

August 2026

NEXT MEETING : Monday 17 August at 7.30pm

Our next meeting should be full of interest for those of you who had an involvement or interest in saving the historic 1883 Waite Gatehouse from demolition in the early 2020s. Our speaker will be Daniel Raschella who managed this rather unique heritage project to deconstruct, relocate and reconstruct this historic building to its present site on Claremont Ave, Urrbrae, where it is now in the grounds of the Waite Campus of the Adelaide University. Daniel's topic is ***Moving History: The Waite Gatehouse Relocation.***

For full details of the meeting please see the flyer on page 3.

This talk will also be of value to those attending our outing in September to Urrbrae House and environs (See details below)

SEPTEMBER MEETING: Monday 21 September at 7.30pm



Our September meeting will feature BHS Life Member Colin Harris who will speak on the topic, ***Oases in the Desert: the mound springs of Inland Australia***

Colin has had a long association with and a passion for the Mound Springs of Inland Australia, these oases in the desert. These natural outlets of Australia's Great Artesian Basin have been and still are of immense biological and cultural value. The indigenous Aboriginal people relied upon them, and they were of vital importance to the construction of the Overland Telegraph in the late 19thC. Colin recently returned from one of his regular trips "up north" and has new information to tell us about the future management of these vital springs.

BHS OUTING TO URRBRAE HOUSE AND ENVIRONS

Thursday 17 September 2026, 10.15am – 2.30pm

Bookings have opened for our next outing to Urrbrae House and its surrounds. **Information flyers** were available at the July meeting and were also emailed to all members on Wednesday 29 July. The outing will include a visit to the exterior of the relocated Waite Gatehouse, a guided tour of Urrbrae House (\$15 payable at time of booking), lunch at the adjacent Beltana café (own expense) and an afternoon self-guided tour of the beautiful Urrbrae House and Waite Campus gardens.



Bookings close on 3 September and can be made with payment of \$15 in cash at our August meeting or by phone and payment using EFT (details in the flyer).

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN WITH ROGER BILLS

A Visit to Broome and Keeping Records

Earlier this month Helen and I travelled to the Kimberley, starting in the town of Broome.

Naturally, history was one of our keen interests. We found that Broome owed much of its early development to the Japanese hard-hat pearl divers.

Broome was built on pearl shells - used for pearl buttons rather than pearls. In fact, at one stage the export of pearl shell from Broome was worth more than Australia's wool exports. Because the industry was so important, Broome residents were exempt from some provisions of the White Australia Policy.

Clearly there is far more to Broome than the little we were able to see. Yet without good records, much of Broome's history could easily have been lost. The thought that comes to my mind is this: how much history will disappear without adequate record keeping? Or, worse still, how much will be replaced by inaccurate information based on wishful or imaginative thinking? And what can we do to retain an accurate record?

I invite everyone to come to our August meeting, where Michelle Toft and Hannah Shaw, Burnside's Historical & Cultural Officers, will be given two collections for the Local History Room:

- recordings of early BHS meetings that have now been digitised from the original cassette tapes and CDs; and
- approximately 200 images created from carefully preserved glass negatives offered to us by Genealogy SA.

The images were taken between 1905 and 1915 by Charles Henry Fraser who acquired a camera and photographed scenes and people in and around Glen Osmond. This record provides a remarkable glimpse of the district as it appeared more than a century ago.

Here in Burnside, the Burnside Historical Society is committed to accurately recording and preserving our local history before it evaporates into the mists of time.

REPORTS ON MEETINGS & OUTINGS: THE NEW PLAN

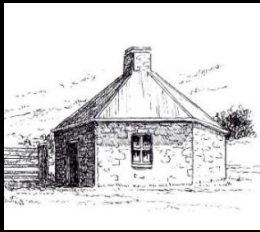
As a result of the loss of our Annual Journal which carried detailed reports of our yearly activities, some of our members have volunteered to prepare detailed reports of our meetings and outings. The original plan was for these reports to be emailed with each Bulletin but separate from it. It has been suggested that these reports might be added into the Bulletin. This should be more convenient for members who can now just download one document (the Bulletin) instead of several. This month's Bulletin includes two reports;

1. July Meeting with its topic: *Kangaroo Island before Colonisation*, with the report from Helen Bills
2. BHS visit to Parliament House, with the report from Derk Bransbury

These reports follow on pages 4-7 of this Bulletin. Thanks Helen and Derek for providing such comprehensive reports of these two events.



