

# The Friends of South Australia's Archives Inc Newsletter

#82

December 2022



## President's Annual Report

At the last Annual General Meeting in October 2021, the Friend's President, Emeritus Professor Jack Cross, was in an aged care facility. Sadly, Jack passed away on 20 January 2022. Jack Cross had been President of the Friends since the 1999 Annual General Meeting. Professor Wilf Prest prepared an obituary, which was published in the *Advertiser* on Saturday, 2 April 2022.

COVID has continued to overshadow the year, although there is now a growing acceptance of the pandemic. The Committee met on four occasions during 2022, in February, April, June, and August.

## Section 42 Packets

A significant pre-occupation has been access to Section 42 Packets created under the Real Property Act. Under the legislation, which goes back to 1858, packets of property documents used to justify a new title under the Torrens Title System are embargoed other than to current owners of the land, or with their express permission. While this may well have been justified at the time, these often pre-1858 documents are now historic and should be available for research without obtaining permission of current owners. A letter was written to the then Attorney General, however she was not helpful, claiming that the provisions of the legislation was still in use, albeit infrequently. Subsequently there has been a State election and change of Government. Contact was made with the current Registrar General, who considered that a compromise could be reached and suggested that the embargo continue to exist for up to 80 years, after which the records would be accessible. Most of the material we are interested in relates to transactions in the late nineteenth century. A letter was subsequently sent to the new Attorney General in May 2022 with this proposal. As no reply was received a letter was written to Jack Batty, MP for Bragg, seeking his assistance. I am now pleased to report that a favourable reply was received, dated 20 September 2022 from the Minister of Planning, Nick Champion:

*The suggested amendment to the Act to allow public access to the records older than 80 years appears to provide sufficient protection for the privacy of landowners. I am advised by the Registrar General also supports this proposal and will seek to prioritise this particular reform during the next review of the Act.*

This is a very positive response, and we wait with anticipation for an amendment to the Act being introduced into State Parliament.

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## Relocation of NAA Records

The Friends has continued its lobbying activities on a number of fronts. At the last AGM it was reported that the re-location of the records held in the South Australian repository of the National Archives of Australia (NAA) was a fait accompli and we were fighting a rear-guard action to ensure the description of records sent to Canberra, enabling favourable access to these records, albeit digitally. Together with other historical agencies there has been some success surrounding these issues. The Friends continue to be represented on the NAA Consultative Forum, with Heidi Ing representing the Friends.

## State Records of South Australia

State Records of South Australia has been reviewing its Strategic Plan 2022–2026 and has held a few consultative forums at which the Friends has been represented. A Draft Plan was released on 8 November 2022 for comment by the 9 December 2022. The Strategic Plan has four underpinning goals: Identity; Priorities for First Nations People; The Archives; Information Governance. Nowhere is there any suggestion that the State Records Act 1997 should be reviewed. There are some laudatory suggested actions, including a new facilities solution, a new archival management system, and expanding access to digitised copies of records in the archives.

## Advocacy Issues

Earlier in the year the Australian Broadcasting Commission announced the decision to cut archivists and librarians. Nationally letters were sent to the ABC and Federal Members of Parliament, however, it was going to happen, regardless of community opposition. During the year several other issues were raised with the Friends, including access to the records of the Parliamentary Draftsman. The Friends also continues to be represented on the History Council of South Australia (HCSA) where I sit on its Executive Committee. The HCSA is the peak history body in South Australia and has gained a high profile with government and the history community.

## Jack Cross Fellowship

During the year the Committee became aware that the Friend's income exceeded its expenditure with an increasing cash balance. It was decided to create two 'Jack Cross Fellowships' of \$250 each. The Fellowships will be awarded annually to small history projects or to support students of South Australian history who are pursuing a dedicated program of historical research with a focus on the use of South Australian archival resources. Fellowships may be used for travel expenses to access records or put towards photocopying or digitising archival material. While the Friends are flexible as to how the Fellowship is used, the research focus must be on South Australia and its associated archival records. The recipients will be required to provide a short piece for the FSAA *Newsletter* on their research project. The Jack Cross Fellowships were launched in early 2022 and were awarded to Amanda Wells for her research on citrus in the Riverland district of South Australia, and Sharyn Clarke for her research on environmental conservation in settler-colonial South Australia.

