

History Council of South Australia

2025 Annual General Meeting

The Historian Hotel, 15th October 2025. 6PM – 7.30PM

1. Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, and Apologies

The meeting was opened at 6.13 pm by President, Professor Matthew Fitzpatrick, with a Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country, Kurna Yerta.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous AGM

Motion: That the minutes of the previous AGM be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Ron Slee **Seconded:** David Sweet **Carried.**

3. President's Report

The President's Report (attached) was presented.

David Sweet, retiring as Vice President, added remarks noting that he had learnt a great deal about the practice of history in South Australia and the ways in which the Council makes history "alive." He expressed appreciation for the collegiality and positive atmosphere of the meetings, the Council's growing engagement with regional areas, and the collective strength of the HCSA community. He thanked members and affiliated organisations for their contributions and support, describing his time on the Council as a great learning experience.

Members endorsed official thanks to David Sweet, and Matt Fitzpatrick offered a token gift of thanks for David's service to the committees.

Motion: That the President's Report be accepted.

Moved: Gillian Dooley **Seconded:** Heidi Ing **Carried.**

Members offered a collective "hear, hear" to acknowledge:

- Lainie Anderson for her work preparing media releases,
- Andrew Buxton for his role as Social Media Officer, and
- Amanda Wells for organising the Riverland regional event.

4. Treasurer's Report and Appointment of Auditor

Financial Report as at 30 June 2025

Bank SA Term Deposit \$25,000.00



Bank SA General Cheque Account \$3,718.07

Bank SA Gift Account \$3,435.23

Total Current Balances at Bank \$32,153.30

The overall difference between the end of year balances for 2023-24 and 2024-25 is \$7,650. Much of this is due to \$6,000 in total payments to Wakefield Press to publish *Nooks and Crannies*.

Revenue:

- In 2023-24, there were some unusual receipts, which were not replicated this year. We received \$6,000 in direct donations: \$2,000 to publish *Nooks and Crannies*, \$1,000 towards the 2024 Fellowship grants, and \$3,000 from the Marsden Szwarcbord Foundation direct to the Gift Account.

Expenditure:

- If we exclude the payment to publish *Nooks and Crannies*, expenses were down in 2024-25, primarily due to the fact that we have not yet paid the 2025 Fellow their grant of \$2,000.

As of 30 June 2025, we were also waiting on \$2,500 from the State Library. \$1,000 for the 2023 Fellowship contribution, as well as \$500 for two year's membership fees (2023-24 and 2024-25). State Records also owed \$250 for their 2023-24 membership. These have all since been paid.

Members expressed appreciation to the Treasurer for resolving the SLSA account payment.

Motion: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Moved: Lainie Anderson **Seconded:** Greg Slattery **Carried.**

2025-2026 Budget

Projected operating budget for 2025-26 financial year, which shows a \$2,300 shortfall (see attached).

As the State Library has now paid \$2,750 owing for membership fees and Fellowship contributions, this will cover the shortfall for this financial year, but we need to look at how to address this ongoing issue for future years.

Appointment of Auditor for 2025-26

Under the HCSA constitution, there is a requirement to appoint an auditor each year – although this is not a legal requirement. As the History Council’s accounts have never been audited, I propose we have someone look at them to make sure we’re meeting all our legal requirements.

I have received a quote of \$250 plus GST from Jenny Norris-Green, a partner with chartered accountants Harradine Norris Green.

Motion: That the History Council appoints Jenny Norris-Green as auditor for the financial year 2025-26.

Moved: Carmel Pascale **Seconded:** Lainie Anderson **Carried.**

Discussion points on HCSA finances included:

- Royalties from *Nooks and Crannies*: Gillian Dooley asked for clarification. Lainie Anderson and Carmel Pascale will follow up with Michael Bollen.
- Term Deposits: Matt Fitzpatrick enquired about investment options. Carmel Pascale will investigate options before the end of the financial year.
- Book Sales: Ron Slee asked how many copies had been sold. Lainie Anderson and Carmel Pascale will confirm with Michael Bollen.

5. Membership Report

Memberships for 2024-25: 94 members plus 9 ‘**honorary**’ members (7 Historian Award Winners, Newsletter Editor and former Social Media Officer)

- Individual (including concession): **48** (9 being concession)
- Small Organisations: **40** – 19 to date for 2025-2026
- Medium Organisations: **2**
- Large Organisations: **4** – History Trust, Adelaide Uni, UniSA, State Records, Flinders University (State Library had not counted as they had not paid a subscription)

Income for 2024-25 memberships is \$4,385, received over three financial years, as follows:

- \$295 received during 2023-24
- \$3,560 received during 2024-25
- \$530 received during 2024-26

Total Deductible Donations received from 1/7/2024 to 30/6/2025: **\$960.60**

Motion: That the Membership Report be accepted.

