

The Friends of South Australia's Archives Inc Newsletter

#83

April 2023

Jack Cross Fellowship Recipients 2023

In 2022, to commemorate the life of its longest-serving President, Jack Cross, the Friends of South Australia's Archives (FSAA) initiated two small annual Fellowships of \$250 each. These Fellowships are awarded annually to support researchers of South Australian history to pursue research in archives, with a focus on the use of South Australian resources. This is the second year of the Jack Cross Fellowship, and we again received applications involving impressive research projects. The FSAA Committee are pleased to announce that the Jack Cross Fellows for 2023 are Robyn Dunlop and Nicole Davis.

Robyn Dunlop, who was conferred with a PhD in History from the University of Newcastle in 2021, is an independent researcher based in New South Wales. Robyn's project revisits the work of Hans Mincham (1912–2007), a twentieth-century South Australian writer who moved from geography and history to conservation education over his career. This project will make use of Hans Mincham's archival material held at the State Library of South Australia, and aims to chart changes in settler Australian representations of place (exemplified in Mincham's work) with major changes in the legal status of Aboriginal people in the mid-twentieth century.



Nicole Davis is a PhD candidate with the University of Melbourne who is currently awaiting conferral. Nicole is researching the history and heritage of the nineteenth century Australian arcades, including Adelaide Arcade and Gay's Arcade off Rundle Mall in Adelaide. This project will examine the extent of undigitised manuscript resources held by the State Library of South Australia, State Records South Australia, City of Adelaide Archives, University of Adelaide, and National Trust (SA) to explore the histories of these arcades. It will look at their significance to the city of Adelaide through to the present day, as part of a larger project exploring the nineteenth-century arcades of Australia.

We congratulate Robyn and Nicole on their awards and welcome them as this year's Jack Cross Fellows. We wish them safe travels from New South Wales and Victoria and hope their visits to South Australian archives are fruitful and productive. We look forward to hearing more about their projects, and hope to include updates on their research in an upcoming newsletter.

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National Archives of Australia Consultative Forum

A meeting of the NAA South Australia Consultive Forum took place on Tuesday, 21 March 2023 with Heidi Ing representing the Friends of South Australia's Archives. The group met in the Bronwyn Halliday Studio within the State Library of South Australia, with some members attending online via Teams.

South Australia is fortunate to be the home base of Simon Froude, the Director-General of NAA. Simon was able to attend this meeting in person, along with other senior staff of NAA: Celia Blake (National Coordinator), Steven Fox, (Collection Management), and Louis Doyle (Access and Public Engagement). The South Australian office of the NAA was represented by Director Nick Gleghorn and Assistant Director Emily Richardson.

Revive: Australia's National Cultural Policy

One of the topics discussed at this meeting was Australia's new National Cultural Policy, *Revive*. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and The Hon Tony Burke MP, Minister for the Arts, put out a media release on 30 January 2023 which announced the creation of a new arts investment and advisory body, Creative Australia. It is hoped that this policy and the formation of the Creative Australia will lead to a sustainable model of funding for our cultural institutions. You can read the National Cultural Policy via www.arts.gov.au/culturalpolicy. Related media release: <https://minister.infrastructure.gov.au/burke/media-release/revive-australias-new-national-cultural-policy>.



Potential Review of Legislation

Since formation, the Friends of South Australia's Archives have had a particular focus on the legislation that governs archives. One of the main catalysts for the formation of the FSAA was the State Records Bill proposed in 1995 and passed as the State Records Act 1997, and the FSAA would welcome a review of this state legislation. At a federal level, archives are overseen by the Archives Act 1983, and Simon Froude suggested that revised legislation may appear this year. The current Archives Act 1983 is available at www.legislation.gov.au/Series/C2004A02796.

Additions to NAA Collection



Frank Hurley Photographs

A collection of photographs, glass plate negatives and lantern slides have been transferred to the NAA from the Australian Antarctic Division in Hobart. This collection includes images produced by Australia's renowned photographer Frank Hurley. Much of the collection was purchased from the estate of John King Davis, who was Captain of the ship *Aurora* on its Antarctic Expeditions of 1911 to 1914. Media release regarding Antarctic photographic collection: www.naa.gov.au/about-us/media-and-publications/media-releases/frozen-memories-now-digital-antarctic-photographic-collections-preserved-future-generations.

Digitised images from this collection are available through RecordSearch, Series A14518.