The Friends continue to produce an informative *Newsletter* and I want to acknowledge the contribution of Heidi Ing as Editor. I also wish to acknowledge the commitment of my fellow committee members, Sandra Kearney as Treasurer and Membership Officer, Wilf Prest, as well as Johanne Taylor who joined the Committee in February 2022 in the position of Secretary. The Committee would welcome additional committee members—it is not a large time commitment, but a worthwhile contribution to advancing access to South Australian historical records.

**Andrew Peake,**  
**President, Friends of South Australia's Archives.**

## FSAA Annual General Meeting 2022

The Annual General Meeting of The Friends of South Australia's Archives was held on Wednesday, 9 November 2022 at 6 pm in the Hurtle Room of the Box Factory Community Centre.

Present for the meeting were Andrew Peake, Sandra Kearney, Amanda Wells, Sharyn Clarke, Jill Cross, Bernie O'Neil, and Heidi Ing.

Apologies were received from Frances Bedford, Margaret Birtley, David Whyatt, Johanne Taylor, Margrette Kleinig, and Wilf Prest.



Minutes of the previous AGM had been circulated via email and were accepted. Andrew Peake provided the President Report for the year 2021–2022 (see pages 1-2). The Friends' Treasurer, Sandra Kearney, reported on the financial year (see below).

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### Financial Statement 2022

Statement of Income and Expenditure for Year Ended 30 June 2022

#### Income

Subscriptions 2021–2022	<b>475.00</b>
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#### Expenditure

Hire of Meeting Rooms	150.00
AGM Expenses	36.00
Postage	66.00
Jack Cross Fellowship Awards	500.00
Subscription to History Council of SA	30.00
Envelopes	7.80
	<b><u>789.80</u></b>

#### Profit for year

Balance brought forward 1 July 2021	- <b><u>314.80</u></b>
Unpresented cheques	- 22.00

<b>Balance carried forward 30 June 2022</b>	<b><u>4,202.19</u></b>
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**Graham Jaunay**

Hon Auditor  
25 July 2022

**Sandra Kearney**

Treasurer  
20 July 2022

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#### Election of Office Bearers

Heidi Ing took the chair for the election of the President. Andrew Peake was nominated to continue as President by Sandra Kearney, seconded by Bernie O'Neil, and duly elected. Johanne Taylor was nominated and elected to continue Secretary, Sandra Kearney to continue in the amalgamated roles of Membership Officer and Treasurer, Heidi Ing as Newsletter Editor, Andrew Peake as Public Officer, and Graham Jaunay as Auditor. Wilfrid Prest was re-elected to the Committee, and Amanda Wells agreed to join the committee in 2023.

## FSAA Fellowship

It was agreed that the two Jack Cross Fellowships of \$250 each per annum would continue, with the deadline for 2023 submissions to be Friday, 31 March 2023. Recipients will be selected at the April 2023 committee meeting. Jill Cross suggested that friends and family of Jack Cross may be interested in contributing to the Fellowship.

## AGM Annual Addresses

The two recipients of the 2022 Jack Cross Fellowships each addressed AGM with an outline of their research, and their presentations stimulating lively discussions. The following is a concise summary of their presentations.

### Sharyn Clarke on 'Environmental Conservation in settler-colonial South Australia'



Flinders University doctoral candidate **Sharyn Clarke** (left) reported that she appreciated the recognition provided by receiving the Jack Cross Fellowship and has used the funds to work with resources in the State Library of South Australia. Sharyn has been investigating private reflections on environmental conservation found in diaries and letters. Sharyn argues that romanticism and its connections to nature may be found in private correspondence and personal writing. This is particularly apparent when searching for the perspectives of women.