Moved: Carmel Pascale **Seconded:** Andrew Peake **Carried.**

Proposed increase to membership fees for 2026-27

At its meeting on 15 September 2025, the Executive Committee endorsed the following changes to membership subscriptions for 2026-27.

- Individual – from \$30 to \$40
- Individual Concession – from \$25 to \$35
- Small organisations – from \$30 to \$60 – *amended to \$50 at AGM*
- Medium organisations – from \$100 to \$120
- Large organisations – from \$250 to \$270

This increase is the first time the History Council has changed its subscriptions since its inception more than 20 years ago.

The increase is needed so that the Council can continue to meet its annual budget.

Discussion:

- David Sweet suggested that the increase presents a marketing opportunity, and that it should be well-promoted in advance to minimise negative reactions.
- Karen Agutter queried the rationale for the 100% increase for small corporate members, noting that some smaller organisations have only a few members or limited revenue. Karen and other agreed that it may seem uneven to have such a large increase for small organisations as compared to the large organisations.
- Members agreed on the need to define what constitutes a ‘small’ organisation, potentially by member numbers or annual revenue.
- Gillian Dooley suggested conducting a member survey to gather more information on member organisation sizes (including membership and income), and Amanda Wells expressed agreement.

Motion: That the new membership fee structure be adopted, pending publication of definitions for ‘small’, ‘medium’, and ‘large’ corporate members.

Moved: Carmel Pascale **Seconded:** Lainie Anderson **Carried.**

6. Election of Office Bearers and General Committee Members

As the number of nominations did not exceed the number of available positions, all candidates were endorsed by the meeting.

President (2025–2027): Matt Fitzpatrick

Moved: Karen Agutter **Seconded:** Gillian Dooley **Carried.**

Vice President (2025–2026): Lainie Anderson

Moved: Bernie O’Neil

Seconded: Ron Slee

Carried.

All General Committee nominees were endorsed by the meeting.

7. Special Resolutions

Banking Proposals:

With the election of the new committee, we will need new signatories for the bank accounts. Since we require two people to authorise any transactions, it is a good idea to have at least three signatories on the accounts, so for 2025-26, I propose these should be the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. The bank requires a signed copy of these minutes with the names and positions of these.

Motion: I move that Matthew Fitzpatrick as President, Lainie Anderson as Vice President, Carmel Pascale as Treasurer and Amanda Wells as Secretary be made signatories on the History Council of South Australia’s bank accounts.

Moved: Carmel Pascale

Seconded: David Sweet

Carried.

I further propose that the History Council registers for online banking, where two people would be required to authorise any transactions.

Motion: I move that Matthew Fitzpatrick as President, Lainie Anderson as Vice President, Carmel Pascale as Treasurer and Amanda Wells as Secretary be authorised to conduct online banking transactions for the History Council of South Australia.

Moved: Carmel Pascale

Seconded: Christine Schoepf

Carried.

8. General Business

Social Media and Newsletter Report

Andrew Buxton’s written report (attached) highlighted positive engagement, particularly on Facebook, and strong overall traction across social channels.

Special thanks were extended to Jess Fairey for her ongoing support.

The Council’s e-newsletter will continue to be published on the third Thursday of each month, and members were encouraged to submit news, events, and updates to the Secretary for inclusion.

9. Meeting Close

The meeting closed at 7.04 pm.

President's Report

As I finish my first term, the History Council appears to be in good shape, thanks primarily to the hard work of the executive and general committees, as well as important volunteers.

Our flagship events were a success this year. The History Prizes awards were well subscribed and were an integral part of the SA History Festival's final event. Importantly, it was also the occasion of the launch of the History Council's own book, *Nooks and Crannies*, which was launched by Kiera Lindsey, SA's History Advocate and History Council member.

While numbers were slightly down on last year for our fellow's lecture, we had only 1/3 the number of speakers and none from metropolitan Adelaide. Those that attended were extremely impressed by David Reilly's discussion of the history of date palms in Australia. He also set a new benchmark by bringing project related snacks in the form of a box of dates.

This year's regional lecture and associated events in Renmark were a huge success, with very good numbers and highly positive feedback. Craig Westell's keynote was very well received and there were clear signs of networking and planning between local and metropolitan organisations during the breaks and at the dinner.

