

The Friends of South Australia's Archives Inc Newsletter

#81

September 2022

FSAA Annual General Meeting

** Please note change of date **

The 2022 Annual General Meeting for the
Friends of South Australia's Archives will held on

**Wednesday, 9 November 2022 at 6pm
at the Box Factory Community Centre.**



Speakers at the FSAA AGM will be the 2022 Jack Cross Fellowship awardees **Amanda Wells** and **Sharyn Clarke**, who coincidentally, both provided images of themselves in outdoor settings. We welcome all members to attend as well as anyone with an interest in South Australia's archival collections. Please email FSAA@outlook.com if you would like to register your apology.



University of Newcastle doctoral candidate **Amanda Wells** (left) will discuss her research of the citrus industry, and how orange-growing shaped and was shaped by the Riverland district in the mid-twentieth century.

Flinders University doctoral candidate **Sharyn Clarke** (right) will present on conservation in settler-colonial South Australia, focusing on those voices who expressed misgivings about environmental practices of the time.



Would you like to do more to support South Australia's archives?

**The Friends of South Australia's Archives is seeking members
to join our Executive Committee.**

Please come along to the FSAA AGM on Wednesday, 9 November 2022 to find out how you might support South Australia's archives.

The Friends of South Australia's Archives was established in February 1996 with the following objectives:

- to encourage the preservation of historical records,
- to assist the keepers of public and private archives in South Australia,
- to represent the concerns of users of archives.

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Meet your FSAA Executive Committee



Andrew Peake, President

Andrew Peake is the fourth President of the Friends of South Australia's Archives, the previous being Eric Richards, Gerald Fischer, and long-standing President Jack Cross who passed away in January this year. Andrew Peake is a former President of the South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society as well as the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations and has been on the FSAA Executive Committee since 1998. In 2019 Andrew Peake received a Premier's Certificate in recognition of volunteer service, and in 2020 he received an OAM for his support of community history



Johanne Taylor, Secretary

Johanne Taylor is the sixth Secretary of the Friends of South Australia's Archives, following Gerald Fisher, Alan Jones, Heidi Ing, Sandra Kearney, and Andrew Peake. Johanne Taylor is a Doctoral Candidate with Flinders University, undertaking archival research into the Redruth Girls' Reformatory near Burra in South Australia's Mid-North. Johanne's holds a Bachelor of Science in Wool and Pastoral Sciences and a Master of Arts in Writing.



Sandra Kearney, Treasurer & Membership Officer

Sandra Kearney, a social and cultural historian, has been a member of the FSAA Executive Committee since 2016 and holds the position of both Treasurer and Membership Officer. She is also a member of the PHA|SA Branch. In 2022, Sandra completed her PhD at Flinders University on the work of the South Australian Red Cross Information Bureau during the First World War. She is currently working as the Managing Editor on the *Wakefield Companion to South Australian History: 2nd Edition* and continues to tutor at the Yunggorrendi Mande at Flinders University.



Heidi Ing, Newsletter Editor

Heidi Ing joined the Friends of South Australia's Archives Executive Committee in 2010 and has since filled the roles of Membership Officer, Secretary and Newsletter Editor. Heidi completed a PhD with Flinders University in 2020, with an analysis of the occupational and geographic mobility of South Australia's early arriving settler-colonists and their descendants. Heidi is currently serving as the History Council of South Australia's Fellow for 2022, undertaking research on the history of Adelaide's 'Town Acres'.



Wilfrid Prest, Committee Member

Wilfrid Prest is a legal historian, retired Professor, Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, and a Rhodes Scholar who received his doctorate from the University of Oxford. Wilfrid is currently Emeritus Professor and Visiting Research Fellow in History and in Law at the University of Adelaide, a Fellow of Queen's College, University of Melbourne, the Australian Academy of the Humanities, the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, and the Royal Historical Society (UK), and a member of the Council of the Selden Society, London.



State Records of South Australia

Welcome to the new Director of State Records, Stephanie Coleman

The appointment of Simon Froude as Director-General at National Archives of Australia left a vacancy at South Australia's State Records which has now been filled. Stephanie Coleman has been working at State Records since 2008 in a variety of roles and we wish her well with her new position.