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/SearchScreens/AdvSearchMain.aspx>

Personal Letters and Annotation by Captain Matthew Flinders

Items which belonged to Captain Matthew Flinders have been added to Australia's archival collection. An extraordinary feature of this acquisition are annotations written by Captain Matthew Flinders in his copy of *First Voyage*. These annotations comment on the details in Captain James Cook's *Endeavour* journal and include documentation of the language spoken by First Nations People on Australia's southwestern coast, in King George Sound, Western Australia. The personal letter was written on board the HMS *Investigator* by Flinders to his sister-in-law, sixteen-year-old Belle Tyler, half-sister of Ann Flinders (née Chappelle).



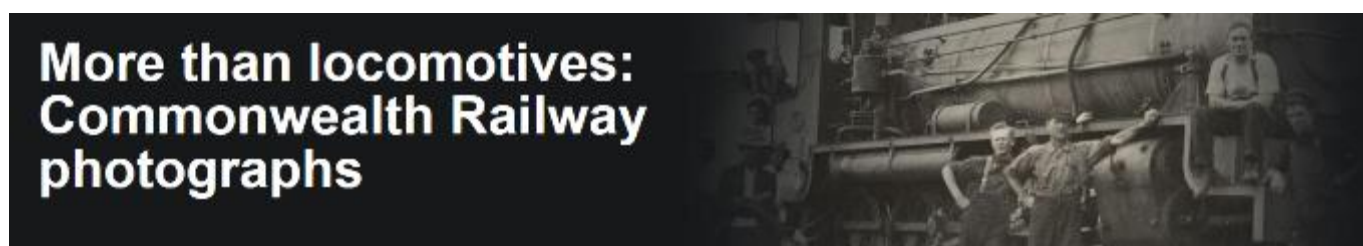
These items were put up for sale at a Christie's auction in London in December 2021, and would not have found a home in the National Archives of Australia without the generous support of Sydney philanthropist Barbara Mason, (hear more via www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/am/rare-books-used-by-explorer-donated-to-archives/102037304). Barbara Mason has also enabled the NAA to digitise and create preservation copies of the fragile and deteriorating nitrate negatives found on Second World War service records. I am sure all FSA members will join the committee in passing on our sincere gratitude to Barbara Mason for her support of Australian archival material!

These items will now be maintained by NAA and may possibly appear for celebrations of the 250th birthday of Matthew Flinders, which will occur next year on 16 March 2024. NAA media release regarding the donation: www.naa.gov.au/about-us/media-and-publications/media-releases/personal-letters-and-volumes-captain-matthew-flinders-find-home-national-archives-australia

NAA's South Australian records

In 2021 we were told that the NAA records held in the South Australian repository were to be relocated to Canberra for digitisation and storage. Members of the NAA South Australia Consultive Forum worked with NAA to ensure that records were adequately described before they were sent to Canberra's planned digitisation hub. Lists of records held in the South Australian repository were examined, and it was avowed that those identified as significant would be given priority when digitisation commenced.

At the March 2023 NAA South Australia Consultive Forum Nick Gleghorn, Director of the NAA South Australian Office, reported that the original priority list has been digitised and all records that left South Australia were described before transfer. A series of photographs had been identified as at risk records and are being described by South Australian staff with local expertise on locations in this state. Some of these photographs relate to the arrival of the railways in small country towns in South Australia. The staff of the South Australian NAA office will be holding a History Festival event using these images, called 'More than locomotives: Commonwealth Railway photographs', www.naa.gov.au/visit-us/events-and-exhibitions/more-locomotives-commonwealth-railway-photographs



Digitised images for the South Australian material are in a queue to be loaded into RecordSearch, so perhaps try your favourite searches on a regular basis, to see if anything new appears. Staff of the NAA South Australian Office will be holding a series of events called 'SA Selections' which will showcase material which has been recently digitised by the digitisation hub in Canberra. The latest of these events features a collection of South Australian copyright applications from the nineteenth century, www.naa.gov.au/visit-us/events-and-exhibitions/19th-century-copyright-records.

South Australian Bankruptcy Records

The Friends of South Australia's Archives have been following the saga of South Australia's bankruptcy records which we understand were sent to Perth in 2001. These records are receiving attention from NAA staff from South Australia, resulting in 2700 new items loaded to RecordSearch. We have been told that other South Australian records currently held in other Australian states will be consolidated in Canberra.



UniSA Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Library



Material from the Bob Hawke Collection is currently on display at the Kerry Packer Civic Gallery, Hawke Building, Level 3, UniSA City West Campus, 55 North Terrace, Adelaide. An exhibition is called '**On Australian Soil: Hawke's Environmental Legacy**' is open weekdays from 9 am to 6 pm and will run until 31 May 2023. Also on display is the permanent exhibition, '**Advancing Australia Fair: Bob Hawke and his Government, 1983-1991**'.