Within a few years of receiving the right to vote women had started environmental groups, with an example being Emily Playford's Bird Protection Clubs. These environment movements were associated with middle class women, but also with the Quaker community. Sharyn provided examples of South Australian identities who could be connected to conservation ideologies, such as: the May family of Mount Barker; entomologist Charles Wilson; author William Cawthorne; poet Mary Thomas; teacher and novelist Matilda Evans; field naturalist Otto Tepper; politician Friedrich Krichauff; botanist Moritz Richard Schomburgk; farmer and chemist James Allen; botanical artist Fanny de Mole; and naturalist and conservationist Thomas Bellchambers.

### Amanda Wells on 'How Orange-Growing Shaped the Riverland District in the Mid-Twentieth Century'



University of Newcastle doctoral candidate **Amanda Wells** (left) discussed the motivation for her research into the Riverland's citrus industry. Amanda began her primary source analysis with a thorough investigation of local newspaper the *Murray Pioneer*, and the citrus industry newsletter the *Australian Citrus News*. These sources provided Amanda with a fine grained view of what was important to a relatively broad section of the Riverland population, as well as the broader context of national and even international citrus growing.

A noticeable discovery of Amanda's research so far has been the silence in the *Australian Citrus News* on the River Murray Commission and the Chowilla Dam Project, while this issue was a major focus in the *Murray Pioneer*. Amanda has been examining the politics of the environment and how place, space and more-than-human beings have been shaped and organised by citrus growing in the Riverland. Stories provided by migrant communities have been pertinent to Amanda's research, particularly tales of hazards, poisons, accidents, and pesticides. Amanda is investigating which risks and hazards were considered acceptable and unacceptable to humans and non-humans in the cultivation and production of citrus. Amanda Wells expressed her appreciation for the contribution of the Jack Cross Fellowship to support her travel expenses to Adelaide when visiting the State Library and State Records of South Australia.



# JACK BATTY MP

## MEMBER FOR BRAGG



23 September 2022

Mr Andrew Peake OAM  
14 Tudor Street  
DULWICH SA 5065

Dear Mr Peake,

As you may recall I made representations on your behalf to the Minister for Planning concerning the operation of Section 42 of the *Real Property Act 1886* (SA) and I have now received a response which is enclosed in this letter.

Thank you again for taking the time to get in touch regarding this issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me again if there are any matters where I may be of assistance.

Yours sincerely

**JACK BATTY MP**  
Member for Bragg

I will keep an eye on these reforms as they progress through the Parliament.

**Hon Nick Champion MP**



**Government  
of South Australia**

Minister for Trade and  
Investment

Minister for Housing and  
Urban Development

Minister for Planning

GPO Box 11032  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

T: (08) 8235 5580

E: [ministerchampion@sa.gov.au](mailto:ministerchampion@sa.gov.au)

22MP10377

Mr Jack Batty MP  
Member for Bragg

By email: [bragg@parliament.sa.gov.au](mailto:bragg@parliament.sa.gov.au)

Dear Mr Batty *Jack*

Thank you for your correspondence received on 18 August 2022 to the Attorney-General, the Hon Kyam Maher MLC on behalf of Mr Andrew Peake AOM, regarding section 42 of the *Real Property Act 1886* (the Act). As the matters you have raised fall within my portfolio responsibilities, the Attorney-General has asked me to respond.

I agree that the availability of records pertaining to the conversion of land from the 'Old System' to the Torrens Title System to persons carrying out historical research for public purposes would have some public benefit. However, consideration must also be given to the privacy of applicants who have more recently sought to bring land under the provisions of the Act.

The suggested amendment to the Act to allow public access to records older than 80 years appears to provide sufficient protection for the privacy of landowners. I am advised that the Registrar-General also supports this proposal and will seek to prioritise this particular reform during the next review of the Act.

Please pass on my appreciation to Mr Peake for his suggestions on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Champion'.