South Australia's Aboriginal Reference Group

Central to the State Records' response to the Tandanya-Adelaide Declaration is an acknowledgement 'of the need to engage, listen and learn from Aboriginal people in South Australia' <https://archives.sa.gov.au/general-information/about-us/who-we-are/response-tandanya-adelaide-declaration>. An Aboriginal Reference Group has been established this year to work with both the State Records of South Australia and the State Library of South Australia. This group will meet four times a year with the aim to 'advocate for Aboriginal people and communities, ensure State Records and the State Library's activities reflect Aboriginal experiences and help the agencies engage and partner with Aboriginal communities to deliver services and programs.' <https://archives.sa.gov.au/general-information/about-us/who-we-are/aboriginal-reference-group>

Review of South Australia's State Records Act?

Almost a decade ago the FSAA welcomed the commission of Alan Moss, retired Judge of South Australia's District Court, to review our State Records Act 1997. The FSAA followed the review and awaited the release of the Moss Report, which was finalised in August 2014 but was not made publicly available. State Records of South Australia assessed the recommendations and considered a response, which is discussed in their 2016 [Annual Report](#). In July 2016, the then Attorney General, The Hon J.R. Rau, announced to the Estimates Committee that he intended to bring forward a bill to amend South Australia's State Records Act, but this did not eventuate <https://hansardsearch.parliament.sa.gov.au/daily/ecb/2016-07-28/4>. The Moss Report disappeared from view and South Australia's State Records Act 1997 was not updated.

Since that time other states have reviewed their legislation (e.g., Queensland www.chde.qld.gov.au/about/initiatives/review-of-public-records-act, and NSW www.archivists.org.au/about-us/statements/asa-statement---nsw-state-records-act-1998-review.) The FSAA considers it appropriate for South Australia to revisit the Moss Report and to once again review our own State Records legislation.

NAA South Australian Consultative Forum Report

The National Archives of Australia's South Australia Consultative Forum met in the Brownyn Halliday Studio at the State Library of South Australia on Tuesday, 13 September 2022. A welcome addition to the usual representatives was the presence of the NAA's Director General, Simon Froude, who, in addition to providing updates, made himself available for comments and questions.

The NAA Forum allows South Australian archivists, historians and cultural heritage sector employees to meet and compare notes, and this forum was attended by representatives from the Australian Society of Archivists, State Records of South Australia, State Library of South Australia, Adelaide City Archives, History Trust of South Australia, History Council of South Australia, Immanuel College, Rocky River Historic & Art Society, Records and Information Management Practitioners Alliance (RIMPA), University of South Australia Archives, Professional Historians Association, as well as the Friends of South Australia's Archives.

NAA News

Tasmania, Northern Territory as well as South Australian NAA records have been consolidated in Canberra, and preparations are underway for records from Melbourne and Brisbane to be relocated as property leases expire. The NAA are currently constructing priority lists with consultative forums in Victoria and Queensland. The digitisation hub in Canberra has prioritised South Australian records in harder-to-handle formats, such as large maps, plans, and logbooks, making them available in digital form through RecordSearch.

Simon Froude emphasised that, despite the relocation and centralisation of records, the NAA are prioritising and supporting NAA offices in each state and the Northern Territory, with an aim to expand customer service. Efforts of the staff of state branches will be focused on public outreach, drawing in new users to archival services, and offering support and instruction to existing archival researchers.

NAA's Steven Fox updated us on the 'Defend the Past, Protect the Future Program' which continues to focus on at risk material, in particularly collections containing magnetic tape and photographs. World War II service records are being digitised at a rapid pace, with 88% expected to be provided online with the current funding. Digitisation of photographs continues through the support of a substantial donation from Barbara Mason. Approximately 370,000 migrant cards from Australian Migrant Camps have been digitised and provided on RecordSearch.

NAA (SA) News

South Australia's NAA State Manager Nick Gleghorn reported that the South Australian branch has been providing exhibitions, talks, and webinars to promote collections and provide instructions on how to use NAA's RecordSearch. Presentations have emphasised the accessibility of newly digitised materials, particularly those larger items which were previously difficult to handle in hardcopy. The South Australian bankruptcy records are now getting attention and aim to be described and name identified by the end of the financial year.

Attendees discussed the potential for digitised records to be indexed or transcribed by off-site volunteers. The NAA acknowledge that the volunteer program currently in place is not large, but there is potential to add value to material through volunteer transcription through the NAA ArchIVE project <https://transcribe.naa.gov.au/>.



