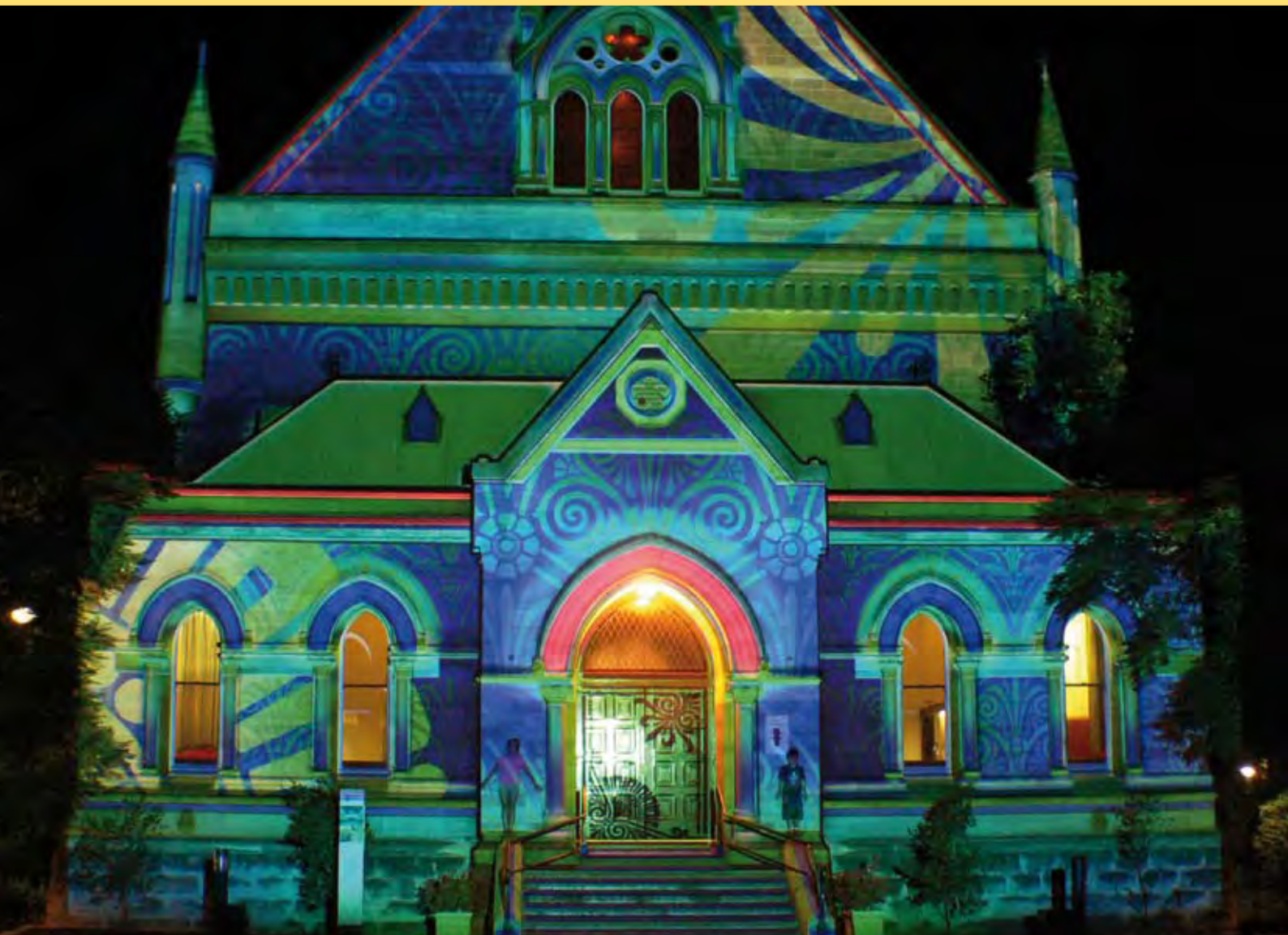


# HERITAGE SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER



Edition 32

March 2008

Department  
for Environment  
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Front Cover: Elder Hall gets the Electric Canvas treatment as part of the 2008 Adelaide Bank Festival of Arts, one of six iconic North Terrace heritage buildings participating in the 'Northern Lights' event.

Photo: D. Metin

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For further information please contact:

The Editor, Heritage South Australia Newsletter  
GPO Box 1047, Adelaide, SA 5001

Telephone: (08) 8124 4947

Facsimile: (08) 8124 4980

Email: [baxter.lyn@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:baxter.lyn@saugov.sa.gov.au)

[www.heritage.sa.gov.au](http://www.heritage.sa.gov.au)

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# MINISTER'S UPDATE



Anniversaries give us the chance to reflect both on how far we've come, and the road ahead. In 2008 we celebrate two

significant anniversaries for heritage in this State.

The 1960s and 70s saw a swell of community interest and activity in preserving South Australia's heritage. The demolition of the South Australian Hotel and the eleventh-hour rescue of the ANZ Bank, King William St (now Edmund Wright House) concentrated public attention on the issue of built heritage and the need for it to be actively protected and managed. The government responded with the State's first comprehensive built heritage legislation, the *South Australian Heritage Act 1978*, which this year celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This legislation, which was significantly updated in 1993 and 2005, and is now known as the *Heritage Places Act 1993*, has been crucial to the care and protection of our precious heritage.

This year also marks the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Heritage Advisory Service. The first service was established in Burra in 1987. From modest beginnings the service has since expanded to cover almost half of the 68 local council areas across the State. The strength of the service lies in it providing face to face advice to heritage owners through a network of part-time heritage advisers jointly funded by State and Local Government.

The expansion of the service is part of the government's Heritage Directions strategy. A celebratory brochure to bring you up to date on all aspects of the service is included with this newsletter.

Anniversaries of our unique heritage places also deserve to be celebrated. In this issue we highlight two State Heritage Places marking significant anniversaries in 2008; the 'Boy and Serpent' Fountain in the Adelaide Botanic Garden (100<sup>th</sup> anniversary), and B Division cell block of Yatala Labour Prison (150<sup>th</sup> anniversary).

2007 was the fifth anniversary of DEH's Schools Heritage Competition. It was a joy and truly inspiring to be part of the presentation ceremony. Keith Conlon was on hand to remind us in his inimitable fashion that delving into the stories behind our heritage is interesting and fun. He was quite happy to admit that even he – a self-confessed 'heritage freak' whose job it is to sniff out interesting stories – learnt new things about SA's heritage through being involved in the 2007 competition. The way that students embrace and interpret the heritage of their local communities is inspirational and makes it clear that heritage and history is embraced across the generations. Have a look online at some of the wonderful entries – see page 17 of this newsletter for the web address and winners' details.

This year DEH is a proud supporter of the extremely successful SA History Week, to be held 16-25 May (another 5-year anniversary!) Each year the History Trust of SA does a magnificent job coordinating and promoting a packed program of events that showcases SA's history and heritage, making it easy for everyone to get involved. Be sure to keep an eye out for Open Doors – your chance to take a peek inside some of our special heritage buildings and sites – by checking the Trust's website [www.history.sa.gov.au](http://www.history.sa.gov.au) closer to the time.

And finally, looking even further to the future, anniversaries are not just about reminiscing; they are also about opportunities. In 2011 South Australia will celebrate the terquasquicentenary (175<sup>th</sup> anniversary) of white settlement. Together with other organisations, the South Australian Heritage Council (SAHC) is determined to make the most of this anniversary as a springboard for heritage-related projects that will be of lasting benefit and enjoyment for all South Australians.

**Hon Gail Gago**  
**Minister for Environment and Conservation**



## SIR HUBERT WILKINS MEMORIAL HOMESTEAD



Lew Owens

*Lew Owens is a member of the SA Heritage Council. He is a former President of the National Trust of SA, and member of the Pioneers Association. He has a strong interest in mining history and was instrumental in the erection of the oil drilling rig at Salt Creek to record the location of the first drilling for oil in Australia in the 1860s. He is currently the Chief Executive of ETSA Utilities.*

I am a Broken Hill boy, born and bred there, so you might expect my favourite heritage place would have something to do with South Australia's rich mining history. But it is something quite different.

As you drive back from Broken Hill to Adelaide, there is a signpost just before Mt Bryan (near Hallett) to my favourite heritage place, the Sir Hubert Wilkins Memorial homestead. I see it as a monument to the early settlers who, like my own family, moved northwards in the 1870s and struggled against all the odds to make a living through times of drought and economic depressions – and to the inspiration and achievements of the generations that followed.

Wilkins' father (Henry, called Harry) was born in 1837 in Glenelg. After working in the Victorian goldfields, the Flinders Ranges and Victor Harbor, he moved to Mt Bryan in the early 1870s as a farmer, following the opening up of the northern lands in the wake of the 1869 Waste Lands Amendment (Strangways) Act which allowed the sale of some land on credit. George Hubert Wilkins was born in 1888, the last of 13 children, and experienced throughout his childhood on the farm the terrible droughts of the 1890s which drove many to ruin.

The Owens side of my family had a similar story: Great-grandfather Patrick was born in Hindmarsh in 1840 and moved around the Colony before settling at Two Wells as a farmer in 1876. Lack of rain forced him to move the family north to Minburra and then Silverton, before finally moving to Broken Hill in the early 1890s, where my family turned to mining and railways to escape the drought.

The Lewis side of my family, like Henry Wilkins' father, were publicans, and from the late 1870s ran the Hallett (more often known as the Willogoleech or Wildongoleeche) Hotel, just next door to Mt Bryan and the Wilkins farm (but they were Methodists, so I doubt they frequented the pub!). Indeed, much of the history of my (and my wife's) families is centred around the Flinders and northern towns like Laura, Clare, Hallett, and the Hill – frontier towns so important in the history of South Australia.

Hubert Wilkins escaped the drought by moving to Adelaide in 1907 where he briefly studied at the Elder Conservatorium and the School of Mines and Industries (without ever sitting for an exam). However, he became interested in motion pictures and after a brief stint of showing movies in country towns, left Port Adelaide as a stowaway in 1908 bound for the United Kingdom. His life thereafter is an amazing story which I cannot do justice to (see the references to obtain the full account).