**Relaxing in Broome
That's President Roger on the
left!**



Burnside Historical Society

Active in the Burnside Community for 46 years

AUGUST 2026 Meeting

Moving History: The Waite Gatehouse Relocation

Monday 17 August @ 7.30pm

**Burnside Community Centre Hall, (adjacent to Burnside Library)
401 Greenhill Road, Tasmore, enter off Fisher Street**

TOPIC The Waite Gatehouse, built in 1883–84 and State-Heritage listed, was relocated as part of the Cross



Road and Fullarton Road intersection upgrade. Rather than losing an historic landmark, the building was carefully deconstructed, each stone catalogued and rebuilt one kilometre away beside Urrbrae House. This talk will share how engineers, heritage specialists and trades worked together to preserve its fabric, manage complex stakeholders and balance heritage values with major infrastructure demands. Attendees will see images from every stage and learn how a 19th-century building was authentically rebuilt for future generations.

OUR SPEAKER Daniel Raschella is a Project Director with more than 28 years' experience delivering complex infrastructure, heritage and engineering projects across government and industry. As Director of Ispira Pty Ltd, he specialises in heritage-sensitive project management, stakeholder engagement and major capital works. Daniel led the full deconstruction, relocation and reconstruction of the State-Heritage-listed Waite Gatehouse, working closely with Heritage SA, conservation specialists and the Department for Infrastructure and Transport.



VISITORS - a \$2 cash donation is appreciated

Further information



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REPORT ON BHS OUTING TO PARLIAMENT HOUSE ON 8 JULY 2026

Report and photos from Derek Bransbury



On a cold, brisk but fine morning a group of BHS members gathered at 9.30am on the steps of Parliament House. We took our morning exercise walking up and down the steps of Parliament House a couple of times before finding an open door. Once through the airport style security and into the impressive three storey high entrance hall, we were warmly greeted by Jack Batty and his personal assistant also known as Jack. Jack Batty then took us through several corridors to the original Parliament House of 1855 which was used by the Legislative Council.

Jack explained that in 1856 the Constitution Act created a bicameral parliament of South Australia with the Legislative Council sharing Parliament House with the House of Assembly. This first bicameral parliament of South Australia was elected on the 9 March 1857. Boyle Travers Finniss was the first Premier

of South Australia when Parliament first sat on the 22 April 1857. In 1889 the West Wing of a new Parliament house was opened for the House of Assembly. (at right) The East Wing of the New Parliament House for the Legislative Council was not completed until 1939, and they continued to use the 1855 building until then.



Jack Batty took us back into the new House of Parliament and to the House of Assembly chamber. He gave us an excellent talk and demonstration of the purpose and procedures of the House of Assembly. Jack explained that the procedures, layout, and the colour scheme of green were based on the House of Commons in London. This included the rows of seats on either side, a dais at the head with the

Ceremonial Mace and a sword, seating for the Speaker who ensures that members follow the correct procedures, a clerk to advise on the rules and procedures and a ceremonial Serjeant at Arms to support the speaker.

Behind the speaker are the Hansard clerks who record proceedings and media. This traditional layout has government always to the right of the speaker and the opposition to the left. They are separated by a green carpeted area wide enough, as Jack demonstrated, that two people on opposing sides with a sword in their hand could not touch the other. There are 47 members of the House of Assembly, each elected by secret ballot using the preferential system of voting and counting. The party with the most seats forms the government. Ministers of the government sit opposite the shadow ministers of the opposition. There are strict rules for speaking; each member takes turns until all members who wish to speak can give input. When voting on a Bill, members simultaneously say aye or nay to indicate their voting intention with the speaker deciding on the majority by the voices. If a member disagrees with the result, then they can ask for a division. Three minutes is given with bells to alert members to attend the Chamber, then the door is locked for the physical vote to take place, one vote per member.

Opposite the speaker are the crossbenches and above them the public gallery. The whole procedure is recorded live and broadcast over the internet for anyone to watch.

Jack Batty then took us to the Legislative Council chamber. It is the same size and layout as the House of Assembly but a red colour. Procedures are similar to the House of Assembly, but the Speaker's position is called the President, and the Serjeant of Arms is called the Usher of the Black Rod. Members are voted in by proportional representation with a term of eight years with half the seats vacated every four years. This results in more minor parties being elected and there tends to be lots of wheeling and dealing to pass legislation.



There are three stages of a Bill which can be raised by either house. If passed in the house it is raised in, it goes to the other house for a second reading. If not passed it may be referred to a committee for further investigation and discussion. Once Bills are passed by both Chambers, it is sent to the Governor for formal assent. Jack commented that although the media tends to report on the differences between members, their relationship regardless of party affiliation, is overall collegial and friendly.