Archival and Librarian positions cut at the ABC

In June this year management of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) announced that the organisation intended to scrap 58 archival and librarian positions, with their tasks and duties being shifted onto the shoulders of journalists www.theguardian.com/media/2022/jun/08/abc-to-abolish-58-librarian-and-archivist-jobs-with-journalists-to-do-archival-work. This move follows the 2018 centralisation of the ABC's sound and reference libraries into one location in Melbourne, rather than maintain the material held in each Australian capital www.theguardian.com/media/2018/jan/30/abc-dismantles-sound-libraries-and-axes-staff-to-improve-budget.

Digitisation projects, access to digital resources, and changed workflows have been cited as the catalysts for these changes. The ABC has indicated that it intends to create new positions for people who would act as 'content navigators', personnel who will support journalists to access the ABC's digital archives.

Professor Lisa M. Given, Professor of Information Sciences at RMIT University, responded to this announcement with a *Conversation* article outlining the damage this move would inflict on the standard of ABC journalism <https://theconversation.com/the-abcs-plan-to-axe-its-librarians-will-damage-its-journalism-heres-why-184733>.

Both the Australian Society of Archivists (ASA) and Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) were quick to respond to the ABC's proposal. ASA provided an open letter to the ABC regarding the proposed staffing cuts www.archivists.org.au/documents/item/1932. ALIA provided a press release followed by an open letter www.alia.org.au/Web/News/Articles/2022/June-2022/Open-letter-on-proposed-cuts-to-ABC.aspx; [www.alia.org.au/Web/News/Articles/2022/June-2022/Media%20release ALIAs response to cuts to librarian and archivist jobs at the ABC.aspx](http://www.alia.org.au/Web/News/Articles/2022/June-2022/Media%20release%20ALIAs%20response%20to%20cuts%20to%20librarian%20and%20archivist%20jobs%20at%20the%20ABC.aspx). ASA and ALIA also responded with a joint statement, www.archivists.org.au/about-us/statements/joint-statement-on-abc-staffing-cuts and David Anderson, ABC Managing Director, provided a reply www.archivists.org.au/documents/item/1942.

The following is a copy of ASA and ALIA's joint open letter to Ita Buttrose, Chair of the ABC, and to David Anderson, the ABC's Managing Director.

ASA and ALIA Joint Statement on ABC Staffing Cuts

www.archivists.org.au/about-us/statements/joint-statement-on-abc-staffing-cuts

9 June 2022

The **Australian Society of Archivists** and the **Australian Library and Information Association** jointly call upon the ABC Managing Director David Anderson to intervene and ensure that specialist archivist and librarian positions are maintained.

Working behind the scenes, the labour and skill of the archivists and librarians at the ABC is often invisible, but it is essential to the continued production of well-researched content. The ability to find archival footage and reports which underpin everything from TV drama to news radio is deeply valued by other ABC professional staff, who do not have the professional skills to undertake this work themselves.

The skills and knowledge of the ABC's librarians and archivists are not needed any less now that more of the collection has been digitised. The ability to both retrieve existing material (whether digitised or not), and add new material and metadata so that content is properly preserved for future use, is fundamental to the ongoing work of the ABC.

The ABC's archival collections are a collection of national significance, and their value and use goes well beyond just supporting the day to day work of the ABC. The continued collection and maintenance of these collections by skilled professionals is essential if the Australian community is to benefit from the collection into the future, and to ensure that we don't lose irreplaceable content.

The ASA and ALIA hold significant concerns for the standards of ABC production and about the maintenance of the ABC collections should these cuts go ahead.

Late Night Live on ‘The importance of the ABC archives’

Presented by **Phillip Adams** with guests: **Marion Consadine**, former ABC archivist and **Nicola Laurent**, President of the Australian Society of Archivists



www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/latenightlive/the-importance-of-the-abc-archives/13953688

On his Radio National ABC program Late Night Live, Philip Adams reminded us of the fragility of audio visual material and the value of the ABC sound and film records. Marion Consadine was an ABC archivist from 1985 to 2002 and archived Late Night Live’s earliest recordings. After discussing the career of ABC broadcaster John Pickup, Consadine described the foundation of the ABC archive in the 1970s, and how the collection was digitally described in the 1980s.