City of Adelaide Archives

Great news from the City Archives! Service hours have been restored and the Topham Mall Reading Room (Shop 10) is available Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. If you have a particular research interest, you can email c.archives@cityofadelaide.com.au or call 8203 7439 to speak to an archivist.

An ongoing City Archives project that is nearing completion is the digitisation of a Lantern Slide Collection which was assembled in the 1920s and 1930s by Town Clerk, A.J. Morison. In the 1920s Morison had suggested that glass slides be made of historic photographs in order to record and present Adelaide's progress and heritage. To entertain the public on Saturday evenings, Morison held lantern slide lectures in the Town Hall Auditorium. These public screenings proved very popular and were held between 1928 and 1936. The glass lantern projector which was used in these events is held by the City Archives. You can search the City of Adelaide Archives Photo Library via <https://cityofadelaide.imagegallery.me/>.



Laura Archives

The Laura Archives has recently taken possession of a run of 100 years of the *Northern Argus*, a newspaper which was first published in 1869. The hardcopies of this newspaper, now available at the former Masonic Lodge in Laura, extend well past the digitised copy available through Trove.

The Laura Archive is open in the afternoon on the first Tuesday of each month, or by appointment through Greg 0417 877 145 or Rhonda 8663 2411. <https://laurasa.com.au/laura-archives/>

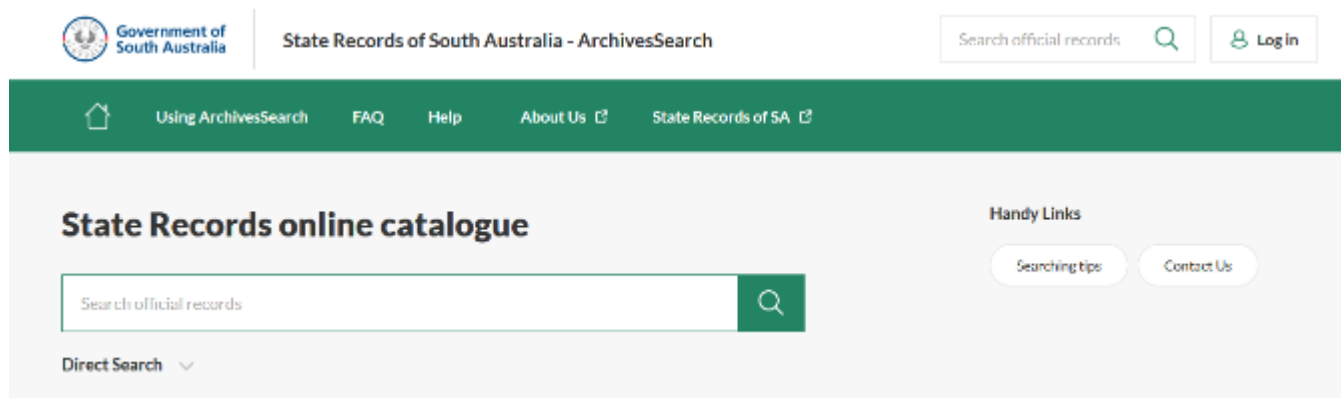
State Records of South Australia



We congratulate State Records of South Australia on their new search interface! Their website archives.sa.gov.au and ArchivesSearch catalogue catalogue.archives.sa.gov.au have been redesigned with a modern look, enhanced features, and improved navigation. State Records state that this new look will make it 'easier to showcase the diverse range of topics that the archive covers' and that the 'new catalogue interface has been developed to deliver a better user experience and enhanced searching abilities to discover over 13 million records in the archive'.

Using State Records' Online Resources Webinar

If you would like to learn more about how to use the new catalogue, State Records of South Australia is holding online information sessions. This webinar will be held on Wednesday, 10 May 2023 from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm. You can book a spot through this link: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/using-state-records-online-resources-webinar-tickets-541991770977



The Grand Embezzle-Off!

