library of South Australia and the Marsden Szwarcbord Foundation closed on 30 November 2021. We have had a good number of applicants for the 2022 Fellowship, and judging will take place later this week. We look forward to the announcement of the 2022 fellow.

Membership

We have revised the website to make separate categories for non-profit organisations and individuals, although the membership fee for these categories is the same (still very good value at \$30). In this way we should be able to distinguish more easily between individual members who happen to be members of other organisations, and organisations which have officially joined.

We have a strong membership base but the wider the better, so I always take an opportunity of promoting membership to any groups that I have dealings with. Brochures and other publicity material are available, and the website is informative and useful if anyone is interested in finding out more. Please spread the word!

Thanks

Many thanks to Skye Krichauff for making the handover as smooth as possible, and for continuing with the organization of the regional lecture. I am very pleased that she has stayed on as Immediate Past President. I'd also like to thank Yianni Cartledge for all his hard work coordinating the committee and keeping us informed, Greg Slattery for his steady hand on the financial tiller, David Sweet and Andrew Peake for their help and advice on the executive, as well as Jess Fairey, Brenton Griffin and everyone who looks after the Council's communications with members and with the public. Thanks also to all members of the general committee for their valuable input and expertise during the short time I have been in this role. I look forward to working with you all during the year to come.

Gillian Dooley

December 2021