Wilkins learnt to fly planes (he never had a licence) and air balloons, using them to take movie pictures of battles from 1912 in the Balkans. He became

involved in Arctic exploration in 1914, walking thousands of kilometres and saving other lost explorers. In World War One, he went to France as an Australian official war photographer, was wounded several times and received the Military Cross on two occasions for bravery.

Following the War, he entered the England to Australia Air Race (but crashed in Crete), participated in several Antarctic expeditions as photographer and naturalist, led the British Museum's northern Australia natural history expedition in 1923-5, made the first trans-Arctic flight in 1928 (and was subsequently knighted), circumnavigated the globe by airship in 1929, attempted to go under the Arctic ice to the North Pole by submarine (but failed – the feat was finally achieved by the US Navy in 1958), managed a number of Antarctic expeditions from 1933-9, and was a consultant to the US Army from 1942 on arctic warfare.

He received many honours over the years and recognition from scientific societies for his work in the fields of climatology, meteorology and geography. He single-handedly pursued the objective of establishing weather stations around the globe (and particularly in the Arctic and Antarctic) to forecast weather and droughts – an objective that must have related to his early experiences on the Mt Bryan farm. He visited the farm just before his death in 1958 – his ashes being scattered in the Arctic Ocean above the North Pole by the US Navy (as were his wife's ashes some years later).

Why do I rank this obscure and remote restored homestead as my favourite



Sir Hubert Wilkins Memorial Homestead (2001). Image courtesy of Len Wilkins.

heritage place? After all, Wilkins only lived there for 18 years and all his remarkable achievements occurred well away from Mt Bryan. The reason is this: it is a monument to the human spirit, to the struggling settlers, to the ability to do the impossible, to the urge to try new things, to go beyond one's capabilities and experiences and to chart a better world. Wilkins grew up in the heat and drought, yet he spent most of his life researching snow and the importance of the Poles on our weather. He was ahead of his time in the study of climate and global warming. This place is a monument to a little known South Australian (a plaque has finally been placed on the North Terrace footpath in 2008), who like so many others, made a difference to the world around him.

## Lew Owens

Editor's note: Wilkins' Hut is not a State Heritage Place, due to the degree of reconstruction it required to return it to its present condition. Dick Smith ran a campaign to preserve it some years ago through the *Australian Geographic* magazine.

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## 30 YEARS OF HERITAGE ACTS – WHERE TO NOW?

Anniversaries provide a good excuse to pause and take stock. This article briefly outlines some of the fundamental features of the heritage system developed over the last 30 years, but its principal focus is on current initiatives, on why heritage conservation is important, and some thoughts on the way ahead. Readers interested in the historical context for the growth of the conservation movement in South Australia should refer to the author's article in the July 2003 *Heritage South Australia Newsletter*, available via the Publications & Resources page of the DEH Heritage website <[www.heritage.sa.gov.au](http://www.heritage.sa.gov.au)>.

South Australia's first legislation to comprehensively address the protection and management of the State's built heritage, the *South Australian Heritage Act 1978*, was assented to on 6 April 1978 and proclaimed on Thursday 6 July. Among other things it established a Register of State Heritage Items, a State Heritage Fund, and a 12 member SA Heritage Committee which advised the Minister on the expenditure of the Fund and on what items should be entered in the Register. The Act was committed to the Minister for the Environment and a Heritage Unit was established in the Department for the Environment to administer the Act and support the Heritage Committee.

All these fundamentals are still in place, albeit with some changes in terminology and/or roles. There is now a South Australian Heritage Register, a SA Heritage Fund, a SA Heritage Council with listing powers as well as an advisory role, and a Heritage Branch located in the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH). In addition, the proclamation of the *Development Act 1993* on 15 January 1994 provided for the listing and management of places of *local* rather than State significance.

## What has been achieved?

Statistics can provide a crude measure. There are now over 2200 State Heritage Places entered in the SA Heritage Register and more than 6300 Local Heritage Places listed in Councils' Development Plans. The Regional

Heritage Survey Program commenced by the then Heritage Conservation Branch in 1981 and the many surveys commissioned by local councils and other bodies provide a very useful overview of the State's built heritage. Over 200 of these heritage surveys are held in the Heritage Branch's Library, which also contains almost 300 Conservation Management Plans for individual buildings. The free advisory services provided by Heritage Branch architects to owners of State Heritage Places have, since 1987, been supplemented by a steadily increasing number of Heritage Advisers serving local council areas. Together they currently comment on over 700 Development Applications affecting State Heritage Places, including places within State Heritage Areas, every year, while the Advisers also provide a similar service for local heritage places.



Edmund Wright House (2008). The narrowly averted demolition of this building (the former ANZ Bank, King William St) in the 1970s highlighted the need to protect and manage our built heritage.

What has been achieved by legislation is only part of the story however. Since the 1970s increasing numbers of citizens have been restoring and/or conserving their homes, regardless of whether they're heritage listed, reflecting a growing community interest in preserving older houses, neighbourhood character and amenity. The related growth of interest in history more

generally is evidenced by a doubling in number of the State's museums and historical societies from around 150 in 1980 to more than 300 today. The tourism industry has also increasingly recognised the value of heritage towns and attractions as a selling point for the State.

### What are the current priorities?

To implement the election policies of the new ALP government following the 2002 State election a twelve page document, *Heritage Directions*:

*A Future for Built Heritage Conservation in South Australia*, was developed through consultation with key stakeholders and released for public consultation in August 2003. The resultant Heritage Directions Strategy was given effect in the 2004-5 State Budget and provided an additional \$2.9 million over the next four years and on-going additional funding of close to \$1 million per annum after that. Several initiatives are in train and others are pending.

- The Heritage Directions initiative provided significant additional funding for face-to-face services for owners of heritage places. This has seen the number of Local Council areas served by Heritage Advisers (who are jointly funded by State and Local Government) grow from 25 in June 2004 to 32 in March 2008, and further expansion of the Advisory Service is planned. Those Council areas account for almost 80% of the approximately 2200 State Heritage Places in the SA Heritage Register.
- State funding has also been provided to assist Councils to undertake or review earlier heritage surveys, prepare Development Plan Amendments to give effect to the surveys' recommendations, and initiate heritage incentive schemes.
- State and local heritage data has recently been released on the internet in a consolidated database to provide easy access for all. This data can be accessed from the Development Plan tab on the Planning SA website ([www.planning.sa.gov.au](http://www.planning.sa.gov.au)). It supplements the data available on the Australian Heritage Places Inventory web site by providing expanded searching capacity, more convenient data downloading options and a mapping component.
- Heritage education and promotion is

receiving greater attention through the development of an annual Schools Heritage Competition (2003), major websites on Ships' Graveyards of SA (2003) and State Heritage Areas of SA (2006), the addition of a Showcasing SA Heritage Places section to the DEH Heritage website, a monthly Heritage South Australia E-News for heritage and planning professionals, and the Open Heritage scheme run as part of the History Trust of South Australia's History Week in May each year.

- Fundamental research on the State's built heritage is being supported through two projects based at the Architecture Museum of the University of South Australia: an annual DEH SA Built Heritage Research Fellowship and the compilation of a Database of South Australian Architects and their Works, which is due to be released on the Internet later this year.

### Some perennial issues

On the other hand, a challenging feature of the heritage scene is the number of issues that have been debated without resolution for many years. To paraphrase Phillip Adams' remarks on one of the anniversaries of the advent of television in Australia, for those of us who have been on the heritage scene for a long time, it sometimes feels like we haven't had 30 years of heritage, we've had one year 30 times. These issues include:

- The need for increased incentives for owners to undertake heritage conservation work;
- The widespread misconception that heritage listing freezes a place in time – 'it's heritage listed, you can't touch it' – rather than being a means of putting in place approval mechanisms to manage the place's significance into the future as it is adapted to accommodate the changing requirements of the occupiers and/or new uses;
- Developers preferring to clear a site rather than giving serious consideration to building on what is already there;
- The frustration inherent in retaining a heritage building only to see an 'unsympathetic' development nearby detract from it;
- Confusion about the difference

between heritage, character and amenity and the related tendency to nominate places for heritage listing (rather than implementing good planning policies) as a means of stalling development proposals that community members see as detrimental;

- Citizens failing to be pro-active in protecting their heritage and only mobilising when demolition is imminent. As Joni Mitchell sang in 'Big Yellow Taxi',

*'Don't it always seem to go,  
That you don't know what  
you've got till it's gone'.*

Much has and can be said about these issues, but perhaps the key thing is to acknowledge their persistence and to be smarter about the strategies used to address them.

### The big picture - why conserve our heritage?

In any field of endeavour, it is useful to stand back from the day-to-day issues that can preoccupy us and remind ourselves why we are engaging in it.

This is what the Government's *Heritage Directions* document, mentioned above, said in its 'Introduction'.

#### The value of built heritage

*Heritage is one of our most important assets. It is both our inheritance and our future.*

*Heritage is a living thing. It describes our origins and informs our understandings of who we are today. Heritage helps to define for a community a sense of place, an identity. It can contribute to feelings of connectedness, and community pride and confidence. Heritage can excite curiosity about our past and enrich our daily lives. Heritage is something to be celebrated.*

*Heritage is not just about beautiful or significant historic buildings, although it is partly about that. Heritage also includes cultural artefacts, shipwrecks, and geological and archaeological sites. It encompasses natural heritage and indigenous heritage. It includes areas, precincts, places, landscapes and streetscapes.*

*While acknowledging the importance of other forms of heritage and the links between all aspects of heritage, this document focuses on built heritage*



# 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SA HERITAGE ACTS

and in particular on places as defined in the Heritage Act 1993 – not only buildings, but places such as mine sites and monuments. Built heritage is cathedrals and cemeteries, factories and fences, museums and markets, wineries and warehouses. Heritage places may be a 1860s miner's cottage at Moonta, a 1930s mansion at Springfield, the site of an old gum tree at Glenelg, a biscuit factory in the city, a cemetery at Robe, a jetty at Port Germein, a pub at Penola or a 1950s Housing Trust home at Elizabeth. Heritage is part of everyone's life.