**Hon Nick Champion MP**  
Minister for Planning

*20/9/2022*



## **\*\* Feedback to the State Records of South Australia's Strategic Plan \*\***

State Records of South Australia is seeking feedback on its Strategic Plan 2023–2026 by **9 December 2022**.

A PDF of the draft can be accessed online at

<https://archives.sa.gov.au/promotions/strategic-plan-2023-2026>

To get involved you can complete the survey on the [YourSAy](#) consultation page

<https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/state-records-of-sa-draft-strategic-plan-2023-26>,

email a submission to [staterecords@sa.gov.au](mailto:staterecords@sa.gov.au),

or post your written submission to State Records, GPO Box 464, Adelaide 5001.

## State Records of South Australia Draft Strategic Plan 2023–2026



**State Records of South Australia invites your comment on our draft Strategic Plan 2023-2026.**

### What's being decided?

We are pleased to present our draft Strategic Plan 2023-2026, which will replace our previous plan covering 2019-2022.

The Strategic Plan 2023-2026 will build on the achievements of the previous plan, articulate our priorities for the next four years, and describe the strategies and actions we will progress to shape our future.

### Background

The development of this document has been informed by staff and stakeholder comment through workshops conducted in 2022. Common priorities raised in workshops by both staff and stakeholders were a digital repository and a new Archival Management System.

The draft Strategic Plan 2023-2026 retains the goals of Identity, the Archive, and Information Governance and introduces the new goal of 'Priorities for First Nations People'. Workshop feedback emphasized the importance of continuing the work already underway in response to the Tandanya-Adelaide Declaration.

Internal consultation has concluded, and we are now seeking the views of our stakeholders and any other interested parties.

We look forward to receiving your comment.

### Get involved

**\*\* For more information on the State Records of South Australia's Information Management Strategy and Policy Reform \*\***

<https://archives.sa.gov.au/managing-information/records-and-information-management/information-management-strategy-and-policy-reform>

- [Information Management Strategy](#)
- [Information Management Standard](#)
- [Managing Digital Records in Systems Standard](#)
- [Minimum Recordkeeping Metadata Requirements Standard](#)
- [Appraisal Standard](#)
- [Disposal Standard](#)
- [Information Sessions](#)

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## The Executive Committee

<b>President:</b>	Andrew Peake ( <a href="mailto:agpeake@gmail.com">agpeake@gmail.com</a> )
<b>Secretary:</b>	Johanne Taylor ( <a href="mailto:taylorjohanne@hotmail.com">taylorjohanne@hotmail.com</a> )
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Sandra Kearney ( <a href="mailto:sandra.kearney@flinders.edu.au">sandra.kearney@flinders.edu.au</a> )
<b>Membership:</b>	Sandra Kearney ( <a href="mailto:sandra.kearney@flinders.edu.au">sandra.kearney@flinders.edu.au</a> )
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Heidi Ing ( <a href="mailto:heidi.ing@flinders.edu.au">heidi.ing@flinders.edu.au</a> )
<b>Committee:</b>	Amanda Wells ( <a href="mailto:amanda.wells10@uon.edu.au">amanda.wells10@uon.edu.au</a> ) Wilfrid Prest ( <a href="mailto:wilfrid.prest@adelaide.edu.au">wilfrid.prest@adelaide.edu.au</a> )
<b>Public Officer:</b>	Andrew Peake ( <a href="mailto:agpeake@gmail.com">agpeake@gmail.com</a> )

### Contact the Friends

Email: Andrew Peake ([agpeake@gmail.com](mailto:agpeake@gmail.com))

Postal: Friends of South Australia's Archives,  
14 Tudor Street, Dulwich, 5065, South Australia

### Newsletter Contributions

Contributions to the Newsletter are most welcome. The Newsletter Editor can be contacted through Heidi Ing, email: [heidi.ing@flinders.edu.au](mailto:heidi.ing@flinders.edu.au).

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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.