This segment highlighted the skills an archivist brings to a research task, holding specialised knowledge to allow users to have confidence in the quality of the information provided. Consadine emphasised the ‘actuality’ and ‘authority’ of the information when provided by highly trained archivists. Quality information forms the bedrock of an ABC news story and needs to remain reliable for the credibility of the ABC to be maintained.

Nicola Laurent stressed that the level of staffing within the ABC archive should be maintained to ensure that the capture and description of material continues to be accurate and useful, to allow information to be found and delivered in a timely manner. Timely access to source materials is the bedrock of journalism.

Gideon Haigh on our National Collecting Institutions.

‘Neglected Heritage: Governments appear to have no regard for our once world-class collections’
Gideon Haigh, *The Weekend Australia*, 18-19 June 2022

Independent journalist Gideon Haigh has once again demonstrated his willingness to stand up in support of Australia’s information services and national institutions.

In his *Weekend Australia* article ‘Neglected Heritage’, Haigh praised Australia’s National Library, Gallery, Museum, Archives, and Film and Sound Archive, as well as the Maritime Museum, and the Museum of Australian Democracy. Haigh laments the shrinking of funding and dwindling staffing levels which besiege our institutions. These pressures limit the ability of these institutions to meet the demands placed upon them. Our society has an increasing desire for social justice in service provision. As our national institutions conscientiously strive to reach out to a broader expanse of Australian communities, they are asked to do so with decreasing funds. Haigh highlights the backlog of repairs which have built up at Australia’s National Gallery, the inability of the National Library to expand its collection, and the shrinking storage available to Australia’s GLAM collections.

Australia once led the way with enviable access to our digitised heritage through the much lauded NLA initiative Trove. To maintain this invaluable service, the NLA needs to be appropriately funded. In this article, Haigh lays down the blame at Australian philistinism, shortcomings in Australian private philanthropy, and lack of political champions or public advocacy. Haigh targets the boards and councils of Australia’s national institutions, who need to exhibit ‘more ambition and vitality’ and advocate for their institution instead of being part of the problem. Haigh advocates for collaboration and a collective presence to speak ‘with one persuasive, plangent voice about what is at stake, which is nothing less than the story of the nation’.



Archives on the Socials

Follow us on Twitter! @FSAArchives



State Records of South Australia <https://twitter.com/StateRecordsSA> @StateRecordsSA

- State Records have been sharing their finding aids to help researchers get 'digging' through their 13 million records - <https://archives.sa.gov.au/finding-information/discover-our-collection/where-start>
- Want to visit State Records Research Centre? Plan your visit here <https://archives.sa.gov.au/finding-information/using-our-collection/how-access-records/plan-your-visit>
- State Records of South Australia supported the We're Equal campaign from @EqualOpSA

National Archives of Australia <https://twitter.com/naagovau> @naagovau

- The NAA office will be undergoing construction work from Monday 4 July to late October 2022. On limited dates visitors may be directed to enter via an alternate entrance. For updates, follow @naagovau

Archives & Manuscripts https://twitter.com/AandM_Journal @AandM_Journal

- Archives and Manuscripts Vol 50 No 1 is now online, open access <https://publications.archivists.org.au/index.php/asa/issue/view/297>

Aust Archivists <https://twitter.com/ausarchivists> @ausarchivists

- The 2022 ASA national conference [#HereWeAre2022](https://twitter.com/ausarchivists) will be in Canberra 17-20 October 2022. For more information visit the conference website at <https://ausarchivists.eventsair.com/2022-here-we-are>

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2022
HERE WE ARE

17 - 20 OCTOBER 2022 • CANBERRA / ONLINE

Welcome to the Australian Society of Archivists 2022 National Conference -
Here We Are.

This is our first hybrid conference, allowing delegates to attend either online or
in person in Canberra - the traditional land of the Ngunnawal people.

The Friends of South Australia's Archives Inc

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Do you have any feedback or comments related to a South Australian archive?

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Newsletter Contributions

Contributions to the Newsletter are most welcome. The Newsletter Editor can be contacted via email.

Email: Heidi Ing (fsaa@outlook.com).

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George Cockburn Henderson (1870-1944), Professor of History, Adelaide University (1902-1923) was largely responsible for the establishment of South Australia's first archival office in 1920.