Apart from the social and cultural value of heritage, there are many economic and environmental benefits of protecting our heritage. Heritage is one of South Australia's drawcards. It can contribute to the State's economy through cultural tourism, creating employment and regenerating communities. Sensitive adaptations of heritage buildings for new purposes can also avoid or reduce demolition waste and have significant environmental benefits.

## Planning for heritage

For all these reasons the South Australian Government believes that heritage considerations must be an integrated part of planning the future of our urban and rural environments. However, protecting heritage does not mean freezing the past. Nor does it mean the indiscriminate conservation of anything old.

It is important that heritage is seen as living and constantly evolving, co-existing with new developments, architectural innovation and the creation of modern amenities. Our heritage directions must therefore be wisely mapped and carefully managed. Heritage strategies and policies must provide a degree of certainty for the community, property owners and developers. They must also protect our valuable heritage assets at the same time as promoting good urban character and facilitating sympathetic new development.

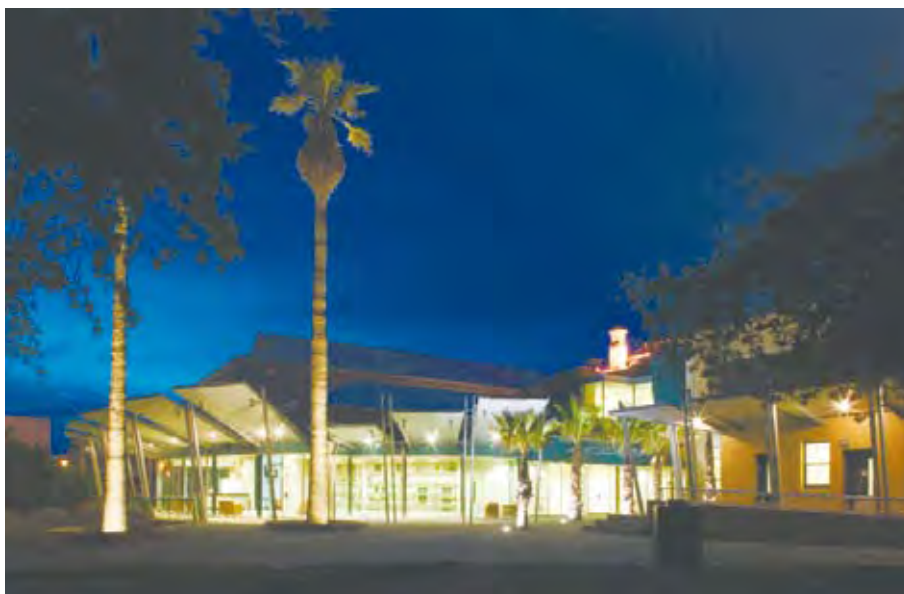
Two impassioned Americans make the case for heritage conservation even more strongly. Speaking at the 2001 National Preservation Conference, held in Providence, Rhode Island,

R. R. Archibald said:

*At the pinnacle of historic preservation in our nation are sites preserved to commemorate influential events and great people. But there are relatively few such sites, and they are not the core of the most fundamental value of preservation. I think that the preservation battle cry in our communities is this: Change that is too rapid disorients humans. Escalating rates of change deprive people of the referents and confirmations of their own memories. People's identities are corroded, bonds of community are severed, environments are damaged, and suspicion replaces the mutual trust upon which democracy depends. We must become advocates for rates of change that do not cause wholesale obliteration of places of memory. How can we care about places that are interchangeable, homogenous, transient, and disposable? Places that conserve memory are good places for people and incubators of community, but they are also inherently oriented toward preservation because they emphasise reuse of what is old and eschew new development that too rapidly consumes increasingly scarce resources.*



Mt Gambier City Hall before redevelopment.



The award-winning redevelopment of Mt Gambier City Hall highlights the potential for heritage buildings to adapt to accommodate modern needs and uses.

*Let us slow down. Let us really live in our places and become advocates for their conservation to preserve our own sanity, protect a sense of context and continuity for our own lives, and be good stewards of those resources that are really the property of those who will follow us. Let us not blindly oppose what is new, but instead look for a pace and quality of change that respects the fundamental human need to remember. Let us acknowledge that all of us need places of remembrance and that we need to stay in place long enough to embed memories, for only then can we truly be at home. May we all remember that our sacred obligation is to care for our places and exercise good stewardship so we will be reminded of where we came from and sometimes even discover who we are. ('No Place, Any Place, Some Place, My Place', Forum Journal Vol. 16, No. 2, Winter 2002)*

Two years earlier in his article 'Looking Ahead: The Next 50 Years of Preservation' in the US National Trust for Historic Preservation's journal, R. Moe wrote:

*There are still many people who don't understand why preservationists should be concerned about sprawl. It's really very simple: Preservation is in the business of saving irreplaceable places and the quality of life they support, and sprawl destroys both. While poorly-planned, auto-oriented development spreads across the landscape like an inkblot, too many older communities - where historic buildings and neighbourhoods are concentrated - are blighted by deterioration, poverty*

and disinvestment. Long commutes leave us less time with our families. Livable neighbourhoods are destroyed by the demand for ever-wider roads. Historic landmarks get demolished and carted off to the landfill. The sense of community that lies at the very heart of who we are as people and a nation is gradually eroded. Every place winds up looking like No place.

We must recognize - and help others understand - that being anti-sprawl is not being anti-growth. The question is not whether our communities will grow, but how they will grow. The fight against sprawl is more than a fight against the big-box retailers that sprout at every highway interchange and the national drugstore chains that build insensitively-designed stores on traditional Main Streets. It's a fight against land-use and development policies that are wasteful, enormously expensive, fiscally irresponsible and ultimately destructive.

To replace policies and practices that wreck communities, we must insist on smart-growth policies that recycle existing buildings and land whenever possible; that maintain local community character and identity; that preserve farms, forests, scenic vistas and environmentally sensitive areas; that revitalize historic downtowns and residential neighbourhoods; that encourage wise use of vacant or underused land in existing cities with new development that blends in with its surroundings; that create well-designed new communities in places that can be served efficiently; that promote a sense of community and protect the environment for future generations. (Forum Journal Vol. 14, No. 1, Fall 1999, p 5.)

### Returning to South Australia

In concluding my talk on 'The Delights and Challenges of Built Heritage Conservation' at the 2002 State History Conference held in Adelaide, I observed that:

- A major challenge lies in the fact that it is all too easy to take our heritage for granted. We grow up with it, and familiarity can breed contempt, or at the least an inability to either notice or appreciate some aspects of our inheritance.
- The value of a holistic approach to heritage is something else I would like to encourage, especially at the

local level where it can be easier to achieve. I suggest that, as well as conserving significant built heritage, any reasonably sized community should strive for a local history collection in its library; a museum or interpretive centre or historical display; some good interpretive signs; some high standard promotional/ educational literature; and some heritage and history pages on its Council's web site. A holistic approach should also entail leaving the past behind and explaining the current attributes and the economy that sustain the locality today.

- Many readers are no doubt familiar with the story of the two stonemasons who were asked what they were doing. One said that he was 'laying stones' and the other that he was 'building a cathedral'. I'd suggest that in the history and heritage movement we are 'building community'. We are endeavouring to sustain a local and South Australian identity in a global village where the rest of the world is but a mouse click away.
- More fundamentally, we need to demonstrate that heritage conservation is about giving our inheritance from the past on-going meaning and value by conserving, using and adapting it intelligently.
- And finally, it is important to learn how to let go. You can't save everything, and if you try to, you risk reinforcing the stereotype of 'unrealistic' heritage campaigners who are 'anti' all development. I suggest that, that does not help the cause of heritage.

### Final thoughts

Modern life is full of contradictions. To take just one example, while it now seems that the environmental issues humankind is facing could threaten life on Earth, we still squander our water resources, pave over gardens and erect climate-inefficient energy-guzzling houses.

A potential antidote to this approach to life is to adopt a different attitude to our inheritance from the past. To have a mindset of husbanding resources rather than exploiting them for short term gain, of seeking to find ways to maximise the use of existing structures rather than rushing to build something 'new and exciting'. In other words, to

engage in heritage conservation in the broadest sense. However, the problem may be more deep-seated. As Sir Winston Churchill noted, 'Men occasionally stumble over the truth but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing ever happened.' (Quoted in Shelley Gare *The Triumph of the Airheads and the Retreat from Commonsense*, NSW, 2006, p 263.)

The last 30 years have seen commitment to and interest in heritage conservation grow steadily. The challenge is to demonstrate its value to a broader audience. Much as it suits us for some purposes to break up the world into separate compartments – the environment, the economy, private life, working life, and so on – our commonsense tells us that they are all inter-related. Choosing to engage with issues at the local level is a good way to experience the fundamental importance of a holistic approach.

Irish American master musician Martin Hayes provides another take on what it means to be holistic. Just substitute 'architecture' for 'Irish music'/'music'.

*In Irish music today there is much debate and division on the issues of continuity versus change and tradition versus innovation. I think it is a mistake to divide these issues as the music is capable of containing all of these parts at once. The real battle is between artistic integrity and the forces that impede creative expression. Traditional Irish music has always experienced change and been enriched by innovation, while at the same time maintaining continuity. The issue that is of utmost importance is that innovation, change, tradition and continuity all be tempered by integrity, humility and understanding.* (From the liner for his compact disc *The Lonesome Touch* - downloaded from [www.martinhayes.com/music.htm](http://www.martinhayes.com/music.htm))

**Brian Samuels**  
**Principal Heritage Officer**



# HERITAGE PLACE ANNIVERSARIES

## 100TH ANNIVERSARY

### 'Boy and Serpent' Fountain, Adelaide Botanic Garden

The Adelaide Botanic Garden's 'Boy and Serpent' Fountain was manufactured by the renowned Coalbrookdale Company in England and is a rare example of this particular pattern, being one of only two known surviving examples worldwide.

