

History Council AGM 2022 President's Report

I am very honoured to have been elected President of the History Council in October 2021. The past year has held challenges for many of us, myself included, and I'm very grateful for the support I have received from the executive committee.

Advocacy

Parkland Rezoning 2021

With contributions from several members of the general committee, I drafted an open letter to the Premier objecting to the rezoning of the Adelaide city parklands, and it was sent out on 26 October 2021. 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. As a result of the community consultation, significant changes were made to the rezoning code amendment.

National Archives - relocation of SA material to Canberra

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. We have been kept updated with regular meetings and events as the relocation has continued over the year.

Ayers House and HTSA/NTSA

We noted with concern that the new ALP government reversed the decision to move the National Trust out of Ayers House and for the History Trust to move in. We support the History Trust in their search for new accommodation in a centrally-located heritage building.

ABC Library restructure

In June I wrote to the Managing Director of the ABC regarding the proposed restructure of the ABC Archives detailing the concerns I had discussed with the executive committee. I received a response from David Anderson which was not a form letter, so had clearly been tailored to my letter. However, it is not clear that their plans have changed materially as a result of community concerns.

Proposed site for new Women's and Children's Hospital

Not without a sense of *déjà vu*, I sent a letter to the Premier, copied to other politicians and to the press, on 12 October 2022 protesting at the proposed demolition of the Police Barracks and other heritage buildings and rezoning of parklands for the purposes of building a new Women's and Children's Hospital. The letter was published in InDaily the following day but no meaningful response has been received from the politicians.

SA History Advocate

On 27 October I attended the announcement of the newly appointed History Advocate for South Australia, Kiera Lindsay, who will be employed within the History Trust. It will be interesting to see how this role evolves in relation to advocacy on behalf of heritage and related matters in the state.

Events

Awards Night and History Festival Closing Event

The event was held on 31 May, the last night of the 2022 History Festival, and co-hosted by the History Trust of SA. The venue was the grand foyer of the Masonic Hall. The night was a success, many thanks to the History Trust. We are extremely appreciative of their major contribution to the organisation of the event, including negotiating with the venue, all the technical infrastructure, the invitations to VIPs, wine service and much more. Many key people attended, including politicians and HCSA members. Ian Smith acted as MC for the awards ceremony. David Sweet reports that OHA SA/NT has received significant and positive feedback regarding the new award for Oral History.

Regional Lectures

The Regional Lecture at the Bridgeport Hotel, Murray Bridge on 1 December 2021 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. I am very grateful to Skye Krichauff who kindly continued with the arrangements, having already done most of the work before I took up the presidential role.

The 2022 Regional Lecture was held at the Kapunda Library on Wednesday 19 October, in partnership with the Light Regional Council. We were fortunate that Melanie Oppenheimer was in Adelaide for the Bannon memorial lecture the previous night and was willing to present a talk on the Bangka massacre and Vivien Bullwinkel. The event sold out two weeks in advance but fortunately we were able to move to a larger venue, the Kapunda Soldiers' Memorial Hall, and a large audience gathered on the night to hear a brilliant, informative and provocative lecture from Professor Oppenheimer. This event would not have been possible without the hard work and local knowledge of Pepper Mickan and her team at the Kapunda branch of the Light Regional Council, who not only did all the organization and much of the publicity, but provided supper afterwards.

The lecture will be made available on the Council's website.

Fellows' lecture

On 30 March we hosted a successful event in partnership with the State Library to coincide with the long-awaited visit to Adelaide by our 2021 fellow, Rebecca Jones. As our 2022 fellowship had recently been awarded to Heidi Ing, we took the opportunity to present talks by both fellows on their research. Attendance was good and the discussion continued after the talks and beyond the formal part of the evening. Many connections were made between the speakers and interested members of the audience. Thanks to everyone involved, especially

Patrick Bugeja at the State Library who ensured the event ran smoothly. I think it would be worth making this a regular annual event if possible

Awards and Fellowship

The 2022 HCSA Fellow is Dr Heidi Ing. Her topic is 'Examining South Australia's early investors: An analysis of initial purchasers of Adelaide's "Town Acres"'. Applications for the 2023 fellowship close on 30 November.

We had nine submissions this year for the Wakefield Essay Prize this year and it was won by Stephen V. Graham who will be speaking at the 2022 AGM. Angela Woollacott was awarded a judges' commendation.

For the Historian awards, there were seven nominations in total this year, under the categories of:

Historian of the Year – won by Adam Dutkiewicz.

Life Long Historian – won by Paul Mazourek.

Contribution to Regional or Community History (Individual or Group) – Gumeracha and District History Centre.

Oral History Excellence – won by Helen Meyer.

The following categories had no specific directed nominations:

Digital Technologies Award;

Emerging Historian.

HCSA 20th anniversary celebrations

A grant application has been submitted for a publication to celebrate the HCSA's 20th anniversary in 2023. Andrew Peake, David Sweet, Greg Slattery & Yianni Cartledge are working on this.

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 time I have been in this role. I look forward to working with you all during the year to come.

Gillian Dooley