In terms of advocacy, the History Council was involved, alongside Susan Marsden and others in efforts to obtain some state government assistance for Wakefield Press. We also weighed in on the question of the Jobs Ready Graduate legislation that is choking history enrolments in tertiary institutions, as well as writing to ANU about its plans to restructure history there, most notably by making savage cuts to the Australian Dictionary of Biography, which is highly treasured by all of us working in history. A special thankyou to Lainie Anderson, whose deft management of our press releases and comms has offered a real element of professionalism to my own amateurish efforts.

Without stealing too much of the thunder of Carmel and others, I just wanted to signal that we're also in the process of updating and modernising our accounts and communications, moving towards electronic transactions with the bank and streamlining our newsletter to make it monthly, and takes some of the pressure off the fantastic Jess, who continues to manage it.

Our social media presence, particularly on Facebook has also become far more noticeable, with Andrew Buxton overseeing that, making sure that nobody forgets about the History Council or the events of its members. Although Andrew has stepped away from the History Council for now, he has agreed to continue to manage our Facebook footprint, which is great news.

I also want to thank again David Sweet, our long-serving Vice President for his efforts. And thanks again to all of the members of the General and Executive committees for not merely turning up, but for being so committed and involved. In particular our treasurer Carmel and our secretary Amanda have kept things running as I move in and out of impossibly busy periods. Thanks as well to all of our partner bodies – whether large partners like the universities, the History Trust, the State Library, or smaller organisations who continue to support us as we go about the business of keeping history and history related matters in the public eye.

History Council of South Australia Inc.
Financial Statement as at 30 June 2025

FINANCIAL POSITION - TOTAL ASSETS

	30 June 2024	30 June 2025
Bank SA Term Deposit	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
Bank SA General Cheque Account	\$5,484.93	\$3,718.07
Bank SA Gift Account	\$9,319.25	\$3,435.23
Total Current Balances at Bank	\$39,804.18	\$32,153.30

REVENUE & EXPENSES

1/7/2023 to 30/6/2024 1/7/2024 to 30/6/2025

Revenue		
Membership subscriptions for 2023-2024	3,800.00	0.00
Membership subscriptions for 2024-2025	295.00	3,560.00
Membership subscriptions for 2025-2026	0.00	1,700.00
Tax deductible donations received	890.00	960.50
Donation for Nooks & Crannies publication	2,000.00	0.00
Donation for 2024 Fellowship	1,000.00	0.00
SLSA – 2024 Fellowship contribution	1,000.00	0.00
Interest - Term Deposit	837.50	1,253.42
Fraud - December 2023	9,850.00	0.00
General Account revenue	19,672.50	7,473.92
Membership Subs paid to Gift Account	299.00	0.00
Donations received direct to Gift Account	3,000.00	0.00
Gift Account revenue	3,299.00	0.00
Total revenue	\$22,971.50	\$7,473.92
Expenses		
Stripe Fees on Credit Card Receipts	77.26	80.88
Secretary's honorarium	2,250.00	3,000.00
HCSA Fellowship	3,000.00	0.00
Events	3,142.16	781.20
PO Box & Administration	296.00	15.20
Email & Website	785.84	253.00
Gifts	180.00	0.00
Wakefield Press - Nooks & Crannies publication	0.00	6,000.00
Fraud - December 2023	9,850.00	0.00
General Account expenses	19,581.26	10,130.28
Secretary's honorarium	0.00	750.00
Events	0.00	3,028.90
Email & Website	0.00	730.72

Gifts	0.00	179.90
PO Box & Administration	0.00	305.00
Gift Account expenses	0.00	4,994.52
Total expenses	\$19,581.26	\$15,124.80
Difference - Revenue & Expenses	\$3,390.24	-\$7,650.88

GENERAL CHEQUE ACCOUNT RECONCILIATION

	1/7/2023 to 30/6/2024	1/7/2024 to 30/6/2025
Revenue	9,053.69	5,484.93
Donations transferred from Gift Account for book	19,672.50	7,473.92
Less Expenses	0.00	2,000.00
Less Donations transferred to Gift Account Balance	-19,581.26	-10,130.28
	-3,660.00	-1,110.50
	\$5,484.93	\$3,718.07

GIFT ACCOUNT RECONCILIATION

	1/7/2023 to 30/6/2024	1/7/2024 to 30/6/2025
Opening balance	2,360.00	9,319.25
Revenue	3,299.00	0.00
Donations transferred from General Account	3,660.00	1,110.50
Bank remediation on fraud activity	0.25	0.00
Less Donations transferred to General Account	0.00	-2,000.00
Less Expenses	0.00	-4,994.52
Balance	\$9,319.25	\$3,435.23