The 'Boy and Serpent' Fountain is an ornate, cast iron structure approximately three metres high. It sits on a rendered masonry base, in the shallow geometric pond that is the centrepiece of the Adelaide Botanic Garden's Economic Garden. The name of the Coalbrookdale foundry is embossed in two places on the base.

The cast iron fountain was donated by Adelaide philanthropist Robert Barr-Smith Esq. as a Jubilee (1907) gift to the Garden and was first turned on in 1908. It provides the central focus in what was originally the formal Class Ground created by the Garden's second Director, Richard Schomburgk.

### The Adelaide Botanic Garden's Economic Garden – formerly the Rose Garden and originally the Class Ground

From his arrival at the Adelaide Botanic Garden (1865), Richard Schomburgk planned for the establishment of a Class Ground to group plants by their scientific classification. His plans were unfortunately delayed because of lack of funds.

A report in 1871 included a reference to his plans for the system garden, with a description of the anticipated design – that of a hippodrome with two serpentine walks breaking the symmetrical form.

By 1872 work had begun, but further delays meant that it was 1876 before the Class Ground, including the plantings, was actually finished. The completed garden included a central basin for aquatic plants, with a single jet fountain, which had been installed in 1874. This water jet was replaced in 1908 by the 'Boy and Serpent' Fountain.

Although it was a useful educational tool, especially for the teaching of botany at the nearby University of Adelaide, the Class Ground was not a popular feature with most visitors. In

1893 a visiting English nurseryman, James Herbert Veitch, commented that the Class Ground was unquestionably the weakest part of the garden.

Gradually, specimens within the Class Ground were moved to the Botanic Garden's experimental grounds and, in 1917, a Rose Garden was established on the site, utilising the formal lines of the original design. During 2000 the Rose Garden transferred to a new site near Hackney Road and the original Class Ground now provides the setting for a display of economic plants.

## 150TH ANNIVERSARY

### B Division cell block, Yatala Labour Prison

The B Division cell block at Yatala Labour Prison is associated with the new prison reforms introduced into South Australia by Charles Hare in 1853, and represents a significant phase in South Australia's penal management history.

It was the first permanent building at the colony's new labour prison, which was established at the Dry Creek Quarries to provide punishment for serious crimes. Until 1853 South Australia had transported long-term criminals to the eastern colonies but, when this practice ceased, the sentence of 'hard labour' replaced transportation as a deterrent to crime. Under Hare's new imprisonment system, B Division was also the first cell block in South Australia where prisoners were accommodated in individual cells, rather than in communal

wards or cells according to their crimes.

Under Hare's system of punishment, all prisoners at Yatala were subject to the separation system. They were out of their cells for 11½ hours a day, 9½ hours of which were spent working at the nearby quarry and 2 hours of which were spent 'at exercise'. This system was radically different to that at Adelaide Gaol, where prisoners who had committed the same classes of crime were accommodated together at night. Separation was not considered solitary confinement. It also prevented 'contamination' of first offenders by hardened criminals and reduced opportunities for plotting escapes.

An independent observer gave an interesting description of the prison in 1862:

*[It] stands on the edge of a deep dry creek, the banks of which afford almost inexhaustible quarries for road metal. The main body is a solid three-floored edifice of cut stone divided into 137 separate cells. A second floor contains the Governor's house, kitchen, wash house and solitary cells.*

*An immense tank, underlying the principal yard, contains a superabundant supply of fine rain water collected from the various roofs. The prisoners, many of them in chains, work in the quarries during the day in well guarded parties. The guards are armed with loaded rifles, the contents of which are promptly discharged at any prisoner attempting to transgress the prescribed bounds.*



Postcard of women by the 'Boy and Serpent' Fountain, Botanic Gardens, Adelaide. Photo courtesy of the Adelaide Botanic Garden.



Each prisoner is locked up at night in his own cell to which he carries his rations to eat his solitary meal.

In each floor of the cells there is a gong in the corridor which each prisoner can strike with wire in his own cell in case of sickness. By pulling the wire a small plate of iron is disengaged and falls outwards to indicate the cell from which the summons comes. Breaking up a yard of road metal to a two inch gauge is the allotted task of each prisoner. Special punishments include solitary confinement (30 days) and floggings up to 50 lashes can be ordered by a court of a visiting magistrate and two JPs. The ... quarries are connected with the northern railway by a branch line which runs right into them and along which broken stone is conveyed away.

F. Sinnett, An Account of the Colony of South Australia, Adelaide, 1862

A report in the Register newspaper of 27 December 1865 described the building as a 'handsome retreat' and felt that anyone returning from a three-month sea voyage would consider the cells to be magnificent lodgings.

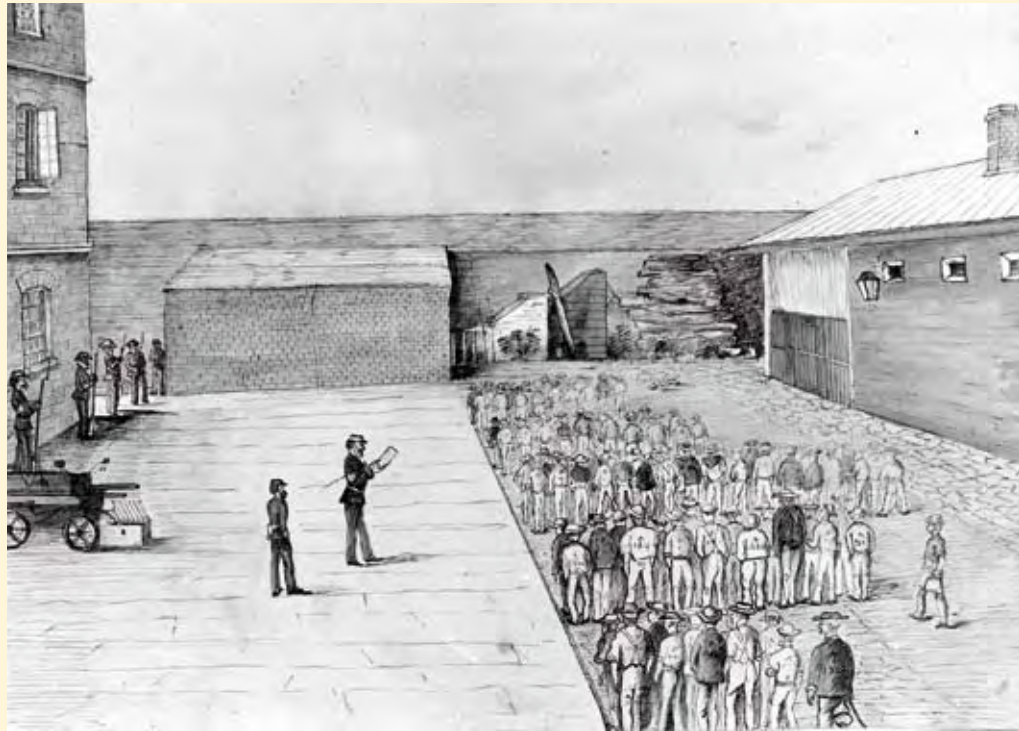
A new three-storey wing was added to the north west corner of B Division in 1872 – for the accommodation of the worst types of criminals – and included 36 cells, guard accommodation and boundary walls separating it from the rest of the prison yard. This was balanced by another separate wing on the opposite corner in 1878, which added 43 cells.

In 1880 there were some 280 prisoners at Yatala. Up to three inmates were lodged in a single cell and there were several large rooms that served as dormitories for as many as 18 people. It was obvious that the accommodation was insufficient, and another building – the now demolished A block – was commenced.

B Division building was redesigned and re-equipped in 1958.

**Robyn Ashworth**  
**Senior Heritage Interpretation Officer**

Editor's Note: These are edited versions of the Anniversary Fact Sheets for these places. The complete versions, and other fact sheets for selected State Heritage Places, can be found on the Heritage Branch website at [www.environment.sa.gov.au/heritage/showcase\\_saregister.html](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/heritage/showcase_saregister.html)



"Muster" Yatala Labour Prison. Sketch of the "muster", Yatala Labour Prison. From an album of sketches by an inmate, 1877. SLSA: Photo B 21925/5. Photo courtesy of the State Library of South Australia.



B Division cell block, Yatala Labour Prison (1979).



# ADELAIDE SEES HERITAGE BUILDINGS IN A NEW LIGHT

As part of the 2008 Adelaide Festival of Arts six iconic North Terrace heritage buildings were each night transformed by a kaleidoscope of irreverent colour and design projected onto their stately facades.

'Northern Lights' attracted crowds of onlookers to the constantly changing spectacle of over 70 different projections of light onto the State Library, SA Museum, Art Gallery, Elder Hall, Mitchell Building and Bonython Hall.

The display was created using digital software and giant projectors each weighing more than 200kg. The event proved so successful that its original 17-day run was extended by two weeks.

Photos courtesy of David Metin.







Campbell Park, Narrung (2007)

## CAMPBELL PARK

Campbell Park is a State Heritage listed property located on the Narrung Peninsula about 20 minutes from Meningie. Its location is aptly overlooking Lake Albert.

My first visit to Campbell Park was in autumn 2007. It was a gusty windy day, worthy of wellies and a beanie. The first sight before you, as you enter Campbell Park is that of the foreshore of Lake Albert, and a scattering of outbuildings in various stages of ruin. The sight of the receding waters of Lake Albert, mid drought, mid autumn and mid afternoon is spectacular in its own right but is a reminder of the increasing difficulty that as conservationists we see time and time again during our travels to pastoral properties. Further travel up the unsealed driveway, and you're met with snippets of roof lines, original look-out tower and horse stables, more outbuildings and a boisterous pair of German Short Haired Pointers; later found to be named "Hunter" and "Gatherer".

It is difficult not to fall in love with Campbell Park, its vast outlook on Lake Albert, its interesting collection of equally curious outbuildings and its history. Campbell Park was built in the 1870s on land which was originally part of early pastoral expansion in the lower Murray lakes area.