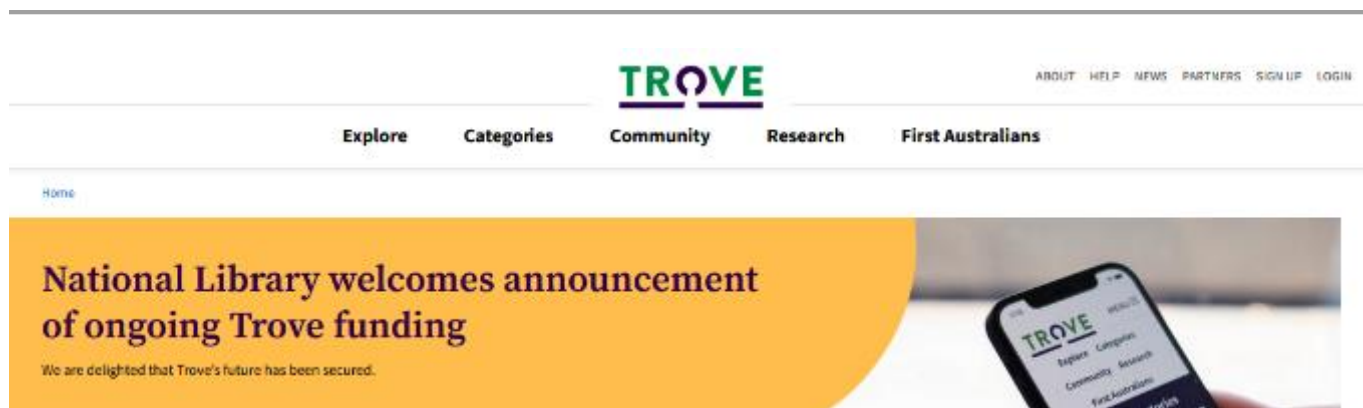
State Records of South Australia and National Archives of Australia are joining forces for a Grand Embezzle-Off! "Stories of theft and embezzlement of varying daring and value have been plucked from each institution's archive. Whose thieves have the most daring plan or the crime of the greatest value? Points will be awarded in each round of the embezzle off. Who will win? Come along and join us and you be the judge!" This event will be held in the Hetzel Lecture Theatre, State Library of South Australia on Friday, 19 May 2023 at 11:00 am. Book your place here: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-grand-embezzle-off-tickets-541987839217.

Archives Open!

The 'behind the scenes' tours of State Records of South Australia are all sold out! Watch out for repeats of this popular event www.eventbrite.com.au/e/archives-open-tickets-541990306597.

Grants Available for Digitisation of SA Community Newspapers

Great news from the State Library of South Australia's Community Newspaper Digitisation Project which is celebrating its first co-funding success story. Congratulations to all involved. The Port Lincoln History Group collaborated with the State Library of South Australia to co-fund the digitisation of the *Port Lincoln Times*, and issues from the years 1992 to 2002 are now available through Trove. We're looking forward to finding out which community newspaper will be selected for the second round of funding www.slsa.sa.gov.au/community-newspaper-digitisation-project.



Trove funding secured!

The nation rallied to the defence of Trove when it was announced that NAA funding for this popular service might be threatened.

In a media release on Monday, 3 April 2023 the Minister for the Arts, The Hon Tony Burke MP, along with the Minister for Finance, Katy Gallagher, announced that the 'Albanese Labor Government will secure the long-term future of Trove, one of Australia's most significant historical and cultural resources.' <https://minister.infrastructure.gov.au/burke/media-release/securing-future-trove>

The 2023-24 Federal Budget will deliver \$33 million in funding to the National Library of Australia over four years, as well as \$9.2 million in ongoing annual funding after that four year period. The National Library welcomed the announcement.

Records and Information Management Practitioners Alliance

RIMPA Live 2023

"Join the 2023 RIMPA Live convention and discover the power of managing records, information, and data. Unlock success through synergy with industry experts, educational sessions, and the latest technological innovations. The RIMPA Live Convention, now in its 38th year, serves as the main event for the RIMPA Global calendar, offering a unique opportunity for attendees to meet and connect with the movers and shakers of the records and information industry."

RIMPA Live 2023 will be held at the Queensland RACV Royal Pines Resort on the Gold Coast, 3–6 October 2023 www.rimpa.com.au/events/rimpa-live-2023.html

Australian Society of Archivists National Conference



**RISING 20
TO OUR 23
CHALLENGES**
ARCHIVES AT THE 'G'



The 2023 national conference with the title 'Rising to our challenges: Archives at the 'G' from 4 to 7 September 2023, drawing inspiration from the 'G' as the Melbourne Cricket Ground, an iconic Melbourne sporting venue and landmark on unceded Wurundjeri Country.

The Executive Committee

President:	Andrew Peake (agpeake@gmail.com)
Secretary:	Johanne Taylor (taylorjohanne@hotmail.com)
Treasurer:	Sandra Kearney (sandra.kearney@flinders.edu.au)
Membership:	Sandra Kearney (sandra.kearney@flinders.edu.au)
Newsletter Editor:	Heidi Ing (heidi.ing@flinders.edu.au)
Committee:	Amanda Wells (amanda.wells10@uon.edu.au)
Public Officer:	Andrew Peake (agpeake@gmail.com)

Contact the Friends

Email: Andrew Peake (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.

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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.