Jack then arranged a special visit to the South Australian Parliamentary Library, and we were welcomed by Director Dr John Weste. Established in 1854, it is the oldest library in SA and provides research and information to sitting members of Parliament and their staff. It includes a vault with very rare and old books. The library has over 80,000 books as well as maps, globes of the world, Australian national and regional newspapers, Hansard tomes, copies of the

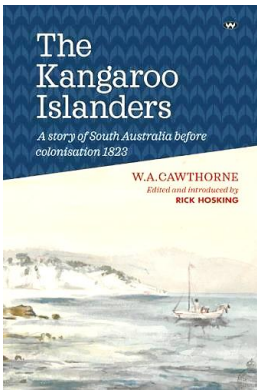
Magna Carta and other constitutional publications both British and Australian.

We were farewelled by Jack Batty, and we unanimously agreed that he gave us a friendly, engaging, and informative behind the scenes tour of the history and procedures of the South Australian Parliament.

We concluded our enjoyable and informative outing with coffee and lunch at The Guardsman restaurant on the concourse of the nearby Adelaide Railway Station.



BHS MEETING REPORT: Monday 20 July
Topic: Kangaroo Island before colonisation. Speaker: Dr Rick Hosking
Reporter: Helen Bills

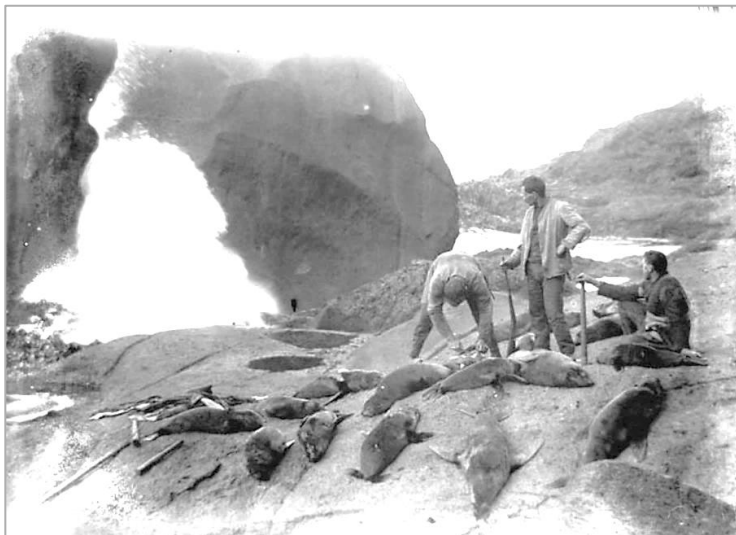


Dr Rick Hosking, a retired academic from Flinders University, where he taught English and Australian Studies gave a fascinating presentation to the 64 members and visitors at the July meeting of the BHS about Kangaroo Island before Colonisation.

He drew information from William Cawthorne's colonial novel, *The Kangaroo Islanders*, which was written in the mid-1850s before any official or more orthodox history of the South Australian colony had appeared and is considered one of the best sources of information about Kangaroo Island from 1802 – 1836. Cawthorne's novel provided fleeting glimpses of some of the improvisational and interactive encounters between the colonisers and the colonised on the edges of the island continent.

Cawthorne's father was a sea captain, and when he did not get the job with the South Australia Company, he went back to sea as a whaler. In 1850 Captain Cawthorne took over the newly established lighthouse, the Sturt Light at Cape Willoughby on Kangaroo Island. This is why his son came to visit Kangaroo Island (KI) so often. It was there he heard all about the sealing history of KI.

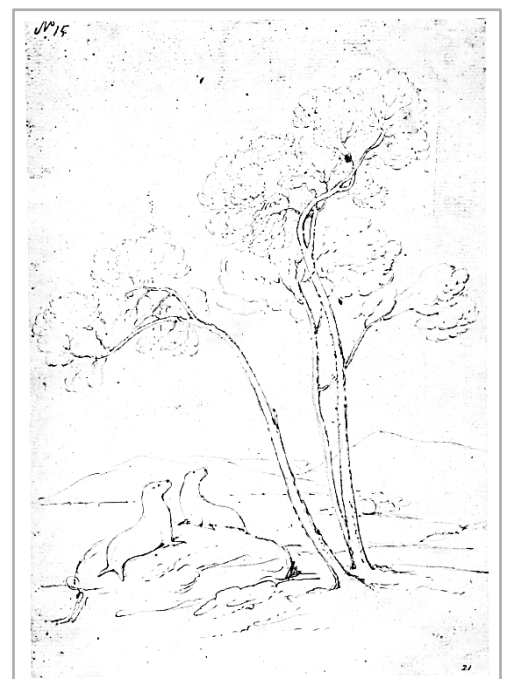
In the eighteenth century, fashionable hats were made from pelts created from the skins of aquatic mammals. At first beaver skins were used, but when they became scarce by the end of the eighteenth century, Englishmen John Batteridge pioneered treating sealskin to make hats.