The homestead complex illustrates the later wave of pastoral enterprise in the district. The substantial and well detailed homestead, surmounted with a rather elaborate lookout giving views over Lake Albert, reflects the prosperity of its former owner and creator, Thomas R Bowman, a member of a well known South Australian pastoral family.

Robbie Davis and her family have owned the property for almost six years. The family took over the reins in 2002 and have since undertaken a number of conservation projects, some of which have been partly funded through the SA Heritage Fund. Campbell Park has seen a few changes under Robbie's watchful eye; stabilisation, partial re-roofing, floorboard repairs, roof repairs, plaster repairs and installation of flashing to the main homestead verandah.

One of Robbie's requests to the Heritage Branch Conservation & Management Team was to identify a list of conservation priorities. This was carried out during a comprehensive site visit, circumnavigating all the buildings, note taking, photographic documentation and discussing with the owner the limitations and the possibilities afforded to her, given the number of outbuildings and the seemingly never-ending "to do list".

Another aspect of Robbie's custodianship is that for three years running now, she

has hosted the Australian String Quartet at Campbell Park. What has become a regular yearly occurrence took place again this year on Saturday 23rd February. The evening commenced at 7pm with a fine selection of Amberley wines, followed by the ASQ performing pieces by Mozart & Peter Sculthorpe in a minimally lit ballroom perfect for chamber music performances. The Peter Sculthorpe String Quartet No 9 was cleverly chosen as an interpretation of indigenous life in early settlement and juxtaposed with the introductory Wolfgang Mozart's String Quartet in B flat major 'The Hunt' harking back to the roots of the pioneer settlers in Europe and the stark contrast with the harsh Australian environment.

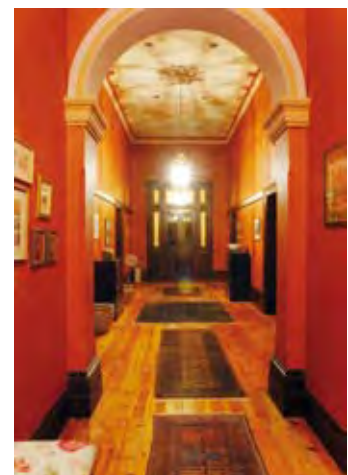
The first half of the evening being over, an interval followed, with delicious refreshments and hors d'oeuvres including Coorong Angus Beef, freshly shucked oysters and a variety of cheeses subtly reminding us of our location on the gastronomic map that South Australia boasts, and decadent Haigh's Chocolates.

The closing piece to the evening was a moving Debussy String Quartet in G minor. Op10 (1893), leaving all looking forward to the next ASQ performance in February 2008.

Magically, Robbie Davis has succeeded in creating a magnificent event in an otherwise difficult time celebrating the beauty and hardship of pastoral properties. I look forward to celebrating recent rains at next year's ASQ performance.

Campbell Park is now a loved and carefully conserved family home again.

### Andrea Jeleascu Conservation Officer



Campbell Park, Narrung (2007)

## NO-FUSS MAKEOVERS AT COLONEL LIGHT GARDENS

Residents of this garden suburb are finding that heritage listing is no obstacle to a house makeover, including a rear addition with all the mod cons.

The designation of the entire suburb of Colonel Light Gardens as a State Heritage Area in 2000 acknowledged the suburb's significance as Australia's most complete example of an early 1900s garden suburb. This listing means that when changes are planned, they need to be considered in terms of their effect on heritage significance, together with the usual planning and development controls.

In most situations fitting in with heritage requirements is not proving a problem, with literally dozens of major renovations to heritage houses, including carports

and rear additions, moving efficiently through the Mitcham Council's development control processes.

It's a win-win situation, with the heritage significance of the suburb being preserved while residents' desires for the latest in modern living are also being met.

Known for its radial street pattern, reserves and gardens, wide avenues, utility laneways, and park-like setting, it is not surprising that Colonel Light Gardens is a highly sought after residential location. Kevin Heath and his family are clearly smitten. They are just weeks away from completing their second Colonel Light Gardens' house renovation in ten years, separated by a stint of country living in Port Lincoln.

The suburb's housing style is typical mid-1920s, developed from the Californian Bungalow design. Kevin's second

renovation, next door to his first, has transformed a house in The Broadway, rescuing it from a cherry red paint job, aluminium windows and a layout unsuited to modern family living.

New internal walls have created space for an ensuite bathroom, robes in every bedroom and an all new rear addition which houses a modern family room, kitchen and laundry. The aluminium windows have made way for timber sash windows, while the red paint has been removed to reveal the original red brickwork. The house also boasts a new galvanized sheet metal roof and carport.

Kevin says it has been all smooth sailing. His main tip for other owners of heritage places is to seek early advice from the local heritage adviser, or the Heritage Branch.

*'Early contact with the local Heritage Advisor was probably the single most important thing in terms of eliminating frustrating delays further down the track.'*

'Don't do anything until you have good advice. It doesn't make sense to spend money on having plans drawn up until you know what is required from a heritage perspective, otherwise you may end up wasting time and money making changes'.

Kevin's local Heritage Adviser is Simon Weidenhofer, who is employed by Mitcham Council to provide expert heritage advice to local residents.

'With good advice when you start planning your project, these sorts of renovations and additions can be very straightforward,' says Simon.

'And, of course, it is this very process of considering and managing the changes to these distinctive early 1900s houses that keeps the significance and character of the suburb intact, which in turn makes it such an appealing place to live'.

A practising architect, as well as specialist Heritage Adviser, Simon's knowledge of the local area is invaluable when advising local owners on the best way forward with their renovation plans.

Many metropolitan and some country councils employ heritage advisers who can help plan changes to heritage places. Councils with local heritage



Northern wall of house before renovation





Northern wall of house after renovation showing new window opening created in original section, as well as new rear addition. While in this example the new work has been designed to blend with the original, the practice of making new work in a contrasting style is also encouraged.

advisers are listed in the brochure with this issue. If your council doesn't employ an Adviser, you can contact the DEH Heritage Branch for advice about your State Heritage Place on (08) 8124 4960 or [heritage@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:heritage@saugov.sa.gov.au)

## PROJECT AT A GLANCE

### Work undertaken:

- Complete internal renovation including new internal walls, two new bathrooms and alcoves for built-in robes
- Extension to back of house including modern kitchen, laundry, family and meals areas.
- Addition of carport
- Replacement of aluminium windows with timber windows of a similar style and scale to originals
- New window opening created to add more light to children's TV room
- New doors and timber flooring

- Replacement of non-original brown metal tiles with galvanised sheet metal roofing
- Removal of paint from brickwork

### Reasons for success:

- Respect for the significance of the original housing style and local area
- Working closely with a Heritage Adviser with excellent local knowledge and experience with many similar projects, early in the project
- Owner's experience in a similar project in the same area

### Trades used:

Specialist heritage trades were not required for this work, as much of it was new. The builder did take account of the original brickwork style when creating new openings in the original section of the house, and with the rear extension.

- Local Heritage Adviser, Mitcham District Council: Simon Weidenhofer
- Building Designers: D'Andrea & Associates
- Builder: Andrew Young – Living Improvements
- Kitchen: Cabinets by S & T Norton
- Paint: Greg Callory Painting and Decoration
- Electrician: Chris Turner Electrical
- Plumber: MV Porter
- Tiler: Modern Style Tiling – Dino Zollo
- Windows & doors: Seaview Joinery

### Lyn Baxter

#### Communications Officer

For more information about Colonel Light Gardens State Heritage Area, and the other sixteen State Heritage Areas of South Australia, see [http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/heritage/shas/sha\\_cl\\_gardens.html](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/heritage/shas/sha_cl_gardens.html)

# LOOKING AFTER YOUR HERITAGE PLACE

## THE CARE AND REPAIR OF TIMBER FLOORBOARDS

Well cared for timber floorboards can contribute warmth and character to a space, as well as providing a relatively low maintenance and durable surface. In many cases, timber flooring is an intrinsic part of the historic fabric of a heritage-listed place, and as such must be appropriately conserved. By following some basic principles of care and repair, the life of a timber floor can be extended indefinitely.

### Types of Timber

Softwoods and hardwoods can usually be easily identified by their different properties, including how soft the timber is, and the closeness of the grain. In some cases however, it can be difficult to tell – native Australian cypress pine (*callitris*) is a softwood, but it harder and more durable than many hardwoods. Several organisations may be able to assist with identification – try the SA Timber Development Association, the Timber Flooring Association of SA, or a book such as *Identifying Wood* by R Bruce Hoadley. Regardless of the type and species of your floor, the general principles of care remain the same.

### Repairs to Damaged Boards

Small areas of damage, including holes, scratches and splinters, can be repaired successfully, bearing in mind a few guidelines:

- Use a wood putty in a colour to match the timber, not the colour of any stain or coating applied over the top, when patching small holes;
- Slightly overfill the hole and sand back, following the manufacturer's instructions, and don't try and fill large holes with putty – it will most likely shrink and crack;
- Try to glue splinters back in place, rather than removing them, and make sure the area is free from dust.

Major repairs are best undertaken by a professional, as the process of lifting damaged timber floors is a tricky one, and can result in further damage if attempted incorrectly. Look for a company with a good track record with old buildings, and ask to see photos of previous jobs. The timber for replacement should be selected to

match not only the species, but also colour, grain, and moisture content – unseasoned timber is prone to shrink and move. Be cautious of people wishing to replace large areas of timber with new material – part of the appeal of old timber floors can be in the dents, dings and flaws. Timber should only be replaced if it is structurally unsound or so badly deteriorated that replacement is the only option.

### Sanding and Finishing

For the most part, a regular clean is sufficient to keep floorboards in good condition. However if the floor looks like it requires more work, or has just been uncovered from years hidden under a carpet, lino or other covering, sanding and refinishing may be appropriate. Once again, sanding is probably best left to the professionals. Depending on the existing finish, the extent of sanding will vary greatly. Polyurethane finishes must be completely removed in order to apply a new finish, whereas oil finishes will typically only require a light sand before reapplication. If you do decide to tackle the sanding yourself, proceed with caution. Remember that you can always sand more off – but it's impossible to put back.

