

Deputy Premier to launch locally written history book.

The Defiant Anti-conscriptionist, written by Helen Hennessy and Patricia Booth and published by Wakefield Press is the culmination of an eight year research project into Ephraim Henry Coombe. The project has received support from the History Trust of South Australia, the Historical Society of South Australia and the Town of Gawler.

The Deputy Premier Susan Close will officially launch the book at a public event to be held at 2pm on Sunday 27th November in the Gawler Civic Centre.

Harry, as he was known, is a significant person in the history of Gawler and the State of South Australia. He was a locally born journalist, editor (of *The Bunyip* for 24 years and later the *Daily Herald*) and a member of parliament, representing the Barossa District for 14 years.

He used his position of influence to champion many social causes including votes for women and the defence of those who were persecuted during the WW1 period because of their German heritage. He opposed the closure of Lutheran schools and spearheaded the WW1 South Australian No Vote in the conscription campaign. His untimely death at the age of 58 has been attributed to the stress of his prosecution under the War Precautions Act, at a trial deliberately held in his electorate, for using words that were 'likely to prejudice recruiting'.

Helen Hennessy is a local historian and former Manager of the Gawler Public Library and Patricia Booth is the great granddaughter of Ephraim Henry Coombe. A self-guided tour pamphlet, The EH Coombe Walking Tour of Gawler, and an archival collection of research material have also been produced.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing at the launch. A display of historic items associated with EH Coombe will be curated by the Gawler Cultural Heritage Centre.

Bookings to attend the launch event can be made by emailing polly@wakefieldpress.com.au