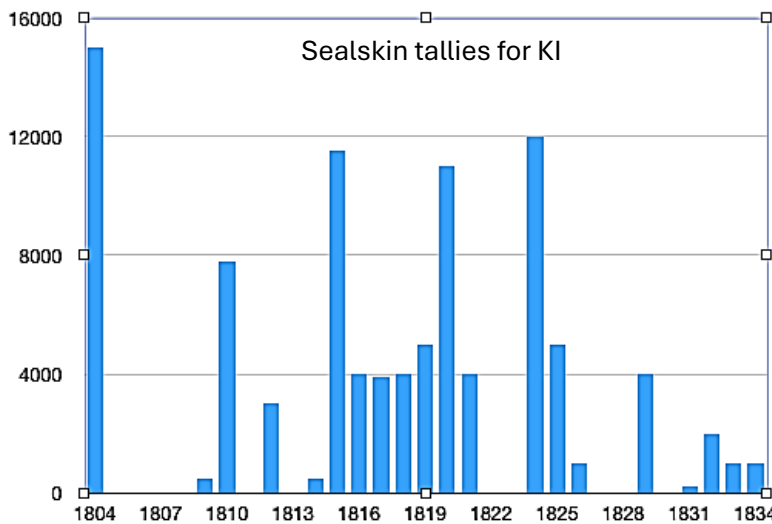
A rare photograph c. 1930

Matthew Flinders confirmed the plentiful seal populations in the Furneaux Group of islands. The first sealers (and oilers) came from Sydney, sailing south to Bass Strait. records show that information and charts about the sealing opportunities around KI was provided by members of the Baudin expedition to the American sealer Captain Pendleton in Western Australia in 1803. Pendleton returned to Kangaroo Island to fish for seals, wintering at what is now called American River and building the *Independence*. He and his crew left KI for Sydney with 6,000 skins. Between 1795—1830 seals were hunted almost to the edge of extinction on most mainland beaches and offshore islands.

Rick also gave a fascinating account of how sealing played a significant role in the early economic development of colonial Australia and was Australia's first export. In 1798, explorer George Bass noted the abundance of seals around Wilsons Promontory, leading to the naming of 'Sealers Cove'. That same year,



William Westall's drawing of Kangaroo Island seals, 1802: Westall sailed with

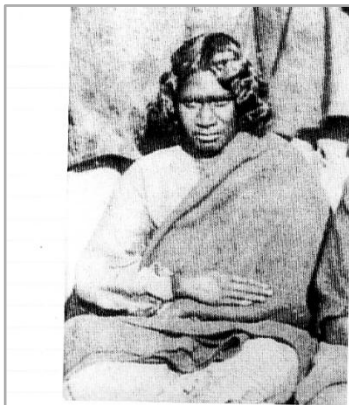


By the 1820s, sealing was largely carried out by small gangs of hunters, often operating in remote areas.

There were two sealing seasons: December-January when breeding adults were killed and April to June when post moult yearlings were taken in their prime, first adult-type pelage. (McNab 1909).

Around 1853 Cawthorne wrote what was probably the third novel to be written in South Australia, *The Islanders*, which was later republished in 1926 as *The Kangaroo*

Islanders. The novel gives information about the sealers who lived on KI before settlement, naming more than half a dozen of them. It is also a source of information about the Indigenous women who lived with them. A number of Palawa (Tasmanian) women who lived on KI until the 1860s and 1870s, included Truganini's sister Maggerlede.



Nellie Ramayemmering
Aboriginal woman from Kangaroo Island
ph. taken at Adelaide
Mother of Eliza Wilkins
who was Social Anthropologist to
the Royal Society & the British Museum



A night scene in the bush, Kangaroo Island in 1839, with an Aboriginal and European group, drawn by W.H. Leigh.

One of the Aboriginal women living on KI Cawthorne does not name is a Ngarrindjeri woman called Manalto, aka Martha/Mary Manalto Wilkins. 'Manalto'/Monarto means 'fourth born'. She was born about 1815 in the Lake Alexandrina area.

According to the plaque at the Contemplation Seat at Frenchmans Rock. Penneshaw, Kangaroo Island,



"This is a place to sit and think about a little-known period of Australian history. Between Flinders' and Baudin's visits to Kangaroo Island, in 1802 and 1803, and the establishment of the first 'official' settlement on KI at Reeves Point in 1836, the island was occupied by sealers, whalers, free convicts and former sailors. Sealers were known to abduct Aboriginal women from the mainland and Tasmania and

force them to work trapping and skinning wallabies and hunting seals for trading. Aboriginal women were important, not just as partners, but were significant contributors to the economic growth of the region. The number of aboriginal women brought to KI will never be known. There are no detailed records of arrivals and departures before 1836. In 1841, the first census of South Australia, listed 13 "native women and children" living on KI out of a population of 90."

Information and images sourced from Dr Rick Hosking's PowerPoint presentation and used with permission