Polyurethane finishes are often popular because they look shiny and clean, however to renew a polyurethane

finish on a timber floor requires sanding right back, which removes some of the timber surface as well as the coating. A tongue and groove floor can only be sanded in this manner a few times before the groove becomes exposed, and for this reason polyurethane should not be used on historic timber floors.

Oil based finishes are a more appropriate choice for old timber floors. Not only do they not require invasive sanding and reapplication, as the oil can be reapplied after a light sand, they also provide additional protection for the floor as they penetrate into the fibres of the timber. Another advantage of oil based finishes like tung oil and linseed oil is that they are easy to apply, making them a good choice for the home handyman / renovator.

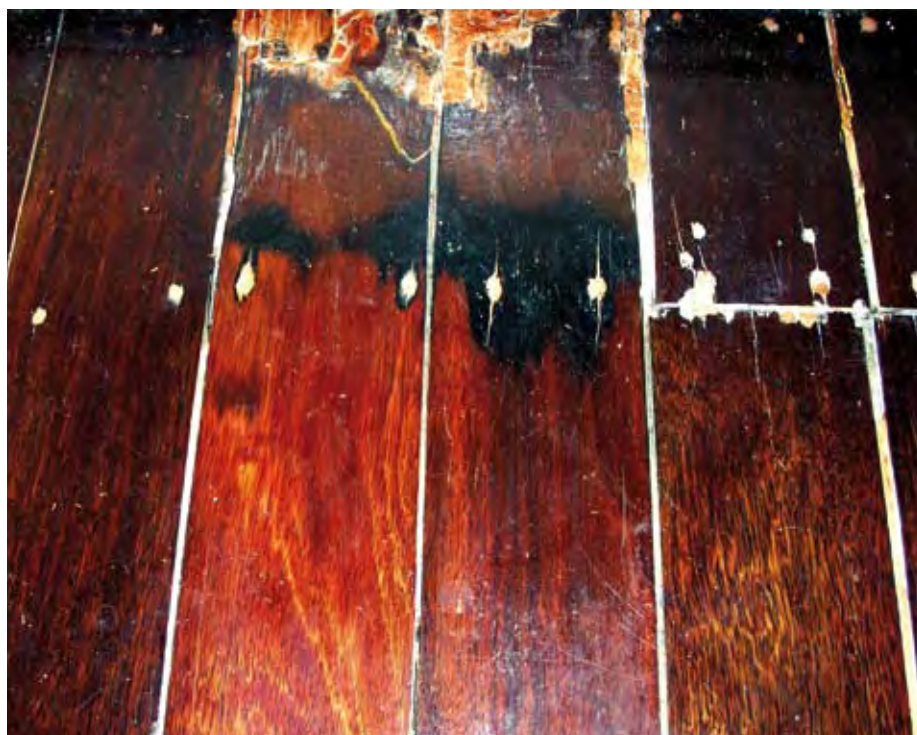
### In a nutshell:

- Less is more when it comes to sanding
- Oil based finishes are more appropriate for historic timber floors
- For large jobs, get professional help

For heritage listed houses, always seek heritage advice. If your Council does not have a Heritage Advisory Service, contact the Heritage Branch for advice.

### Liz Little

Senior Conservation Architect



Polyurethane finish on boards is difficult to repair.



## NEW USE FOR 1895 WAREHOUSE

The issue of climate change has put the spotlight firmly on sustainability. At a seminar hosted by Norwood, Payneham & St Peters City Council in late 2007, Professor Steffen Lehmann, Chair of Architecture and Built Environment at the University of Newcastle, said that sustainable development is the most powerful force to impact upon architecture and planning since the industrial revolution.

'Heritage needs to be considered dynamic and authentic, not a frozen set piece. We need adaptive reuse of buildings, not just modern or just old'.

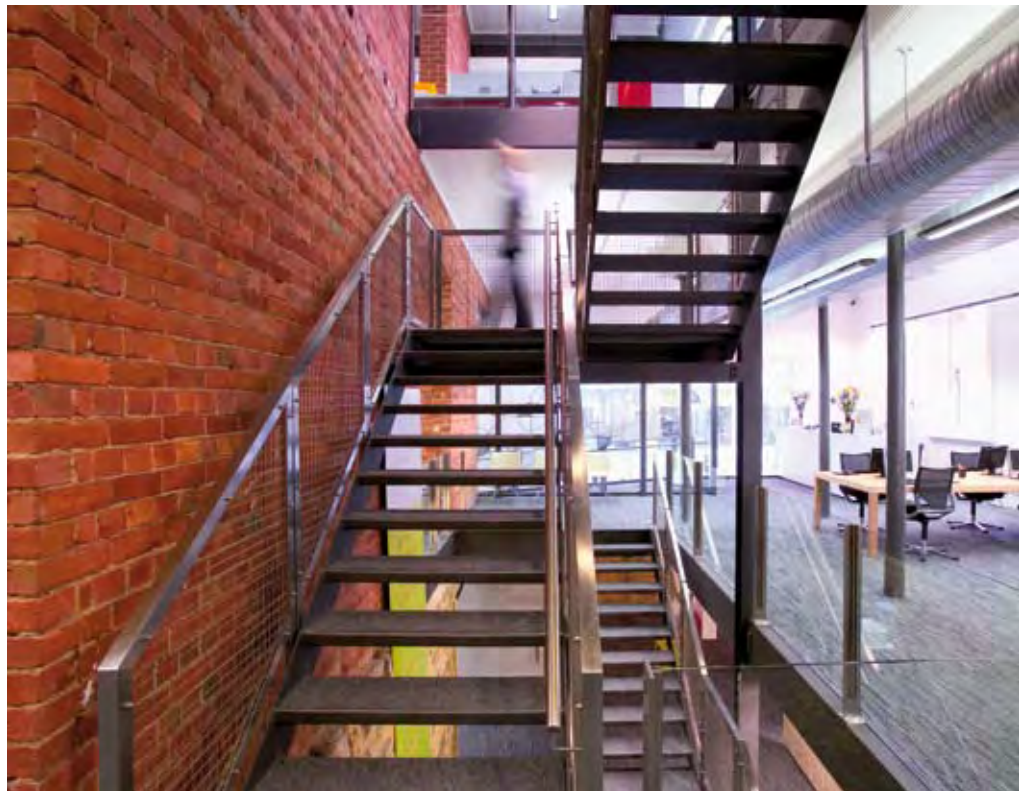
Fellow expert in sustainable urban design, Dr John Montgomery, said that sustainability and heritage conservation are not in conflict with each other – 'they are different sides of the same coin' - and there is a lot more to it than just blending architecture.

(Quoted from David West's article, 'Heritage and the future', *Adelaide Review*, 12/10/2007, p11.)

Recycling buildings is very desirable from a sustainability perspective. The former Megaw and Hogg building in Leigh St, Adelaide, is an excellent example. Significant change was required to ensure the former auction rooms, previously a warehouse, would be able to meet the needs of its 21<sup>st</sup> century tenant, State Records. At the same time the integrity and heritage significance of the State Heritage-listed building needed to be retained.

Architectural firm Woodhead responded sensitively and creatively to the challenge. A contemporary upgrade reveals the heritage fabric of the building while highlighting its new modern insertions. As much as possible of the original fabric was kept; original ripple-iron ceilings were left exposed; inappropriate paint was removed from the sandstone, bluestone and brick masonry walls, while the basement was successfully conserved with remedial damp-proofing treatment.

The existing ad-hoc stairs and convoluted circulation paths throughout the three levels, remnants of the 1960s, were removed and replaced by a new central void that opened up



Former Megaw and Hogg Auction Rooms, Leigh St, Adelaide. Photo courtesy of Woodhead.

the spaces and allowed the full volume of the warehouse to be seen.

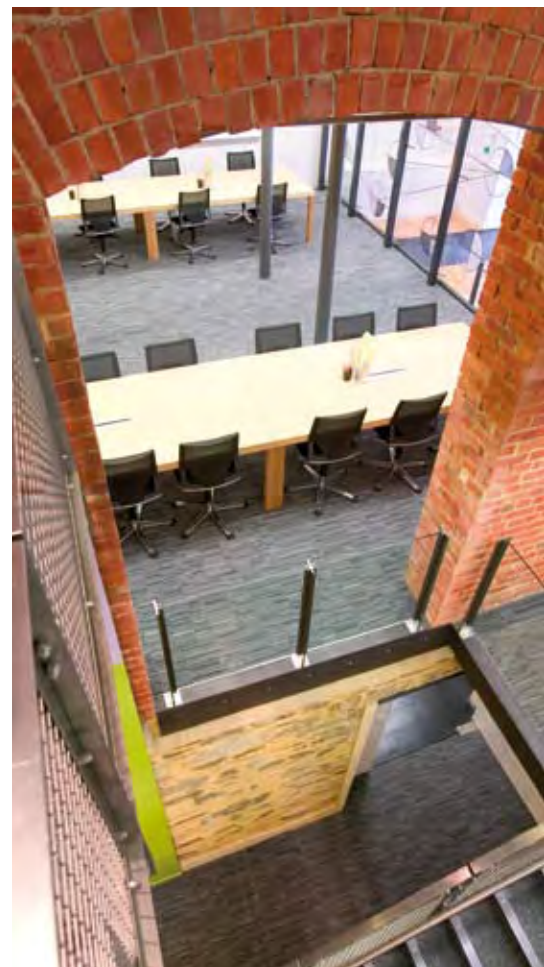
Externally a new glass façade and steel canopy were created to attract passers-by and invite interest in the building.

The project was commended in the 2005 Edmund Wright Heritage Awards and continues to be a stand-out example of the benefits of adaptive reuse.

**Lyn Baxter**  
Public Communications Officer



Former Megaw and Hogg Auction Rooms, Leigh St, Adelaide. Photo courtesy of Woodhead.



Former Megaw and Hogg Auction Rooms, Leigh St, Adelaide. Photo courtesy of Woodhead.



# STATE HERITAGE AREAS



Paxton Square cottages, Burra

## BURRA STATE HERITAGE AREA

The mid-north town of Burra is located approximately 160 kilometres north-east of Adelaide, along the Barrier Highway.

**The Burra State Heritage Area, declared on 28 January 1993, encompasses one of Australia's earliest, largest and best-preserved nineteenth century mining towns. The declaration acknowledges the Burra copper mine's significant contribution to South Australia's early prosperity and the town's later development as a major service centre for agriculture and pastoralism in the State's mid-north.**

Burra's magnificent collection of historic nineteenth century buildings provides evidence of the work and lifestyles of this early mining community and of its later development as a significant mid-north service town. The mine site, and the townships that later amalgamated to become Burra, present some of the earliest examples of Cornish mining and domestic architecture in South Australia. Paxton Square and cottages in Thames Street, for example, were amongst the first company housing in Australia, while the powder magazine is one of the country's earliest mining structures still in existence.

Burra's importance within the State's early history lies in its major contribution to South Australia's economic recovery during the 1840s and 1850s, and in the impetus the mine provided for immigration, transportation and further settlement.

The discovery of copper in 1845, and the subsequent development of the 'Monster Mine', brought an enormous boost to the fledgling colony's flagging economy. Burra became a thriving mining community, which for 15 years was the largest mine in Australia, and one of the world's great copper producers. By 1850 Burra was Australia's largest inland settlement, with a population around 5 000. The value of the copper mined at Burra contributed markedly to the development of the whole colony. Sir Henry Ayers, Secretary of the South Australian Mining Association and seven-times State Premier, claimed that all of South Australia was directly or indirectly employed by the Burra Mines during its heyday.

From about 1870, when copper production was dwindling, Burra became increasingly a service centre for the expanding agricultural and pastoral industries in South Australia's mid-north, and experienced renewed growth and development. The rise of a successful merino wool industry made Burra and its hinterland one of the acknowledged centres of Australian sheep-breeding and brought further prosperity for the town. The region now proudly claims the title of 'Merino Capital of Australia'.

### More about State Heritage Areas

For more information about Burra and the sixteen other SA State Heritage Areas see [www.stateheritageareas.sa.gov.au](http://www.stateheritageareas.sa.gov.au)

**Robyn Ashworth**  
Senior Heritage Interpretation Officer

## TOUR A HERITAGE AREA WITHOUT LEAVING HOME

A helpful new feature of the DEH State Heritage Areas website is the addition of interactive maps that allow you to point and click your way through each of South Australia's 17 State Heritage Areas. To take a stroll along Petticoat Lane in Penola, or see the sun rise over the Arckaringa Hills, or to find out what makes the garden suburb of Colonel Light Gardens so special, go to the 'Visiting' page of the State Heritage Areas website <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/heritage/shas/visiting.html>

The website also provides an overview of the State Heritage Areas as a group as well as presenting detailed descriptions, histories and photographs of individual Areas. Fact sheets for significant heritage places within each Area are included, as are location maps and public notices.

This practical site also explains concepts of heritage assessment, protection, conservation and legislation and provides links to a range of related heritage information and agencies.



# 2007 SCHOOLS HERITAGE COMPETITION

## POSTCARDS FROM HISTORY

Self-confessed heritage 'freak' Keith Conlon believes the DEH School Heritage Competition is producing a whole new crop of 'heritage freaks': young people who understand, value and respect their heritage.

Keith was a guest presenter at the 2007 Schools Heritage Competition ceremony held at State heritage-listed Sunnybrae Farm at Regency Park.

The Schools Heritage Competition is an annual event open to all Reception - Year 12 students across South Australia. It encourages students to research an aspect of their local heritage and use technology to present their project in an innovative way.

In 2007 the competition theme was *Heritage Postcards: Showcasing Local Places*, reflecting the competition's partnership with the Channel 9 Postcards TV Show.

Minister for Environment and Conservation Gail Gago awarded prizes to students from Reception to Year 12. To view winners and some of the brilliant entries see [www.environment.sa.gov.au/heritage/schools\\_comp2007.html](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/heritage/schools_comp2007.html)

In 2007 prizes were awarded to:

### **Farrell Flat Primary School**

*A growing history of Farrell Flat*  
Most Outstanding Entry Year R-3

### **Melrose Primary School**

*'Alaparinga' Pine 'N' Pug Buildings of Melrose*  
Highly Commended Entry Year R-3  
*Melrose Heritage Postcards*  
Most Outstanding Entry Year 4-5  
*Melrose Heritage Postcards*  
Highly Commended Entry Year 6-7

### **Scotch College Junior School**

*Mitcham Heritage*  
Most Outstanding Entry Year 4-5  
Primary Teaching Heritage Award:  
Mary-Anne Dorey & Lesley Russell

### **Andamooka Primary School**

*Andamooka Then and Now*  
Highly Commended Entry Year 4-5

### **Mundulla Primary School**

*Worth a Visit - Come to Mundulla*  
Highly Commended Entry Year 4-5

### **Murrayville Primary School**

*The Old Murrayville Primary School*  
Most Outstanding Entry Year 6-7



Minister Gail Gago presenting an award to Alison and Elissa from Andamooka Primary School.

### **Karcultaby Area School**

*Poochera's Humpy*  
Highly Commended Entry Year 6-7  
Postcards Award (equal winner)

### **Torrens Valley Christian School**

*Heritage Postcards - Tea Tree Gully*  
Most Outstanding Entry Year 8-12  
*St Aidan's Church - Heritage Postcards*  
Highly Commended Entry Year 8-12  
Secondary Teaching Heritage Award:  
Lynda Pierce

### **Trinity College Senior**

*Gawler Town Hall*  
Highly Commended Entry Year 8-12

### **Spence Primary School**

*A Postcard from Happy Valley Cemetery*  
Postcards Award (equal winner)

### **Curramulka Primary School**

*Lighthouses of Yorke Peninsula*  
Postcards Award - Honourable Mention



Keith Conlon with Postcards Award winners from Spence Primary School.

## THOMAS FROST, 1825 - 1910

Thomas Frost, a man of many skills, rose above significant trials and tribulations in the early years of South Australia's settlement to become a respected architect and highly regarded member of the community.

Third in a family of eight children, Frost was born at 'Springfield Cottage', Leamington Priors, Warwickshire, England on 8 May 1825. His father, James, who died in 1835, was a nurseryman. The garden manager appointed after his death misappropriated proceeds of sales, leaving Frost's mother, Eliza, destitute with a young family. Frost was adopted and educated by his uncle, a successful builder who ran Samuel Letts & Son. Upon leaving school aged just 13 he joined the firm and gained experience in various building and decorating trades.

Following the collapse of his uncle's bank and a subsequent interview between Frost's uncle and Robert Gouger, then Colonial Secretary of South Australia, the Letts family decided to emigrate to the new colony. Frost's brother Lewis joined them as an adopted son. They arrived in South Australia on the *Asia* in March 1839 and over the next nine years endured much hardship. Food was sometimes short and Thomas worked in various jobs. He treasured the few books he had and tried to keep the Sabbath. He and his brother returned to England in 1847 as sailors on the *Britannia* but, appalled by conditions at home, Thomas came back to South Australia in 1849.

Apart from two forays to the Victorian goldfields in the early 1850s, Frost made Adelaide his home. Known for his religious and philanthropic work, he was a devoted and active member of the Congregational Church, supporting Sunday schools, the Young Men's Literary Society and undertaking the role of deacon. On 24 October 1853 Reverend Thomas Quinton Stow, the influential and respected Congregational minister, presided at Thomas' marriage to Harriet Gisbon of Bowden. Frost built their home, a three-roomed cottage, on Strangways Terrace. They went on to have ten children. Upon his return to Adelaide in 1849, Frost worked as a builder and contractor and later as an architect. He was also employed for a time at the Register

newspaper. Then, after giving up life on the goldfields, Frost formed a partnership with Mr C Watson, contracting for buildings, roads and bridges. They constructed the first weir, 'Tall Dam', in the Torrens Gorge, a railway line from Gawler to Freeling, Redruth Gaol, and additions to Adelaide Gaol. Their tender for the Overland Telegraph to Melbourne in 1857 was rejected, however they were engaged that year to build additions of a sanctuary and transepts for St Andrew's Anglican Church, Walkerville, to the design of Edward Hamilton. The partnership dissolved in March 1860 but, that same year, Frost was the Clerk of Works for the construction of the Congregational Church, Brougham Place, North Adelaide. He became Clerk of the District Council of Hindmarsh in 1868 and later its first Town Clerk and Surveyor. He went on to be Surveyor for the town of Kensington and Norwood.

Frost began to work as an architect in the 1870s. In 1878 he was commissioned to design a lecture hall, classrooms and an organ gallery for the Brougham Place church. A manse in Kermode Street, North Adelaide, followed in 1879 as well as, it is believed, extensive additions to the McEwin house, 'Glen Ewin', at Lower Hermitage. He designed a large hall for the Hindmarsh Corporation behind its original building in 1880, and what is now the Lutheran Seminary in Jeffcott Street, North Adelaide (formerly Whinham College), completed in 1882. He also designed houses within the City Land Investment Company subdivision (1884) in North Adelaide. Frost appears to have continued practising well into his old age, as the Sands & McDougall's Directories for 1899 to 1905 record him having an office in Grenfell Street, Adelaide, and then in 1906, in Ward Street, North Adelaide. He died aged 85 on 4 June 1910.

### Alison McDougall

*Alison McDougall is a part-time researcher with the Architecture Museum, Louis Laybourne Smith School of Architecture and Design, University of South Australia. This is a condensed version of a biography of Thomas Frost she prepared for a Database of SA Architects and their Works being compiled through the Architecture Museum. The Database project is funded by the SA Department for Environment and Heritage.*



Whinham College, Jeffcott Street, North Adelaide, (East side). SLSA B 10698. Photo courtesy of the State Library of South Australia.

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Australian Heritage Database website [www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl)  
Australian Heritage Places Inventory (AHPi) website [www.heritage.gov.au/ahpi/](http://www.heritage.gov.au/ahpi/)



## FUNDING FOR STATE HERITAGE PLACES

Each year funding to help conserve South Australia's built heritage is available through the SA Heritage Fund Grants Program. In November 2007, Environment and Conservation Minister Gail Gago announced funding of more than \$300,000 for heritage conservation projects across the State.

It is expected that applications for the 2007/08 funding program will be invited shortly. Details are available from the DEH Heritage website <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/heritage/grantsawards.html#shgrants> or contact the Heritage Branch on (08) 8124 4960

## HERITAGE BRANCH STAFF

Executive Officer to the SA Heritage Council Jane Crosby has taken up a temporary position with the Office of the Chief Executive. Cindy Wadsworth has been appointed as Jane's replacement until June 2008.

## HERITAGE SURVEYS/ DEVELOPMENT PLAN AMENDMENTS

Regular updates are available via the Heritage Branch's monthly email bulletin *Heritage SA E-News*. To subscribe email [baxter.lyn@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:baxter.lyn@saugov.sa.gov.au)

## RIVER BOAT TRAIL PUBLICATION NOW FREE

This publication was produced in the mid-90s to complement the information signs located in eleven towns along the South Australian section of the River Murray making up the *River Boat Trail*. While a major update is now being planned for the interpretive panels, this publication is still a valuable source of information about the heritage sites along this section of the Murray. Previously offered for sale, *River Boat Trail* is now available for free from the DEH Information Line, phone 08 8204 1910 or [dehinformation@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:dehinformation@saugov.sa.gov.au)

## NEW STATE HERITAGE PLACES

**Former Wolseley Inland Aircraft Fuel Depot (including pump house, drum filling platform and six fuel tanks)**

**Bordertown – Wolseley Road, Wolseley**



The remains of the Wolseley Inland Aircraft Fuel Depot (IAFD) are a significant reminder of South Australia's contribution to Australia's national defences during World War Two.

While most of the physical impact of the Second World War was felt in the north of Australia, South Australia was affected principally through its role in the manufacture, storage and transport of war material. Built in two stages, in 1941-42 and 1942-43, the Wolseley IAFD was an important contributor to these activities in South Australia.

**More information:**

[www.environment.sa.gov.au/heritage/pdfs/showcasing/wolseley\\_depot.pdf](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/heritage/pdfs/showcasing/wolseley_depot.pdf)

**Our Redeemer Lutheran Church of the former Koonibba Lutheran Mission, Mickey Free Lawrie Drive, Koonibba via Ceduna**



The church represents an important aspect of South Australia's settlement history involving relationships between Europeans and Aboriginal people during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This church, erected in 1910, replaced an earlier 1903 building and is one of only two structures on site from the early days of the Koonibba Mission.

**More information:**

[www.environment.sa.gov.au/heritage/pdfs/koonibba.pdf](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/heritage/pdfs/koonibba.pdf)

## 19 FEBRUARY – 21 AUGUST

**Blue Jeans, Jungle Greens Display**

Revisit the turbulent era of the 1960s and 70s. Presented by the History Trust of South Australia.

**Time:** 9.30 to 4pm week days (closed public holidays)

**Venue:** History Trust Exhibition Gallery: Torrens Parade Ground, Victoria Drive, Adelaide

**Enquiries:** 08 8203 9888 [www.history.sa.gov.au](http://www.history.sa.gov.au)

## 16 – 25 MAY

**SA History Week**

This will be the fifth annual SA History Week. The full range of activities will be published in the Program Booklet, available late April.

**Venue:** various across South Australia

**Enquiries:** 08 8203 9888 [www.history.sa.gov.au](http://www.history.sa.gov.au)

## 20 MAY

**Seminar Brian Claridge - architectural works c. 1950 - 1970**

Adam Dutkiewicz, recipient of the second Department for Environment and Heritage SA Built Heritage Research Fellowship at the Architecture Museum, Louis Laybourne Smith School of Architecture and Design, University of South Australia, will present an illustrated talk on the architecture of South Australian architect Brian Claridge (1924-1979) between about 1950 and 1970.

**Time:** 12.30 – 1.30pm

**Venue:** Bradley Forum, Level 5, Hawke Building (cnr North Tce and Fenn Place. Enter from Fenn Place), City West Campus, University of South Australia.

**Enquiries and bookings:** 08 8302 9235 or [julie.collins@unisa.edu.au](mailto:julie.collins@unisa.edu.au)

## 19 – 21 JUNE

**The History and Future of Social Innovation Conference, Adelaide**

The conference aims to examine key issues and trends in social innovation and the factors that may influence or inhibit innovation, and is a result of Dr Geoff Mulgan's involvement as an Adelaide Thinker in Residence.

**Enquiries:** [www.thinkers.sa.gov.au](http://www.thinkers.sa.gov.au)

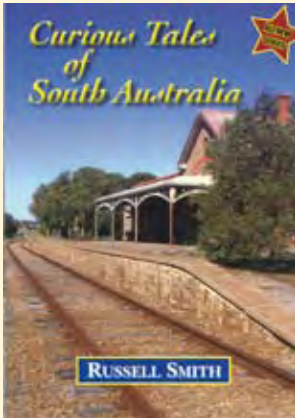
## 1 – 3 AUGUST

**'Changing Places: Changing Lives' State History Conference**

Presented by the History Trust of SA. This year the Conference will focus on the history of communities, neighbourhoods and working lives that are disappearing in the face of rapid suburban and technological change, and the challenges facing those attempting to record and preserve the past.

**Venue:** Sunnysbrae Function Centre, Regency Park

**Enquiries:** 08 8203 9888 [www.history.sa.gov.au](http://www.history.sa.gov.au)



## CURIOUS TALES OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**By Russell Smith. Published by Peacock Publications for Smithbooks, Norwood 2007, softcover, 104 pp with black and white illustrations, RRP \$12.95**

Anyone who has spent time delving into the newspapers of the 19th Century will know what a rich source of bizarre and sensational stories they can be, with their wonderfully detailed reports of current events, heinous crimes and terrible tragedies for which the reading public of the day seems to have had an insatiable appetite. These stories prove

no less fascinating when retold today, painstakingly researched from the primary sources and crafted into a narrative by the author Russell Smith in his latest book, *Curious Tales of South Australia*.

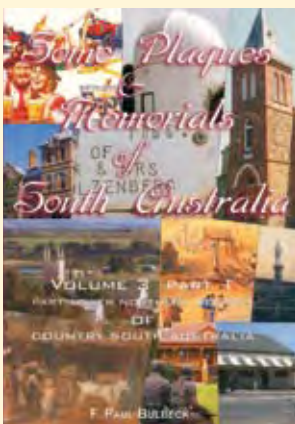
The style of presentation is similar to that of the author's previous four-volume series, *Curiosities of South Australia*, published progressively over the past decade. The series has been immensely popular, achieving sales which few other local history publications could match, and this volume, intended as the first of a new series, will no doubt attract a ready audience. Like the previous series, *Curious Tales* is a collection of short stories drawn from South Australia's early history, told in an unpretentious and entertaining way. The writing is fluent and lively, using accessible language and numerous illustrations to help the reader connect with the characters and events described.

The twelve separate stories narrated in this volume cover a range of unusual happenings and odd characters, from the humorous to the tragic. In some, like 'South Australia's Oldest Man?' the author plays history detective as he leads his reader through the

documentary record, evaluating and testing the evidence on the way to reaching his conclusion. In others a more conventional narrative style is employed, such as in the tale of the touchingly naïve government clerk William Beddome, whose clumsily executed plan to plunder the Treasury coffers ended in disgrace and ruin for himself and his young family. Along with tales of gruesome accidents, villains and con-men, there are insights into how ordinary South Australians viewed historical events, such as the processions through Adelaide of hundreds of Chinese miners en route to the Victorian goldfields, or the riot that erupted at Speaker's Corner in Botanic Park over the issue of conscription, or the 'Monster Working Bee' at Mount Gambier in 1918 in celebration of the restoration of peace and the spirit of community.

This entertaining and enlightening little book seems certain to continue the success of the author in bringing some of the quirkier aspects of South Australian history to light. I am already looking forward to the next in the series.

**Deb Morgan**  
Heritage Officer



## SOME PLAQUES AND MEMORIALS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA VOLUME 3, PART 1

**(Part Lower Northern Regions of Country South Australia)**  
**By F. Paul Bulbeck. Published by the author, Adelaide, November 2007. Limp, 319 pp.**

This is the sixth book in Paul Bulbeck's remarkable series documenting South Australia's memorials and plaques

and covers country towns to the north of Adelaide, including parts of the Barossa and Clare Valleys, Gawler and Kapunda and the east coast of Gulf St. Vincent. The book draws on texts, pamphlets, newspapers and the observations of the author to present an exhaustive inventory of the monuments found throughout this region.

Following the format of the previous volumes, information is presented as a type of field guide for the visitor. Historical background is provided for each item and its environs as well as a detailed description of its present context. Inscriptions from many memorials are included as well as numerous photographs, each with a handy reference linking it to the relevant section in the text.

The information is presented in a light, conversational style with entries being organised in a way that facilitates quick and easy access for the visitor on the memorial trail. One of the strengths of this book is that it brings to light the more obscure places and their background

- the memorial at Balaklava to designer and builder of the pedal wireless Alfred Hermann Traeger...the story of murderer James Yate commemorated on a plaque near Auburn...the mounting blocks at Riverton dating from the 1860s.

The American politician Henry Waxman recently said 'Memorials become relics if they do not stir our modern conscience'. This valuable historical resource helps ensure that the monuments of South Australia and the stories behind them have a place firmly in the literature, and therefore, in our collective thought.

The publication may be purchased directly from the author, phone 8223 5478.

**Bron Lloyd**  
Heritage Assessment Project Officer